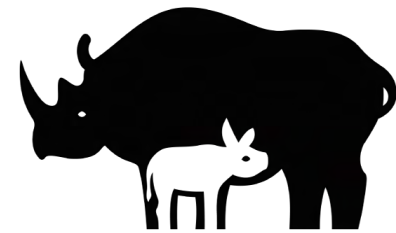


Objective: Students will use the Species Survival Plan, which is based on genetics and personality, to match polar bears for the purpose of reproduction.

You will need:

- The polar bear profiles below
- Scissors to cut out the profiles



Species Survival Plan®

Directions:

The Species Survival Plan (SSP) coordinator has to look at individual polar bears and decide who will go best together, both in genetics and personality. This helps keep a diverse gene pool and makes sure all of the baby polar bears will be healthy, as well as making sure the adults are comfortable with their mates. Do you think you have what it takes to be a SSP coordinator? Cut out the polar bear profiles and match them to their perfect mate (answers on last page)!



Remember:

- Polar bears adapt to the climate they are in, so if they live where it's cold, they wouldn't want to move where it's warm.
- Different polar bears have different strengths and weaknesses. Try to match them up so that they compliment each other.
- Personality is important! You wouldn't want a laid back bear with a super energetic bear! They wouldn't get along very well!
- While age is important, it isn't always the most crucial factor in choosing a mate.



Polar Bear Awards!

- Who is the power couple that would create the most genetically strong cubs?
- Which couple pulls at your heart strings the most?
- Which couple will be the best parents in protection?
- Which couple has the most similar personalities?



Name: Frosty

Age: 5 years old

Sex: Male

Location: Florida

Description: I have fathered 2 cubs in two separate years (both female), but my partner moved away and I'm looking for another lady. My strength is my sense of smell, my weakness is my sight. I have never had good eyesight. I weigh about 800 pounds.



Name: Espen

Age: 9 years old

Sex: Male

Location: Michigan

Description: I am single and ready to mingle with a lady as spunky as me! I have fathered 3 cubs in my life, all female. I'm not very big, but my energy level makes up for it! I love the snow and will keep you and your cubs warm! I weigh about 850 pounds.



Name: Nanook

Age: 12 years old

Sex: Male

Location: Missouri

Description: I am a little older, but still have a lot of years left in me. I have been a father to 6 cubs, 4 males, 2 females. I have big paws that are good for swimming and digging. My sense of smell isn't as good as it used to be, but is still pretty good. I weigh about 1000 pounds.



Name: Silla

Age: 4 Years Old

Sex: Male

Location: Wisconsin

Description: I am a very large bear with a lot of energy. I am very protective over my mates. I have fathered 1 cub, a male, that is now almost the same size as me. I'm very healthy, and my best trait is my strength. I weigh about 1100 pounds.



Name: Qanuk

Age: 7 years old

Sex: Female

Location: New York

Description: I am a lady in the prime of my life with a lot of energy. I have had 2 cubs in my life and ready for more! I'm a smaller lady, but I am perfectly healthy. My keepers fawn over my beautiful thick coat that I keep all year. I weigh about 400 pounds.



Name: Crystal

Age: 10 years old

Sex: Female

Location: Tennessee

Description: I am a middle aged bear and ready for my next mate. I have had 3 cubs in my life and have been a great mother to all of them. I am fairly relaxed, but also attentive. I have a great sense of hearing and am very strong. I weigh about 610 pounds.



Name: Elsa

Age: 3 Years old

Sex: Female

Location: North Dakota

Description: I am a very playful bear that has never had babies before. I am looking for a big, strong man that will protect me and my babies. I am very healthy. My best sense is smell and I am big for a lady. I weigh about 645 pounds.



Name: Arnaq

Age: 6 years old

Sex: Female

Location: Louisiana

Description: I am a very laid back bear and super helpful. My last partner had a hard time finding food, so I would help him around the habitat and bring him food. I am very healthy, but my best trait is my eyesight. I weigh about 420 pounds.



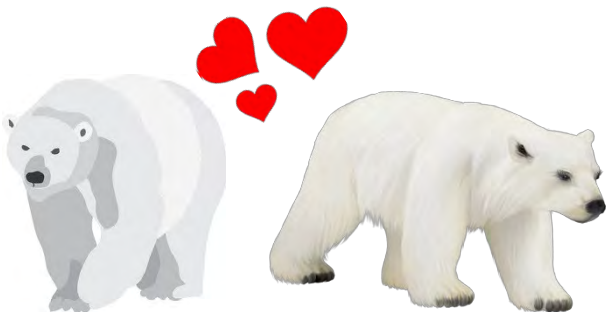
Match! Espen and Qanuk

Both bears are close in age, from colder climates, and are in the prime of their lives! Qanuk has to be in a cold climate because of her thick coat, but that's okay with Espen, he loves the cold! Both bears are also on the smaller side and have enough energy to keep up with the other. They're perfect for each other!



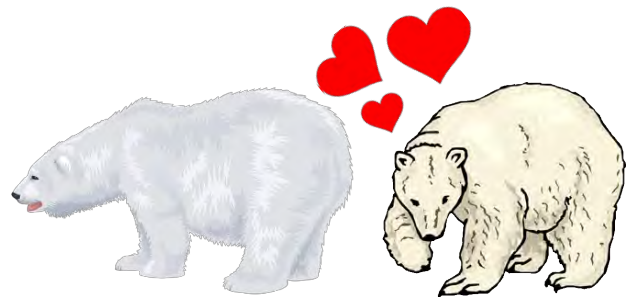
Match! Frosty and Arnag

Though frosty is a young bear, he has poor eyesight, but that doesn't bother Arnag. Her eyesight is keen and she has experience taking care of a mate that needs a little help. They are both from warmer climates and close in age. They make a great team and couple!



Match! Elsa and Silla

Both bears are large and from colder climates. Elsa is looking for a bear that will protect her and her cubs, and Silla is very protective of his mate and cubs. Silla is strong and Elsa has a great sense of smell, very important qualities to pass on to their cubs. They are a perfect couple!



Match! Nanook and Crystal

Nanook and Crystal are both from similar climates and close in age. Crystal may be younger than Nanook, but she is fairly laid back, which is great for a slightly older bear. Nanook has great paws for swimming and digging, Crystal has a great sense of hearing, and both bears are strong. Their cubs will have great traits!