



# STEM Career Adventures: Wildlife Specialist

## Polar Bear Dens

### Introduction to Career:

**Child-friendly definition of wildlife specialists:** Scientists that study animals in the wild and work to protect them. Wildlife specialists study animals in deserts and forests, and even animals that live right near your homes!

### Adventure Description

Explain to explorers that wildlife specialists study where animals live so that they can keep their homes safe or recreate their homes in zoos or rehabilitation centers. Explorers will get to learn how polar bears keep their cubs safe and build their own polar bear dens.



### Activity 1: Building Polar Bear Snow Dens (20 minutes)

- Wildlife specialists are learning about where arctic animals sleep. They want to make sure that the animals are happy and healthy. Wildlife specialists have found that polar bears sleep in the ice and on the snow. They do not sleep in beds like we do! However, mother polar bears build special snow forts (or dens) before they have polar bear babies (called cubs) (show **Discovery Picture: Polar Bears**).
- As a group, watch **Discovery Link: Polar Bears**. Discuss what it must be like to live in a snow den for a really long time and then come out and walk around.
- Polar bear moms dig forts and stay in the snow dens until the babies are born. Then, they bring the cubs out of the den and teach them how to live in the snow.
- Next, place explorers in groups and have them build a snow dens that a mother polar bear might live in.
- Give each group of explorers sugar cubes and other art/building supplies to create their snow forts. Explain that their forts need to have a roof and an opening for a doorway.
- When the snow fort is finished, create a mommy and baby polar bear out of cotton balls and googly eyes. These polar bears can go into their snow dens!

**Contact Allison, Director of Customer Service, with any questions or feedback at 314-272-2560 or [allison@rozzylearningcompany.com](mailto:allison@rozzylearningcompany.com)**

Send photos of your explorers and their projects to [allison@rozzylearningcompany.com](mailto:allison@rozzylearningcompany.com) to be featured on Rozzy's website, social media pages, and blog!



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### Activity 2: Making Snow (10-15 minutes)

- Next, have your explorers create snow for inside their snow forts!
- Have explorers mix 2 cups of corn flour, 1/3 to 1/2 cup of vegetable oil, and 2-4 tablespoons of silver and blue glitter in a bowl.
- Have explorers roll up balls of the mixture so they look like small round balls of snow.
- Ask explorers to carefully place their snow balls in the snow fort so that the polar bear and her cubs can be safe and warm.
- After the snow forts are all finished, have explorers draw their polar bears and forts on their **Discovery Page: Polar Bear Dens**.

### Materials List

#### Provided online:

- **Discovery Picture: Polar Bears**
- **Discovery Page: Polar Bear Dens**
- **Discovery Link: Polar Bears**

#### Not provided:

- Art and building supplies (e.g., cardboard, egg cartons, pipe cleaners, paper towel rolls, popsicle sticks)
- Corn Flour
- Vegetable Oil
- Silver and blue glitter
- Measuring cups
- Cotton balls
- Googly eyes
- Sugar cubes
- Glue

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