

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow it.

Polar bear survival in the wild may be in danger because of climate change. Climate change is lengthening the ice-free period in southwestern Hudson Bay and thus the polar bear fast. During the Arctic spring, the bears build up their fat by eating seals that they hunt from the ice. Warming temperatures are reducing the ice. For the estimated 2000 polar bears in the region, this has serious implications. The sea ice melts completely each summer, stranding the marine creatures on land and away from their normal diet of seal meat. Although many polar bears do consume lots of blueberries and black crowberries on land, the bears lose almost a kilogram of weight a day for at least four months and as long as eight months in the case of pregnant females. Canadian wildlife biologists have been trying for decades to determine whether polar bears can better endure their months of fasting on land by eating berries. Biologists in the past have tried using measurements from muscle and blood, without success. More recently, researchers applied masks to 300 tranquilized bears and gathered samples of their breath. They found no significant differences between bears that had recently eaten berries (detectable from tell-tale stains on teeth and backsides) and those that hadn't. Can a berry diet reduce the polar bears' dependence on their fat reserves? The answer is no. Unlike that of the brown bear, polar bear metabolism cannot extract sufficient energy from berries alone.



Adapted from "Fieldwork: Berry Bears" by Peter Calamai, published in the *Toronto Star*, January 18, 2009. Reprinted with permission—Torstar Syndication Services.

**Multiple-Choice**

(Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1** What is the best meaning of “endure” as used in line 10?
- a start
  - b enjoy
  - c tolerate
  - d prevent
- 2** Which option best describes how the information in lines 4 to 7 is presented?
- a chronologically
  - b by cause and effect
  - c as a problem and solution
  - d by similarities and differences
- 3** How did the biologists determine which bears had recently eaten berries?
- a They tested blood samples.
  - b They looked for stained teeth.
  - c They measured their muscles.
  - d They used masks to capture breath.
- 4** What is set off by the comma in the final sentence of the selection?
- a a contrast
  - b a definition
  - c items in a list
  - d a repeated detail
- 5** Which of the following is likely to occur if the average temperature continues to rise in the Arctic?
- a The polar bear population will rise.
  - b Polar bears will consume less seal meat.
  - c Polar bears will spend less time on land.
  - d Polar bears’ dependency on berries will decrease.
- 6** Which is compared in this selection?
- a blueberries and crowberries
  - b tranquilized and awake bears
  - c past and more-current research
  - d muscle measurements and blood samples

**Written Answer**

**7** State a main idea of this selection and provide one specific detail from the selection that supports it.

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**Rough Notes**

*Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.*