



## Bear's Nine-day 'Swimathon'

### Erosion of Polar Bears' Habitat Due to Climate Change – Declare Top Scientists

A **polar bear** swam continuously for over **nine days** and a total of **687km**, a new study revealed last month - *Earth News Report*.



Scientists who studied bears around the Beaufort Sea, North Alaska, claimed this act was a result of **climate change**. Scientists already knew that polar bears swam between ice-sheets and land to hunt seals. However, the researchers explained that **increased temperatures** caused many ice-sheets to disappear and the bears had to swim greater distances, risking their own health and future generations.

In their findings, published in *Polar Biology*, researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey revealed the first evidence of long-distance swimming by polar bears.

**'One bear swam continuously for an incredible 232 hours covering 687km, through waters that were between 2 and 6 degrees C!'**

– exclaimed research zoologist George Durner.

This was the first time that scientists followed a bear's entire journey. They fitted a **GPS collar** to a female bear and the researchers accurately plotted its movements for two months as it searched for places to hunt. The scientists knew when the bear was in the water by using information transmitted from the **collar** and a **temperature recorder** implanted beneath the bear's skin.



**The study showed that this amazing journey was very bad for the bear's overall health.**



'This particular bear lost **22% of her body fat** in two months' – declared Dr. Durner. 'The journey was so difficult that her one-year-old **cub died**', he continued.

The scientist also told *Earth News* that conditions in the Beaufort Sea became increasingly difficult for polar bears. 'Before 1995, sea ice persisted during the summer months in the Beaufort Sea, which meant the distances the bears swam between land and sea were much shorter than today' – highlighted the scientist.

The ice, due to rising temperatures, now melts much faster than before and the polar bears have to swim far greater distances to find food.

Polar bears lived within the Arctic Circle and ate a calorie-rich diet of ringed seals to survive the frozen conditions. They always hunted on frozen sea ice but most scientists agree that a rise in the Earth's temperature affected their habitat and that the **bears are now in great danger** of losing their natural hunting grounds.



### PART 1 – COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Considering the report you have just read about the problems facing the polar bears, explain in your own words the meaning of ‘**swimathon**’.

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2. According to the text, what were the **two main consequences** of the bear’s long swim?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the main cause of the melting ice that the scientists propose?

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4. How do you think the future generations of polar bears would be in danger of survival?

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## PART 2 – PAST SIMPLE REGULAR VERBS PRONUNCIATION

The Polar Bear text on Page 1 has a total of **23 REGULAR verbs** in the Past Simple. Search the text for these verbs and place them into the correct category of pronunciation of the **-ed** endings.

/ɪd/	/t/	/d/