

Dr. Stirling counts the number of bears he finds in an area. He wants to know how long they live. He counts how many cubs are born. He catches and tags a group of bears 1 year. Then he catches the same number of bears the next year. He counts the number of untagged bears. Then he can work out how many new bears are being born.

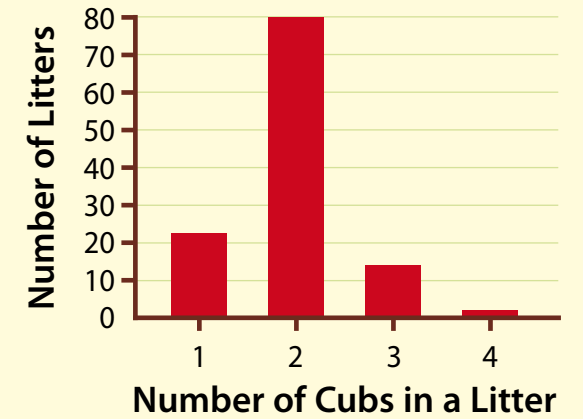
Dr. Stirling is about to collar a female polar bear. Her cub is watching.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

In 1 spring season, Dr. Stirling studied 119 **litters** of polar bears.

- About how many 2-cub litters are there?
- Which type of litter is there least of?

Polar Bear Litters



Polar bears can be hard to spot in the winter snow. Dr. Stirling gets his **data** between late March and mid-May. This is when the bears are on land ice or are close to the shore. Dr. Stirling may also get his data in summer. Polar bears are easily seen in summer.

Furry Feet

Stiff hairs grow on the soles of a polar bear's feet. These hairs **insulate** (IN-suh-late) the feet and provide **traction** (TRAK-shuhn) on the ice.

How Fast?

Polar bears walk around 3.4 miles per hour (5.5 km/h). When chasing prey, polar bears can run as fast as 25 miles per hour (40 km/h) for short distances.

Speed of Polar Bears

