



Bears

Polar bears are occasional cannibals who have been known to be killed by wolves and walrus, but their main threat comes from man. In Northern Canada, home of half the world's polar bear population, Inuit (Eskimo) income from bear hides can be substantial. Because

the bears wander throughout the entire Arctic coast international co-operation is needed to conserve them and the governments of Canada, Greenland, Norway, the USSR and the USA are in broad agreement about the need to protect them. There are probably about 10,000 Canadian bears. In size they are much the same as brown bears, reaching over 1,200 lb. They can run at speeds of up to 18 mph across the pack ice, are prodigious swimmers who can stay under water for at least two minutes at a time. Since the advent of man polar bears have been known to eat cheese, tea, apples, engine oil, flour, biscuits, rope, canvas and cardboard. Basically however they prefer meat, especially seal.

"I was lonely after you had gone. I turned straight and climbed to Lake Agnes, and there sat and looked at the valley down which your train had vanished. After a bit seven females rushed up and said 'we have seen a bear. Will you protect us back to the Hotel S?' I replied 'I want to be alone. There are already too many females in the world. Go. And I hope you meet the bear.' They went. And I could not see them in the hotel that evening. I suppose they did meet the Bear."
— Rupert Brooke, letter to the Marchesa Capponi, 1913.

*"The Grizzly Bear is huge and wild
He has devoured the infant child.
The infant child is not aware
He has been eaten by the bear."*
— A. E. Houseman, "Infant Innocence"

