

Video of starving polar bear goes viral

12th December, 2017



A video of a starving and emaciated polar bear collapsing in Canada's wilderness has gone viral on the Internet. The video shows the bear in search of food, wandering across land with no snow or ice. The creature is all skin-

and bones and is seen foraging for food in rusty waste containers. It is at times too weak to support its own body weight and has difficulty standing. Paul Nicklen, the photographer who took the video footage, stated the polar bear's plight was a clear sign of the devastating impact of climate change. He said filming the animal had been heart-wrenching. He explained his team were, "pushing through their tears and emotions while documenting this dying polar bear".

Mr Nicklen is part of the environmental group Sea Legacy. His team was on Canada's Baffin Island to shoot a documentary on conservation. He said the bear they filmed was not old and probably died within hours. He said: "This is what starvation looks like. The muscles atrophy. No energy. It's a slow, painful death." He blamed the bear's sad plight on global warming. He said: "As temperatures rise and sea ice melts, polar bears lose access to the main staple of their diets - seals." Climate change is the biggest threat to the world's 26,000 polar bears. The video explains that bears are, "starving, and running out of energy" and are "forced to wander into human settlements for any source of food."

Sources: the guardian.com / montrealgazette / ctvnews.ca

Writing

Governments will never do enough to combat climate change. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

video / polar bear / viral / snow / skin / bones / photographer / heart-wrenching / environmental / documentary / conservation / starvation / atrophy / seals / climate

True / False

- A starving polar bear was filmed wandering around a Canadian city. T / F
- The bear is seen foraging for food in old market stalls. T / F
- A photographer said the starving bear was a sign of climate change. T / F
- The video crew showed very little emotion as they filmed the bear. T / F
- The video crew was on Baffin Island making a travel documentary. T / F
- The photographer said the bear would probably die within hours. T / F
- The photographer said seals were the main part of a polar bear's diet. T / F
- The video said bears would be going into where humans live for food. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. emaciated | a. hold up |
| 2. wandering | b. difficulty |
| 3. foraging | c. film |
| 4. support | d. roaming |
| 5. documenting | e. food |
| 6. shoot | f. recording |
| 7. atrophy | g. communities |
| 8. plight | h. half-starved |
| 9. diet | i. waste away |
| 10. settlements | j. hunting |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about polar bears?
- Would you volunteer to work with an environmental group?
- What's the hungriest you've been?
- How sad would it be if the polar bears disappeared?
- What are the dangers of polar bears entering human settlements?
- What three adjectives best describe this news, and why?
- What questions would you like to ask Paul Nicklen?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. a starving and | a. documentary |
| 2. in search | b. body weight |
| 3. The creature is all skin | c. 26,000 polar bears |
| 4. too weak to support its own | d. on global warming |
| 5. the devastating impact of | e. of food |
| 6. shoot a | f. settlements |
| 7. He blamed the bear's sad plight | g. climate change |
| 8. polar bears lose access to the main | h. emaciated polar bear |
| 9. the biggest threat to the world's | i. staple of their diets |
| 10. wander into human | j. and bones |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of polar bears?
- Why was the polar bear walking across land and not snow?
- Should the film crew have given the bear some food?
- How sad to you get when bad things happen to animals?
- What do you think of climate change?
- What other things is global warming devastating?
- How important are the ice and snow in the Arctic?
- Would you like to be a wildlife documentary maker?

Spelling

- a starving and ieceaamtd polar bear
- ridwnnega across land
- ggiaonfr for food
- the polar bear's gihlpt
- the edsiatatnvt impact of climate change
- tears and meostnio
- the nelratvimnone group
- a reutnmdyaoc on conservation
- The ulscmse atrophy
- As esteprrmmta rises
- the main slatep of their diets - seals
- any oecsr of food

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Dying Polar Bears

You think dying polar bears is the saddest thing about global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as sad. Also, tell the others which is the is the easiest to find a solution for (and why): acid rain, ineffective leaders or desertification.

Role B – Acid Rain

You think acid rain is the saddest thing about global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as sad. Also, tell the others which is the is the easiest to find a solution for (and why): dying polar bears, ineffective leaders or desertification.

Role C – Ineffective Leaders

You think ineffective leaders is the saddest thing about global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as sad. Also, tell the others which is the is the easiest to find a solution for (and why): acid rain, dying polar bears or desertification.

Role D – Desertification

You think desertification is the saddest thing about global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as sad. Also, tell the others which is the is the easiest to find a solution for (and why): acid rain, ineffective leaders or dying polar bears.

Speaking – Sad

Rank these with your partner. Put the saddest things about global warming at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| • ineffective leaders | • desertification |
| • our future children's world | • dying polar bears |
| • corporate greed | • melting ice caps |
| • increase in diseases | • acid rain |

Answers – True False

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