

Dozens of polar bears invade Russian town

14th January, 2019



Polar bears on an island in Russia are scaring people in a small town. At least 52 polar bears have been seen wandering around the town of Belushya Guba. The town is on the island of Novaya Zemlya, which is in the Arctic Ocean. The situation has become serious because the bears have chased

people and entered homes and offices. Local officials have declared a "polar bear emergency". Local official Alexander Minayev said: "The people are scared. They are frightened to leave homes and their daily routines are broken. Parents are afraid to let their children go to school or kindergarten." A local said: "I have been [here] since 1983, but there have never been so many polar bears in the vicinity."

Officials say the polar bears are roaming into towns looking for food. They say that climate change is one reason for this. More sea ice is melting, which means the bears are moving into new areas to find food. They are attracted by the smell of food in bins outside people's homes. Town officials have asked for permission to kill the animals to reduce the danger to humans. However, Russia's environmental agency has refused this request. Polar bears are classed as a vulnerable species. The World Wildlife Fund says they are in danger because of the "ongoing and potential loss of their sea ice habitat resulting from climate change". It is helping to keep the polar bears away from the people of Belushya Guba.

Sources: weather.com / cnn.com / washingtonpost.com

Writing

No animals should be killed for entering a town. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

polar bear / island / town / Arctic Ocean / situation / emergency / frightened / vicinity / food / reason / smell / permission / environmental / vulnerable / habitat / climate

True / False

- a) No fewer than 52 bears were spotted in a Russian town. T / F
- b) The town is on an island in the Arctic Ocean. T / F
- c) The town has called a "polar bear emergency". T / F
- d) A local said he hadn't since so many bears since 1963. T / F
- e) The bears are going into the town looking for warmth. T / F
- f) Food in bins is attracting the bears into the town. T / F
- g) Polar bears are not yet classed as a vulnerable species. T / F
- h) The World Wildlife Fund did not blame climate change for this situation. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. scaring | a. searching |
| 2. wandering | b. habits |
| 3. serious | c. neighborhood |
| 4. routines | d. lower |
| 5. vicinity | e. bad |
| 6. looking | f. following |
| 7. attracted | g. frightening |
| 8. reduce | h. classified |
| 9. classed | i. lured |
| 10. resulting | j. walking |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of polar bears?
- c) Should people not leave food in bins?
- d) How is climate change causing this?
- e) What is causing climate change?
- f) How important is the World Wildlife Fund?
- g) How can we help polar bears?
- h) What questions would you like to ask people in the town?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Polar bears on an island in Russia | a. routines |
| 2. At least 52 polar bears have | b. as a vulnerable species |
| 3. the bears have chased people | c. many polar bears |
| 4. daily | d. is melting |
| 5. there have never been so | e. been seen |
| 6. roaming into towns looking | f. to kill the animals |
| 7. More sea ice | g. and entered homes |
| 8. asked for permission | h. are scaring people |
| 9. Polar bears are classed | i. ice |
| 10. sea | j. for food |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about polar bears?
- What would you do if a polar bear was in your house?
- What should the people in the town do?
- What would living on an Arctic Ocean island be like?
- What happens in a polar bear emergency?
- How can schools protect themselves against polar bears?
- How dangerous are polar bears?
- How can animals and humans live together?

Spelling

- gardnewni around the town
- The oitstiuna has become serious
- declared a polar bear eenrgmeyc
- their daily ounritse
- Parents are fiarad
- many polar bears in the tiyinvci
- bears are rmngoia into towns
- Imacite change is one reason
- They are attaredct by the smell of food
- asked for psmsiinoer
- classed as a Invebluare species
- loss of their sea ice atthaib

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. e	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. i	8. d	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Lion

You think a lion is the scariest animal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their animals aren't scary. Also, tell the others which is the cutest of these (and why): tarantula, snake or cockroach.

Role B – Tarantula

You think a tarantula is the scariest animal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their animals aren't scary. Also, tell the others which is the cutest of these (and why): lion, snake or cockroach.

Role C – Snake

You think a snake is the scariest animal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their animals aren't scary. Also, tell the others which is the cutest of these (and why): tarantula, lion or cockroach.

Role D – Cockroach

You think a cockroach is the scariest animal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their animals aren't scary. Also, tell the others which is the cutest of these (and why): tarantula, snake or lion.

Speaking – Scary

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the scariest animals top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------|---------------|
| • wolf | • tarantula |
| • lion | • shark |
| • snake | • cockroach |
| • rat | • vampire bat |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.