

Canada's Great Polar Bear Swim



Every year on New Year's Day, people jump into the icy cold waters of English Bay, Vancouver, for a swim. It is time for the Polar Bear Swim!

Many swimming clubs all over the world host events like this. It is a fun and interesting way to celebrate the new year. But only in northern countries like Canada will the water be cold. This is why it is called a Polar Bear Swim.

The Vancouver Polar Bear Swim Club is one of the largest and oldest Polar Bear clubs in the world. Their first Polar Bear Swim was held in 1920. At that time, only 10 swimmers dared to enter the event.

Now, more than 2000 brave Polar Bear swimmers run and jump into the freezing water each year. After that, everyone will go to a party to celebrate the beginning of the new year.

Fill in the blanks with words from the passage.

1. The Polar Bear Swim is a fun way to _____ the new year.
2. The water is cold in _____ countries.
3. There were 10 _____ in the first Polar Bear Swim.
4. A _____ will be held after the Swim.

Read the passage and answer the following questions in a complete sentence.

1. When is the Polar Bear Swim held every year?

2. Where is the event held?

3. Why do you think some people enjoy participating in this event?

4. Would you like to do this someday? Why or why not?
