

## Text to Accompany Polar Bear Art

Here's a pop quiz: which element of this picture would you not see in nature? The answer is that you wouldn't see two polar bear parents looking after the cubs.

In fact, mother polar bears give birth alone and make sure to keep their cubs away from any male polar bears. If a male polar bear finds cubs with a female, he will try to kill the cubs for food, for dominance, or so that the female will be ready to mate again.

A polar bear mother usually gives birth to twins, but she may instead give birth to one, three, or even four cubs. She then raises them alone, usually for two and a half years, but sometimes for three and a half years. So just remember: every full-grown polar bear in the wild was only able to survive thanks to the efforts of a single mom.

In Canada, polar bears live north of the Arctic Circle and on the coast of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Manitoba. Others have been seen in Newfoundland and Labrador and, some years, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.