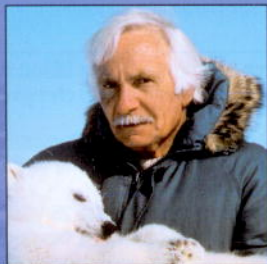




Part 9

POLAR BEARS



Weighing 1,400 pounds, polar bears are lords of the ice – creatures perfectly adapted to the harshest and most unforgiving climate in the world.

Biologist and photographer Dr. Dan Guravich has dedicated himself to capturing this creature's magnificence on film. The Canadian-born photographer, who makes his home in Mississippi, has made over 50 trips to the Arctic to practice his art. Through his dramatic photos, Guravich has profoundly influenced our understanding of these mysterious animals.

Endangered animals – and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them – feature in this spectacular series of 13 half-hour videos! Stunningly shot around the world, from the frozen ice fields of Canada's North to the jungles of Borneo, **Champions of the Wild** combines fascinating natural history with the intrigue of personal drama.

Director: **Ian Herring**

Producers: **Christian Bruyère and Ian Herring** (Omni Film),
George Johnson (NFB)

Executive Producer: **Michael Chechik** (Omni Film)

25 minutes

Order number: **C9197 095**

Series order number: **193C 9197 106**

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POLAR BEARS

Part 9



VHS
C9197 095



Part 9

POLAR BEARS

AS SEEN ON
DISCOVERY
AND
ANIMAL
PLANET



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE

POLAR BEARS

Part 9

There were two firsts for Dan Guravich in 1969. He was on board the US tanker Manhattan when it became the first vessel to break through the Arctic ice and travel via the Northwest Passage to Canada's Arctic Sea. It was also the year he saw his first polar bear in the wild.

Moved by what he calls "the most beautiful of all North American bears" Guravich dedicated his life to trying to capture their magnificence on film. As a wildlife photographer, he used his talents to make sure that his stunning photographs are seen around the globe.

Before Guravich started sharing his photographs with the world, the polar bear was something of an enigma. Born into a world of temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees, polar bears spend the winters roaming the ice pack hunting seals. Guravich showed that these animals could be seen, and photographed at close quarters, without undue harm to either humans or animals. However, the increasing popularity of Churchill, Manitoba as an ecotourist destination has posed some problems for the polar bears; Guravich was closely involved in setting up a humane removal program that stopped the unnecessary killing of hungry polar bears.

Guravich spent his life championing the polar bear in countless ways, including publishing a newsletter which is available around the world. In raising their public appeal, he has helped demystify these huge animals, the largest land-based meat-eaters on the planet, and made it more appealing to capture them in photographs, rather than kill them for their pelts.

PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Locate Hudson's Bay on a map. Describe the climate of this part of Canada. What populated areas are located nearby?

The Inuit people call the polar bear Nanook. Research some of the fables and legends about Nanook. What role does Nanook play in the history and culture of the Inuit people?

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

How is the polar bear's physiology so well-adapted to the climate and ecology of Canada's North?

What caused the price of a polar bear skin to drop from approximately \$4,000 to \$1,000?

Polar bears are well-adapted to their life in the wide-open areas of Canada's North. Human beings are not well-adapted for life in the wide-open areas of Canada's North. Humans require extensive shelters and dependable sources of food and clothing. Why then are human beings considered to be enemies of the polar bear?

Why has the Coca-Cola company chosen the polar bear as the centrepiece for a publicity campaign for its soft drink?



Champion:
Dan Guravich

Champions of the Wild is a spectacular 13-part series featuring endangered animals and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them.

Produced by
Omni Film Productions Ltd

with the participation of
Telefilm Canada,

in association with
British Columbia Film,
Amaya Distribution,
Discovery Channel and
The National Film Board
of Canada, and
with the participation of
the Cable Production Fund
and Rogers Telefund.



WORLD WIDE WEB SITES:

Polar bear information and pictures
<http://www.nature-net.com/bears/polar.html>

Information about and pictures of polar bears
http://www.seaworld.org/polar_bears/pbindex.html

OTHER NATIONAL FILM BOARD PRODUCTIONS:

Life on Ice, 28 minutes, order number C0186 136
Land Above the Trees, 20 minutes, order number C0188 013

CHAMPIONS OF THE WILD SERIES:

Part 1: SHARKS (C9197 096): From their research station on Bimini Island in the Bahamas, Tim Calver and his mentor, Dr. Sam Gruber, are committed to changing the world's negative perception of sharks.

Part 2: GORILLAS (C9197 104): In the dangerous surroundings of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, Dr. Pascale Sicotte risks her life to protect one of the world's last remaining populations of mountain gorillas.

Part 3: GRIZZLIES (C9197 093): Wayne McCrory has spent the last 25 years passionately campaigning to protect the grizzly and rare white spirit bears of the British Columbia rain forest.

Part 4: WOLVES (C9197 103): Dr. Paul Paquet studies the harmful effects of wolves coming into contact with civilization and has succeeded in reintroducing wolf packs into the southern Alberta Rockies.

Part 5: HUMPBACKS (C9197 099): Dr. Jim Darling, a leading authority on humpback whales, follows the migration of these magnificent creatures in order to protect them in their Pacific environment.

Part 6: PANDAS (C9197 102): A self-proclaimed "pandaholic," Dr. Sue Mainka helps the Chinese make critical breakthroughs in raising captive pandas.

Part 7: LEMURS (C9197 105): Dr. Lisa Gould's mission is to protect the ring-tailed lemurs of Madagascar and to make the world aware of these obscure primates.

Part 8: ORCAS (C9197 100): Radical researcher and visionary Dr. Paul Spong, having researched killer whales for over three decades, helps us understand how humans affect orca habitat and behaviour.

Part 9: POLAR BEARS (C9197 095): Biologist and photographer Dr. Dan Guravich has a love affair with the polar bear. His thousands of photographs have profoundly influenced our understanding of the world's largest land-based carnivore.

Part 10: DOLPHINS (C9197 097): Diane Claridge and Ken Balcomb are leaders in the fight to free the planet's imprisoned dolphins and whales and return them to the wild.

Part 11: SWIFT FOXES (C9197 094): Clio Smeeton has dedicated her life to completing her parents' dream of reintroducing the once-extinct swift fox to its Canadian Prairie home.

Part 12: RIGHT WHALES (C9197 101): By policing the Bay of Fundy and educating those who use the world's waterways, Deborah Tobin and Dr. Moira Brown are dedicated to saving the northern right whales, the planet's rarest marine mammal.

Part 13: ORANGUTANS (C9197 098): Activist researcher Dr. Biruté Galdikas lives in the gruelling jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, fighting to save the increasingly threatened orangutan.