

Canada's Endangered Animals

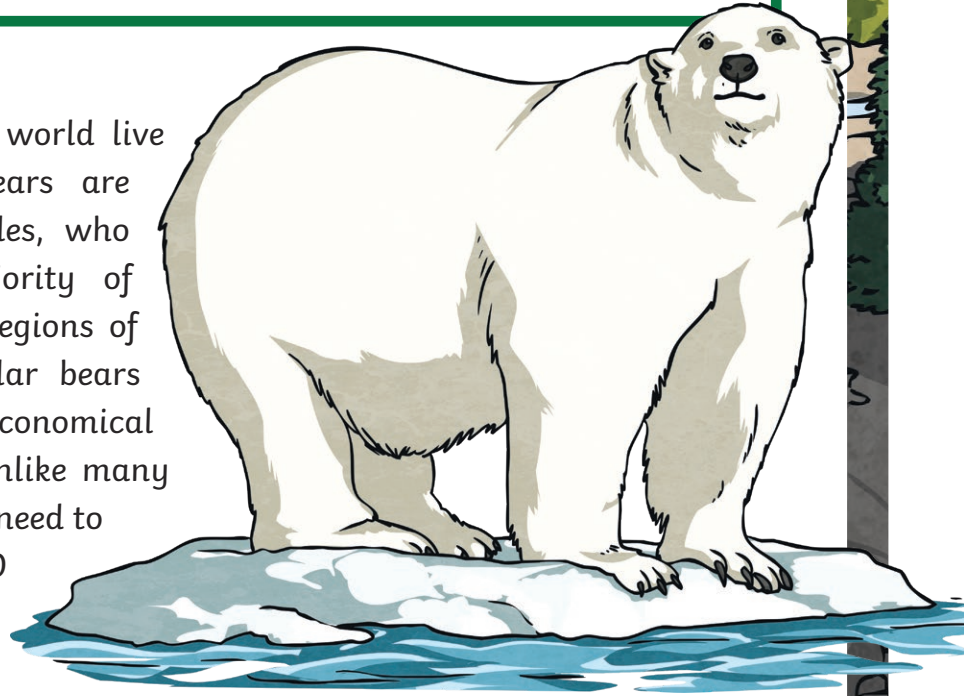


Did You Know?

Of approximately 20,000 to 25,000 polar bears that live across the world, 16,000 of them live in Canada.

Polar Bear

60% of all polar bears in the world live in Canada's Arctic. Polar bears are very significant to Inuit peoples, who are Indigenous and the majority of whom are from the northern regions of Canada such as Nunavut. Polar bears have cultural, spiritual and economical importance to Inuit peoples. Unlike many other animals, polar bears may need to travel long distances (over 1,000 km) to find a place to settle and call home. Their home can also change from season to season because they live on ice in the Arctic where it is easy to hunt for seals.



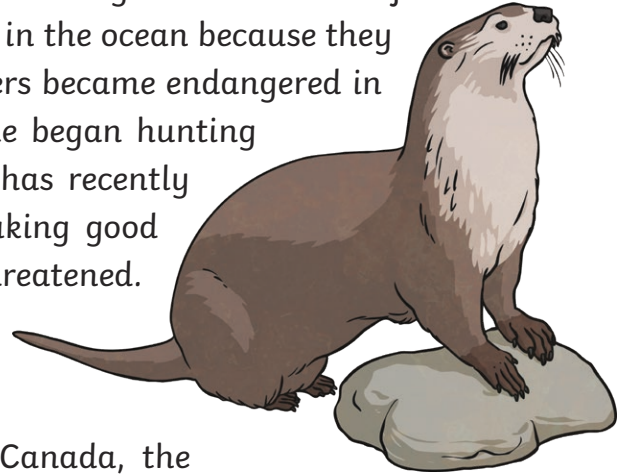
There is often debate as to whether polar bears are endangered. Our planet is warming up more than it has in our history. This includes ice melting in Canada's north and sea levels consequently rising. This is a problem because polar bears that live there are more at risk of dying. If the ice melts, polar bears are sometimes forced to swim to another iceberg that is far away. Polar bears cannot survive in the water for very long and sometimes drown. The World Wildlife Federation and The IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group lists polar bears as a vulnerable species.

Did You Know?

The largest polar bear ever recorded was reportedly 11 ft 1 in tall when standing on its hind legs!

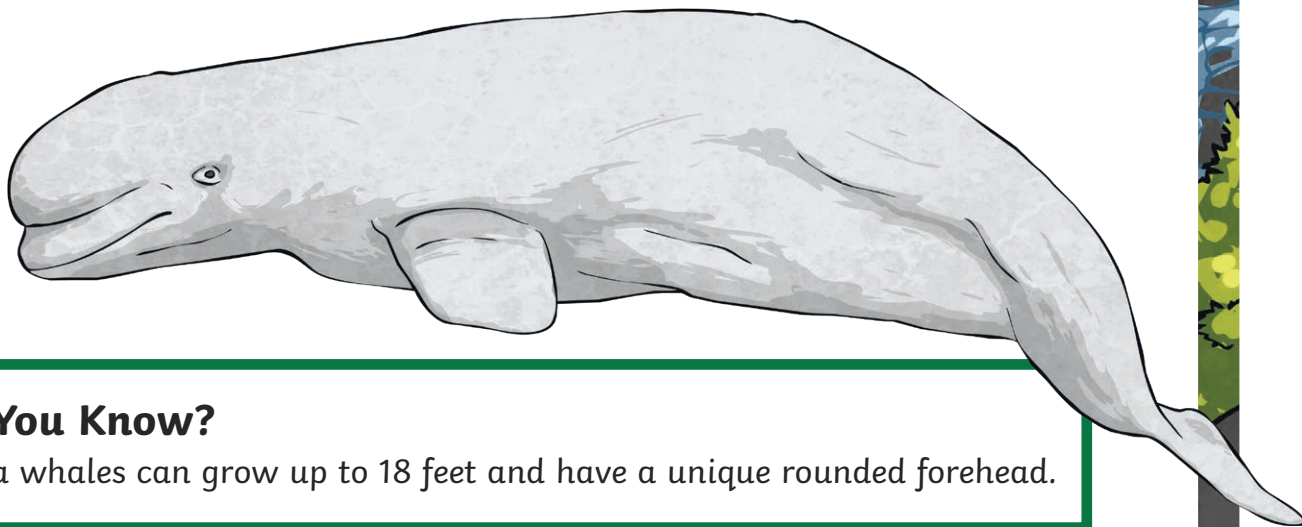
Sea Otter

The sea otter is a marine mammal that lives in British Columbia. This animal weighs between 45-65 pounds, and lives between 10 and 20 years. Females are smaller and live longer than males. They have a long tail and webbed feet to help them swim, and they can keep warm in the ocean because they have the thickest fur on the planet! Sea otters became endangered in the 1700s during the fur trade, when people began hunting them for their valuable fur. The sea otter has recently been reintroduced in BC, and people are taking good care to make sure that they are no longer threatened.



Beluga Whale

The beluga whale can be found in Arctic Canada, the Saint Lawrence, and Hudson Bay. These white whales are beautiful creatures that love to be around ice and rivers. They can grow up to 18 feet and have a unique rounded forehead. Belugas became endangered because people were hunting them for their meat, their blubber, and their skin to make leather. Recent efforts to help the belugas have been successful, but the species is still endangered in Northern Canada due to climate change melting the sea ice that belugas have adapted to rely on. Some of the biggest problems beluga whales are facing now is living in polluted waters around the Saint Lawrence and underwater noise pollution that disrupts their ability to communicate and navigate.



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Wolverine

Wolverines are carnivorous scavengers that live in Canada's colder regions. Wolverines are known to inhabit parts of Quebec and Labrador, however, because they have huge territories and are very secretive, they are very difficult to find. This animal was hunted because it has frost-resistant fur, which people used to make warm coats. Another reason for its endangerment is that wolverine habitats are being destroyed and disrupted by humans and the populations of the animals they hunt and scavenge are also in danger.

Amazing Fact!

The Wolverine's fur is frost-resistant which they are hunted for as it is used to make warm coats.



Spotted Owl

The spotted owl is a beautiful, medium-sized bird that has large, dark brown eyes, and lives in forests. About 8% of the global population is found in the southwestern part of British Columbia. Unfortunately, they are endangered because logging has reduced their habitats. Logging is when trees are harvested for timber.

Did You Know?

The spotted owl's habitat loss may mean that, in a few years, there will no longer be any spotted owls in Canada.

