

Surviving the Arctic

Rainbow Readers R5

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Step 1. Key Words

Read the words and write the meaning of the words in your mother tongue.

cub n. a young wild animal such as a lion, wolf, or bear _____
The cub opens his eyes and sees for the first time.

climate n. the usual weather in a region _____

survive v. to stay alive _____

harsh adj. difficult to endure _____
Few animals can survive the harsh climate.

adapt v. to change in order to fit something new _____

energy n. the power to do something _____

surface v. to come to the top, especially of water _____
Seals surface for air at these holes every 5-15 minutes.

feast n. a large meal _____

rudder n. an underwater blade used to turn a boat _____
Her hind feet act as a rudder.

steer v. to cause something to go in a particular direction _____

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Step 2. Comprehension Questions

Choose the best answer.

1. Why do polar bears roll in the snow after being in the water?
 - a. Because they want to play
 - b. Because it helps dry their fur
 - c. Because their skin itches
 - d. Because it helps them stay warm

2. What does the mother bear do to beg for food?
 - a. She gets low to the ground.
 - b. She sits on her back legs and lifts her front paws off of the ground.
 - c. She rolls on her back and acts friendly.
 - d. She stands up on her hind legs.

3. Why do polar bears sleep a lot?
 - a. Because they are lazy
 - b. Because they are bored
 - c. Because it helps them save energy
 - d. Because they are too hot

4. Why is the mother polar bear hungry when she comes out of the den for the first time?
 - a. Because the cub ate all of their food in the den
 - b. Because she did not eat all winter
 - c. Because there is no food to be found in the Arctic during the winter
 - d. Because she worked so hard to dig a tunnel out of the den

5. How often do seals surface for air at the breathing holes?
 - a. Every 2-3 minutes
 - b. Every 1-10 minutes
 - c. Every 5-15 minutes
 - d. Every 10-20 minutes

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Step 3. Summary

Complete the summary of the story.

steer

still-hunt

Arctic

ice

return

The mother polar bear teaches her cub to survive in the **(1)** _____. First, the cub learns to walk on ice and snow. Then, he learns to **(2)** _____. They search for the breathing holes in the **(3)** _____. Next, his mother teaches him to clean and dry his fur. After that, she teaches him how to beg for food. Finally, the mother bear shows the cub how to swim. She uses her paws to paddle and **(4)** _____. After a long day, they **(5)** _____ to the den to sleep.