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NANUK NARRATIVES

ADAPTATIONS

GRADE:

K - 12

LESSON 1: A POLAR BEAR'S CHANGING WORLD: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Lesson Activities:

1. Watch the short video titled "Adaptations" from the Nanuk Narratives website.
2. Discuss the impact of melting sea ice on polar bear populations, including changes in hunting patterns, food availability, and migration routes.
3. Engage in a creative exercise where students draw or describe how they think polar bears might adapt in the future to survive in a warmer Arctic.
4. Explore ways that individuals and communities can help mitigate the effects of climate change and protect polar bear habitats, such as reducing carbon emissions, supporting conservation programs, and raising awareness about the issue.

Notes:

Reinforce the idea that while climate change may not appear to be affecting polar bears significantly at the moment, it is indeed a real threat to polar bears and their environment.

Emphasize that there are steps we can take to help protect polar bears and other Arctic animals.

Encourage students to continue learning about climate change, conservation, and the vital role of preserving biodiversity in addressing environmental challenges.

LESSON 2: POLAR BEAR HABITAT SIMULATION

Materials Needed:

- Large container or basin
- Ice cubes
- Water
- Toy polar bear figures (optional)

Before the activity, create ice by using a container such as a cookie sheet to represent ice in the activity described below.

Instructions:

1. Fill a container with water to represent the Arctic Ocean.
2. Place ice on the surface of the water to create floating ice floes/pans, simulating the polar bear's natural habitat.
3. Discuss with students how polar bears depend on sea ice for hunting, resting, and traveling.
4. As the ice cubes melt and the ice pans begin to shrink, ask students to observe and discuss the impact on the polar bear's ability to move, hunt, and survive.
5. Encourage students to role-play and explore different scenarios in which polar bears adapt to the changing ice conditions. For example, they can move from one ice floe/pan to another, swim longer distances, or find alternative food sources.
6. Optional: Use toy polar bear figures to represent polar bears navigating the changing ice conditions and adapting to new challenges.
7. Facilitate a group discussion on the importance of Arctic sea ice for polar bears and the need for conservation efforts to protect their habitat in the face of climate change.

This activity will help students visualize and understand how polar bears are adapting to changing environmental conditions due to climate change, fostering empathy for these animals and raising awareness about the importance of conservation.

