



Text Complexity Analysis of

Polar Bears Across the Arctic Face Shorter Sea Ice Season (title)

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Recommended Complexity Band: 9-10

Qualitative Measures

Meaning/Purpose: (Briefly explain the levels of meaning (Literary Text) or purpose (Informational Text.)

The purpose of this text is to present recent research findings on the effect of a shorter polar ice season on the feeding and breeding capabilities of polar bear populations throughout the Arctic.

Text Structure: (Briefly describe the structure, organization, and other features of the text.)

The text proceeds in a sequential matter, explaining the research, then providing the significance, then giving more detail in the process. The paragraphs are short, with often only a sentence or two detailing the findings.

Language Features: (Briefly describe the conventions and clarity of the language used in the text, including the complexity of the vocabulary and sentence structures.)

The sentence structure is complex, with several challenging terms interspersed with some figurative language.

Knowledge Demands: (Briefly describe the knowledge demands the text requires of students.)

The reader should have some background knowledge in population ecology including populations, ecosystems, and abiotic factors. Students should have a basic working definition of climate change.

Text Description

Briefly describe the text:

This informational text resource is intended to support reading in the content area. Polar bears are among the animals most affected by the seasonal and year-to-year decline in Arctic sea ice, because they rely on ice for essential activities such as hunting, traveling, and breeding. A new research study has confirmed this finding.

Quantitative Measures

Complexity Band Level (provide range): Above 11-12

The text falls above the 11-12 grade band according to a quantitative reading measure.

Considerations for Reader and Task

Below are factors to consider with respect to the reader and task.

Potential Challenges this Text Poses:

While the content should be mostly familiar to students, some of the knowledge demands may pose a challenge. There are some concepts (ecology, populations, climate change) that should be reviewed as a class prior to reading this article.

Recommended Placement

Briefly explain the recommended placement of the text in a particular grade band: The article presents information that most would be familiar with, but includes other supporting details onto which to build. The quantitative measure is deceptively high, but the content aligns well with a biology or environmental science course and is recommended for those in the 9-10 grade band.