



## Polar Bear Group Project

Watch the polar bear video then complete the assignment below.

After meeting at the zoo, the girls get together to find more information for their posters. While doing further research, the girls come across an article debating whether the Polar Bears are actually declining or not. They find the pie chart below. Based on this pie chart, what argument could be made that the Polar Bear is not at risk of going on the endangered species list?

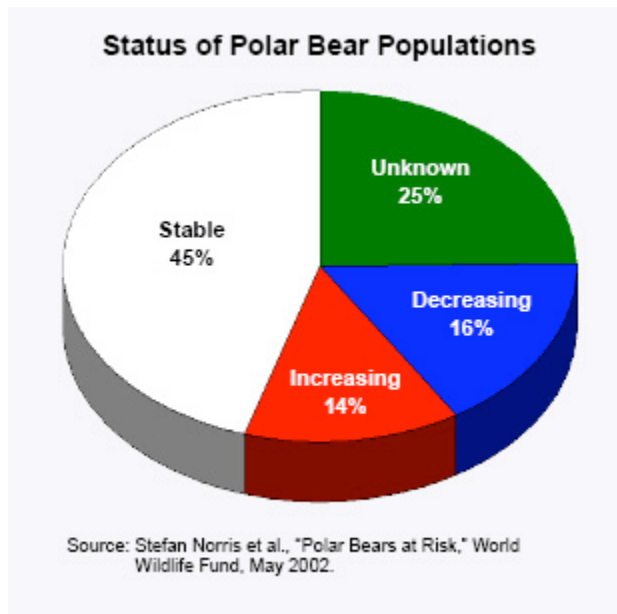


Chart taken from:

<http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba551>

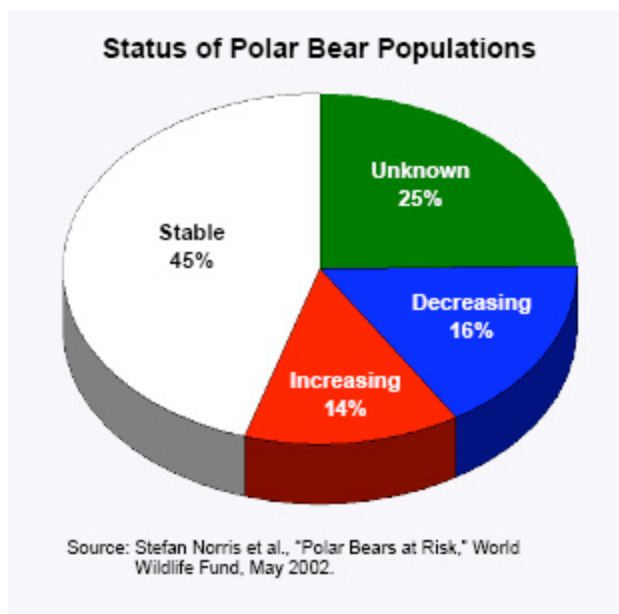
**Goal:** Work together in groups of 4 to answer the questions on the next pages.

**Directions:**

1. **GROUP DECISIONS:** Divide up the work fairly. It is suggested that two members take the argument that the polar bear population is declining and two group members take the argument that it is not.
2. **INDIVIDUAL WORK:** Build your case as to the point of view you want to support. If you need help, ask the other person who is working on your point of view. Write up your explanation / argument on a separate page. Make sure you can explain your argument clearly to your group members.
3. **GROUP MEMBERS REPORT:** Take turns explaining your arguments to each other
4. **GROUP WORK:**
  - a. Group members will discuss the two arguments to Polar Bear extinction. The group will list reasons as to why each side of the debate has some merit. Group members will write a one page paper detailing how the two arguments compare and which one they feel is more valid.

## SOLUTION

After meeting at the zoo, the girls get together to find more information for their posters. While doing further research, the girls come across an article debating whether the Polar Bears are actually declining or not. They find the pie chart below. Based on this pie chart, what argument could be made that the Polar Bear is not at risk of going on the endangered species list?



Nearly half of the Polar Bear Population is “stable,” which implies that this 45% is neither increasing or decreasing. The percent increasing (14%) and the percent decreasing (16%) is nearly identical. One could imply that these basically cancel each other out. You could interpret this as simply Polar Bears migrating to areas where food is more abundant. Hence they leave areas where the ice is melting and move to areas where there is more sea ice.