



READERS



# POLAR BEAR

## ALERT!



DEBORA PEARSON



# Danger ahead!

Be careful. Be VERY careful. It's not safe to be here, outside the town of Churchill, Manitoba, during the fall.

Churchill is in Canada's far north and fall can be a bone-chilling season in this part of the world. The temperature drops well below freezing. Icy winds blast across the permanently frozen ground, called tundra. Fresh snow covers the entire landscape.

Right now, hundreds of animals are on the move here. Every fall, they travel across the tundra to the frozen waters of Hudson Bay. These creatures must reach their destination—or they will starve to death.

One of them has left fresh tracks close by. Each footprint is the size of a





As the big bear plods along, he stretches his neck and sniffs the air. Like all polar bears, he has a keen sense of smell. He can detect seals up to half a mile (1 km) away. With his nose alone, he can tell that a fast-moving Arctic hare has recently been here.



## Life on the ice

For the next eight months, during the coldest time of the year, the ice-covered bay will be the polar bear's home.

How does the big bear survive here for so long? Like all polar bears, he has a body that is suited for life on the ice. Its unique features, or adaptations, help keep him warm.

One important feature is his coat of fur. It has two layers. An outer layer of



Danger ahead!

Hungry polar bears are gathering  
nearby in search of food.

But for how much longer?

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<b>LEARNING pre-level TO READ</b>	Learning to read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-frequency words</li> <li>• Picture word strips, picture glossary, and simple index</li> <li>• Labels to introduce and reinforce vocabulary</li> <li>• High level of adult participation helpful</li> </ul>
<b>BEGINNING 1 TO READ</b>	Beginning to read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple sentences and limited vocabulary</li> <li>• Picture glossary and simple index</li> <li>• Adult participation helpful</li> </ul>
<b>BEGINNING 2 TO READ ALONE</b>	Beginning to read alone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer sentences and increased vocabulary</li> <li>• Information boxes full of extra fun facts</li> <li>• Simple index</li> <li>• Occasional adult participation helpful</li> </ul>
<b>READING 3 ALONE</b>	Reading alone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More complex sentence structure</li> <li>• Information boxes and alphabetical glossary</li> <li>• Comprehensive index</li> </ul>
<b>PROFICIENT 4 READERS</b>	Proficient readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich vocabulary and challenging sentence structure</li> <li>• Additional information and alphabetical glossary</li> <li>• Comprehensive index</li> </ul>

**With DK READERS, children  
will learn to read—then read to learn!**

**Jacket images:** Front: John Marriott.  
Back: Photos.com tl, Julia Roles tr.

\$3.99 USA  
\$4.99 Canada



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ISBN 978-0-7566-3140-6



Printed in China



9 780756 631406