

How Does a Polar Bear Stay Warm?

Science Experiment



Method

1. Before carrying out this experiment with the children, take some time to look at polar bears. Help them to think about what sort of weather and temperatures the polar bears live in. Help the children to think about how they would feel if they lived there. How would they keep warm? How does a polar bear stay warm?
2. Prepare a bowl of ice and water large enough for a child's hand.
3. First, ask the child to put their hand into the ice water. It will be cold! Ask the child how it feels. Do they think they could keep their hand in the water for a long time? It will be very cold, so a quick submersion will be enough.
4. Dry the child's hand.
5. Place a plastic glove over the child's hand and, again, ask them to place their hand into the ice water. Ask the child how it feels. Does it feel different to the first go? Do they think they may be able to keep their hand in the water for a longer time?
6. Dry the glove off slightly and place another glove over the top of the first glove. Place an elastic band around the child's wrist, over the glove. Not too tight, but tight enough to keep the glove close to the child's skin.
7. Insert a straw in the gap between the 2 gloves and blow into it, slightly inflating the second glove.
8. Keeping the glove inflated, again, ask the child to submerge their hand into the ice water. Ask the same questions as before. Does it feel different to the other two goes? Do they think they may be able to keep their hand in the water for an even longer time?

You will need:

2 plastic gloves per child

Elastic bands

Drinking straw

Ice

Water

Bowl

Towel

