



Useful Websites



<https://www.rzss.org.uk/> this is where you can get access to both Edinburgh Zoo and the Highland Wildlife Park websites



<https://learning.rzss.org.uk/>

Follow the link and do a search for polar bears

For more background information on polar bears or penguins you could go to <https://animaldiversity.org>



Don't forget the IUCN as well
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22823/14871490>



Polar Bear Foot

How big is a polar bear's paw compared to your hand?



For actual size,
photocopy and
enlarge by 141%

Polar Bear Hair

Did you know that their fur isn't actually white? Polar bear hair is a hollow tube that provides excellent insulation.

Each hair is a transparent and hollow tube that scatters and reflects light.

Polar bears can build up oils in their fur from eating seals which can make their fur look yellow.

But what colour is the polar bear's skin? Do some research and find out.



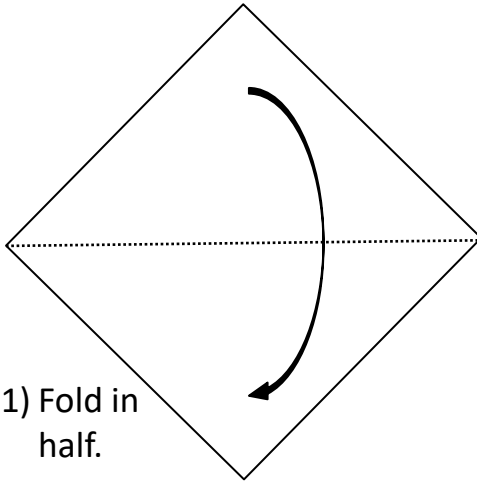
Create your own polar bear hair



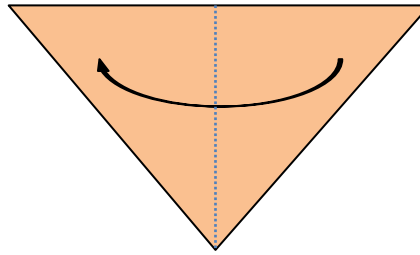
- Get a see-through sheet of laminate or acetate.
- Roll the laminated sheet into a tube approximately 1-1.5cm diameter. Secure the loose edges with a strip of Sellotape.
- When you move the tube, you can see how the light reflects off the tube and looks white just like polar bear hair.

Origami Polar Bear Face

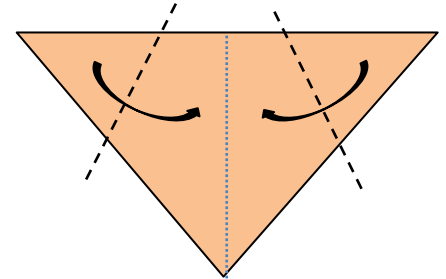
You will need a square white piece of paper and a black pen.



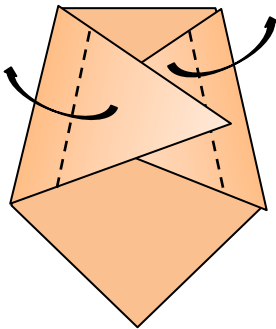
1) Fold in half.



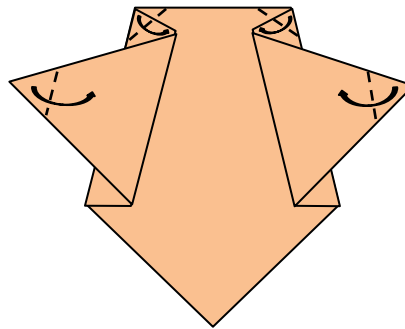
2) Fold in half to make crease and fold back.



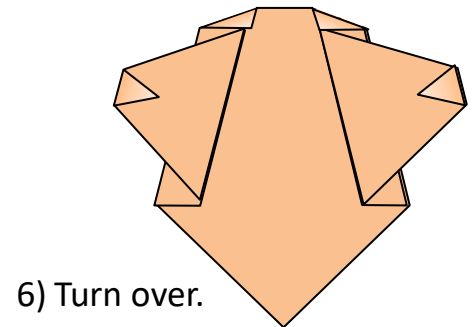
3) Fold on the dotted line.



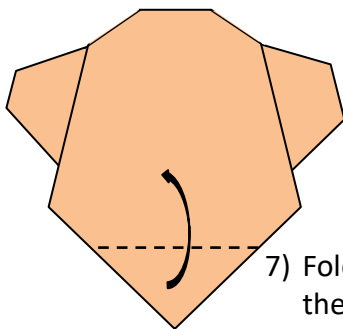
4) Fold x2 on the dotted line.



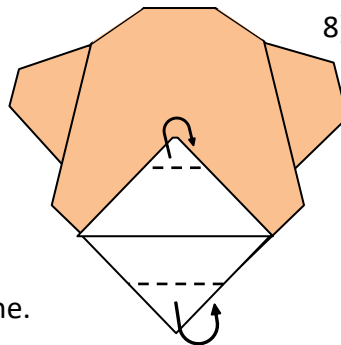
5) Fold x4 in the dotted line.



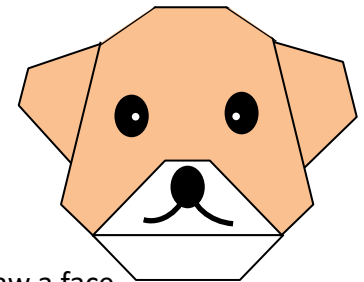
6) Turn over.



7) Fold x1 on the dotted line.



8) Fold x2 backward on the dotted line.



9) Draw a face and finish.

Facts about polar bears

1. The polar bear is the most carnivorous member of the bear family: most of its diet consists of ringed and bearded seals.
2. Individual polar bears can travel thousands of miles per year following the seasonal advance and retreat of sea ice.
3. At birth, polar bear cubs are 30-35cm long and weigh around 450g
4. The polar bear is an excellent swimmer and individuals have been seen in open Arctic waters as far as 200 miles (320 km) from land.
5. Polar bears have an excellent sense of smell and can smell seals almost 1 mile away.

Polar Bear Myths and Legends

Once there was a poor hunter. He always went out but never got anything. Finally one day he saw a polar bear. As he crawled toward it over the ice, the bear said to him, "Don't shoot me. If you follow me and do what I say, I will make it so you will always be able to get whatever animals you think about."

The bear told the man to climb on his back and close his eyes. "Do not open them until I tell you to." Then, the man and the bear went down into the sea a long way. 'Do not open your eyes,' the bear reminded him. Finally, they came back up and the man saw an igloo along the edge of the pack. They went inside and the man saw another bear with a spear in his haunch. The first bear said, "If you can take that spear out of the bear and make him well, you will become a good hunter." The man broke off the shaft, eased the spear point out of the bear's haunch, and the wound began to heal. Then the first bear took off his bearskin "parka" and became a man. After the wound was healed completely, the bear-man put back on his bearskin "parka," told the poor hunter to climb on his back and close his eyes, and together they went back into the sea.

When the bear finally stopped he asked the man to open his eyes. Looking around, the man realized he had been returned to the spot from which he began his journey. He thought he had only been gone a day, but on arriving home he found that he had been away a month. From then on, the man was always a good hunter.



- Taken from Norman A. Chance's
The Eskimo of North Alaska.

Can you help the
Inuit hunter
(red square)



find his family?
(green circle)

