



## My Drift

**Title: Bears**

**Written By: Jerry D. Petersen**

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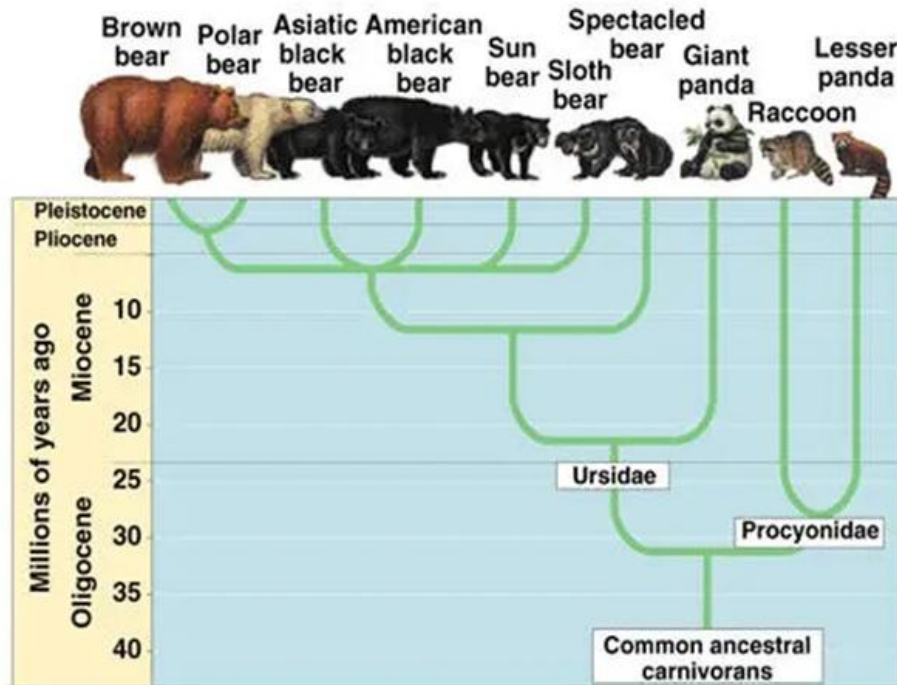
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### TYPES OF BEARS



In this article we are going to learn a little bit about the evolution and history of bears. After that we will look at the current day 8 types (species) of bears plus 2 subspecies of the Brown Bear – the Grizzly and Kodiak.

## Evolution and History



Bears evolved from small, dog-like carnivorous mammals around 40 million years ago, with the first identifiable bear, "Ursavus elmensis" (also called the dawn bear), appearing roughly 20 million years ago; these early bears had dog-like features and likely ate insects and vegetation, setting the stage for modern

bear species through adaptations to changing environments and food availability across different continents; the most recent bear to evolve is the polar bear, which descended from a population of brown bears that became isolated in the Arctic due to glaciation around 400,000 years ago.

Modern bears appeared in Eurasia (Europe and Asia) around 5 million years ago.

Bears spread to Europe, Asia, North America, and eventually South America.

Bears adapted to ecological changes, competition, and food and territory availability.

The Earth's climate changes led to drier landscapes, lower sea levels, and land bridges between continents. These changes led to the dispersal and adaptive radiation of the species.

Brown bears first appeared in China about 500,000 years ago. They spread into Canada, Alaska, and the lower U.S. Polar bears are the closest relatives of brown bears.

Bears face threats from habitat loss, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict.

### **Extinct Bears**

Many species of bears have gone extinct, including cave bears, giant short-faced bears, and bears from North and South America. Here are the main ones:

#### **Cave bear**

This prehistoric species lived in Europe and Asia during the Pleistocene epoch (frigid glacial period) and went extinct around 24,000 years ago. Cave bears were likely herbivores and spent a lot of time in caves, especially during the winter.



#### **Giant short-faced bear**

This bear was one of the largest bears to ever live, weighing up to 2,200 pounds. It was a formidable predator that was larger than most modern brown bears and polar bears.





### **California grizzly bear**

This bear was a subspecies of the brown bear that became extinct in the 1920s. The California grizzly bear was brown-golden in color, had a humped shoulder, and could run up to 35 miles per hour.



### **Mexican grizzly bear**

This population of the grizzly bear went extinct in the 1960s. The bears were hunted, trapped, and poisoned by cattle farmers who considered them pests.



### **Atlas bear**

This bear became extinct in the late 19th century. Over-hunting and pressure from zoo collectors contributed to their decline.



## **Current Types of Bears**

### **Brown Bear**



The brown bear is a large bear native to Eurasia and North America. Of the land carnivorans, it is rivaled in size only by its closest relative, the polar bear, which is much less variable in size and slightly bigger on average. The brown bear is a sexually dimorphic species, as adult males are larger and more compactly built than females. The fur ranges in color from cream to reddish to dark brown. It has evolved large hump muscles, unique among bears, and paws up to 8.3 inches wide and 14 inches long, to effectively dig through dirt. Its teeth are similar to those of other bears and reflect their dietary plasticity.

#### **QUICK FACTS**

**Weight:** An adult female brown bear weighs between 300 to 800 pounds and an adult male between 400 to 1200 pounds.

**Height/Length:** Brown bears stand 3-5 feet at the shoulder and measure 7-10 feet in length. A brown bear can stand up to 9 feet tall on its hind legs.

**Speed:** The brown/grizzly bear can run up to 35 mph with its powerful forelegs.

**Lifespan:** The brown bear is a long-lived animal, with an average lifespan of 25 years in the wild.

Throughout the brown bear's range, it inhabits mainly forested habitats in elevations of up to 16,000 feet. It is omnivorous and consumes a variety of plant and animal species. Contrary to popular belief, the brown bear derives 90% of its diet from plants. When hunting, it will target animals as small as insects and rodents to those as large as moose or muskoxen. In parts of coastal Alaska, brown bears predominantly feed on spawning salmon that come near shore to lay their eggs. For most of the year, it is a usually solitary animal that associates only when mating or raising cubs. Females give birth to an average of one to three cubs that remain with their mother for 1.5 to 4.5 years. Relative to its body size, the brown bear has an exceptionally large brain. This large brain allows for high cognitive abilities, such as tool use. Attacks on humans, though widely reported, are generally rare.

While the brown bear's range has shrunk, and it has faced local extinctions across its wide range, it remains off of the endangered species list with a total estimated world population of about 200,000. Populations that were hunted to extinction in the 19th and 20th centuries are the Atlas bear of North Africa and the Californian, Ungava and Mexican populations of the grizzly bear of North America. Many of the populations in the southern parts of Eurasia are highly endangered as well. One of the smaller-bodied forms, the Himalayan brown

bear, is critically endangered: it occupies only 2% of its former range and is threatened by uncontrolled poaching for its body parts. The Marsican brown bear of central Italy is one of several currently isolated populations of the Eurasian brown bear and is believed to have a population of only about 50 bears.

The brown bear is considered to be one of the most popular of the world's charismatic animals. It has been kept in zoos since ancient times and has been tamed and trained to perform in circuses and other acts. For thousands of years, the brown bear has had a role in human culture, and is often featured in literature, art, folklore, and mythology.



### **Grizzly Bear**



Grizzly bears and brown bears are the same species, *Ursus arctos*, but they have different geographic locations, diets, and appearances.

### **Geographic location**

- **Grizzly bears:** Typically live inland, in woodlands, forests, alpine meadows, and prairies. They prefer riparian areas along rivers and streams.
- **Brown bears:** Usually live in coastal areas, but can also live in forests, mountain regions, and semi-desert areas.

### **Diet**

- **Grizzly bears:** Eat a variety of foods, including berries, roots, rodents, and occasionally larger animals. They are also scavengers, eating the remains of animals killed by other means.
- **Brown bears:** Eat a diet rich in fish, such as salmon.

### **Kodiak Bear**



Kodiak bears are a subspecies of brown bears, but they are larger and have some unique characteristics.

### **Size**

- Kodiak bears are the largest brown bears in the world and are often considered the largest carnivore.
- Adult male Kodiak bears can weigh up to 1,500 pounds and stand over 10 feet tall on their hind legs.
- Females are about 20% smaller and 30% lighter than males.

### **Habitat**

- Kodiak bears live on the Kodiak Islands in Alaska, while brown bears live in Asia, Europe, and North America.
- Kodiak bears have been isolated from other bears for about 12,000 years.



## **Diet**

- Kodiak bears have a fish-based diet and are dominant in their island food webs.
- They spend most of their time searching for food, like salmon and berries, and the rest of the year denning.

## **Other characteristics**

- Kodiak bears have a large hump of muscle on their shoulders and a domed forehead.
- Their fur is orange/brown.

## **BROWN BEAR POPULATIONS**

There are approximately 200,000 brown bears left in the world.

### **Europe and Asia (About 142,500 bears)**

The largest populations are in Russia (Europe and Asia) with 120,000.

- European Russia with about 40,000.
- Asian Russia with about 80,000.

Romania has Europe's largest population of brown bears outside Russia with about 8,000 bears.

That leaves about 14,500 brown bears spread out in other parts of Asia including northern China, northern Japan, and parts of Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India.

### **North America (About 57,500 bears)**

This total includes brown bears and all subspecies. In North America, grizzlies are called brown bears when it comes to population counts.

The United States with around 32,500 and Canada with around 25,000.

- Alaska has about 31,000 brown bears.
- Only around 1,500 brown bears remain in the lower 48 United States. Of these, around 800 are found in Montana. About 600 more live in Wyoming, in the Yellowstone-Teton area. About 100 brown bears are spread out in Washington and Idaho.

The Kodiak bear population is estimated to be around 3,500 bears and they all live on the Kodiak Archipelago in Alaska.





**Brown Bear Habitat Map**

### **American Black Bear**



#### **Quick Facts Black Bear**

**Height:** About 3 feet at the shoulder  
and 5-7 feet tall when  
standing upright

**Weight:** Ranges from 100 to 600  
pounds depending on age,  
sex, and season

**Average Life Span:** 15-25 years

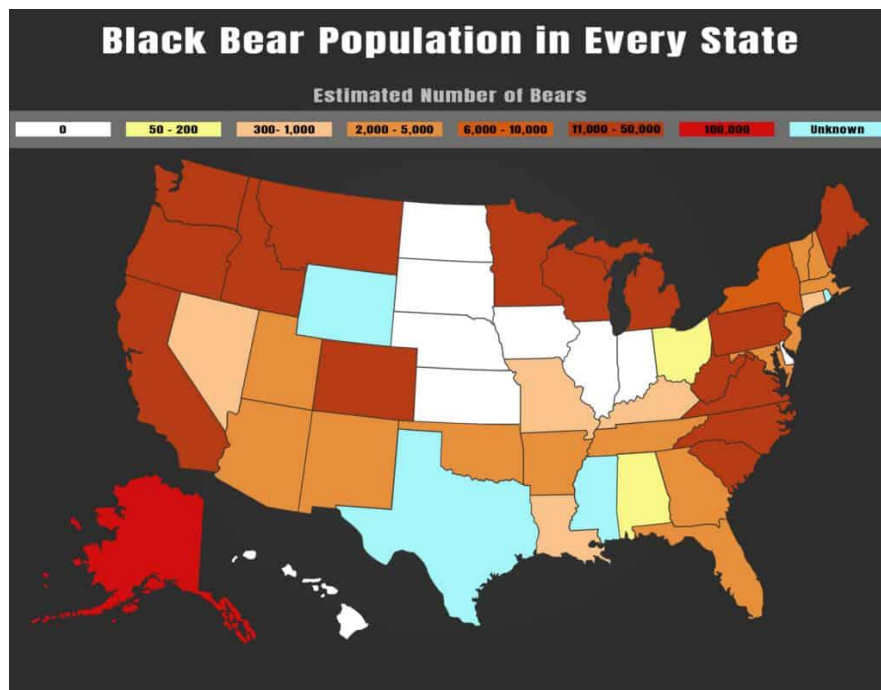
**Did You Know?** Despite their name, black  
bears can be black, cinnamon,  
blonde, blue/gray, or even  
white!



**American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are the most common and widely distributed species of bears in North America. They can be found anywhere from forested areas to the beach to the alpine zone.**



**American Black Bear Habitat**



**Wyoming's black bear population is between 10,000 and 20,000. The exact population of black bears in Texas is unknown but wildlife researchers estimate there are around 100 bears. In Mississippi, the black bear population has been estimated to be around 150. Rhode Island's black bear population is about 10.**

## **AMERICAN BLACK BEAR POPULATIONS**

**The black bear population in North America is estimated to be over 600,000, with some estimates as high as 900,000. Black bears are the most widespread large mammal in North America, living in parts of Canada, the United States, and Northern Mexico. Here are some estimated Black Bear populations:**

**Canada – 300,000 to 400,000**

**Mexico – About 500 (Bears are an endangered species there)**

**United States – 250,000 to 300,000 (Reference above Chart)**

**While bears of the same species might look similar, everything from their size, coloring, diet, and sleeping patterns depend on the bear and its location. For example, a bear's diet varies depending on what foods are available during a specific season in a specific region. The home range for an adult black bear can vary depending on the location, season, and food availability.**

**For example, let's take a look at two different black bears, one in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and another in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve to see how they differ in diet, winter denning, and life cycle.**

### **What Do Black Bears Eat?**

**Black bears will eat almost anything. They are omnivores, meaning that they eat both plants and animals. Their curved claws help them climb trees to search for food, but they cannot dig for food as well as a brown bear. Black bears are very smart and can identify food not only by smell but also by appearance.**

**Bears who have been fed human food will begin to associate campsites, bags, garbage cans, and even cars with food. These food-conditioned bears can become dangerous. So please remember: Don't let bears get your food or garbage! Help keep them wild by following these tips on food storage and bear safety.**

### **Black Bear in Great Smoky Mountains**

**Black bears are one of the largest predators living in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, but the majority of their diet is made up of plants. Eighty-five percent of a Great Smoky Mountains black bear's diet comes from berries and nuts. Black bears in the Great Smoky Mountains also eat insects and animal carcasses when they are available.**

### **Black Bear in Glacier Bay**

**Black bears in Glacier Bay eat a wide variety of plant and animal foods. They often graze on shoreline grasses and sedges, dandelions, wild celery, cow parsnip, and other beach and meadow plants. They use their long claws to dig up plants and roots and to pick ripened berries in the summer. In the late summer and fall, black bears eat salmon from the large streams of Alaska. Occasionally, black bears will eat other animals including bumblebees, birds, bird eggs, rodents, and animal or whale carcasses.**

### **Winter Dens**

**Black bears spend the winter months in dens to avoid the cold weather and lack of available food. They make their dens in hollow trees or logs, under the root mass of a tree, in rock crevices, or even high in a tree in warmer climates. Bears may spend up to six months in hibernation, during which they do not eat, drink, or expel waste.**

### **Black Bear in Great Smoky Mountains**

**Bears in the Great Smokies will den during the winter to escape the cold weather. While some bears den in hollow stumps and tree cavities, these bears are unusual in that they often den high above ground in standing hollow trees. It is believed that these black bears do not enter a true hibernation, and they may leave their den for short periods of time if the weather is warm or if they are disturbed.**

**During the winter denning period, pregnant black bears will give birth to cubs. Bears without cubs emerge in the early spring; mother bears and cubs emerge last usually in late March or early April.**

### **Black Bear in Glacier Bay**

**Like the ones at Great Smoky Mountains, black bears in Glacier Bay enter dens during the winter if there is little to no food available. Black bears in Alaska will make their dens in the snow, under root structures, or in caves.**

**In colder parts of Alaska, black bears will hibernate for about seven months. Bears along the warmer coast may hibernate for only two to five months, or not at all.**

**Just like their Great Smoky Mountains counterparts, pregnant black bears in Glacier Bay give birth to their cubs in their dens. Cubs are usually born within the first two months of hibernation. Cubs and their mothers stay in their dens for the rest of the winter while the mother bear rests and the cubs nurse and**



grow. Females and their cubs usually emerge from their winter dens in late March or early April.

### **Life Cycle**

For the most part, adult black bears lead solitary lives, except when mating season takes place. Black bear mating season occurs during the summer, but the embryos do not begin to develop until the mother bear enters her den. Cubs are born in the middle of the winter denning period, usually between mid-January and early February.



Cubs are born tiny, helpless, and hairless, weighing less than half a pound. A mother bear will typically give birth to one to three cubs at a time. By the time a mother bear and her cubs are ready to emerge into spring, the cubs typically weigh around five pounds. Young bears grow very quickly and can weigh around 80 pounds on their first birthday. Cubs will remain with their mother for about 18 months or until she is ready to mate again.

### **Asian Black Bear**



**The Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), also known as the Asiatic black bear, moon bear and white-chested bear, is a medium-sized bear species native to Asia that is largely adapted to an arboreal lifestyle (living in trees). It lives in the Himalayas, southeastern Iran, the northern parts of the Indian subcontinent, Mainland Southeast Asia, the Korean Peninsula, China, the Russian Far East, the islands of Honshu and Shikoku in Japan, and Taiwan.**



**Asian Black Bear Habitat**

**It is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and is threatened by deforestation and poaching for its body parts, which are used in traditional medicine.**

**There are about 50,000 Asian Black Bears left in the world. The population has declined by about 40% over the past 30 years.**

### **Polar Bear**



**The polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) is a large bear native to the Arctic and nearby areas. It is closely related to the brown bear, and the two species can interbreed. The polar bear is the largest extant species of bear and land carnivore, with adult males weighing 660 to 1,760 pounds. The species is sexually dimorphic, as adult females are much smaller. The polar bear is white- or yellowish-furred with black skin and a thick layer of fat. It is more slender than the brown bear, with a narrower skull, longer neck and lower shoulder hump. Its teeth are sharper and more adapted to cutting meat. The paws are large and allow the bear to walk on ice and paddle in the water.**



**Polar bears are both terrestrial (land-living) and pagophilic (ice-living) and are considered marine mammals because of their dependence on marine ecosystems. They prefer the annual sea ice but live on land when the ice melts in the summer. They are mostly carnivorous and specialized for preying on seals, particularly ringed seals. Such prey is typically taken by ambush; the bear may stalk its prey on the ice or in the water but also will stay at a breathing hole or ice edge to wait for prey to swim by. The bear primarily feeds on the seal's energy-rich blubber. Other prey includes walruses, beluga whales and some terrestrial animals. Polar bears are usually solitary but can be found in groups when on land. During the breeding season, male bears guard females and defend them from rivals. Mothers give birth to cubs in maternity dens during the winter. Young cubs stay with their mother for up to two and a half years.**

**The polar bear is considered a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with an estimated total population of 22,000 to 31,000 individuals. Its biggest threats are climate change, pollution and energy development. Climate change has caused a decline in sea ice, giving the polar bear less access to its favored prey and increasing the risk of malnutrition**



and starvation. Less sea ice also means that the bears must spend more time on land, increasing conflicts with humans. Polar bears have been hunted, both by native and non-native people for their coats, meat and other items. They have been kept in captivity in zoos and circuses and are prevalent in art, folklore, religion and modern culture.



## Giant Panda



The giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*), also known as the panda bear or simply panda, is a bear species endemic to China. It is characterized by its white coat with black patches around the eyes, ears, legs and shoulders. Its body is rotund; adult individuals weigh 220 to 254 pounds and are typically 3 feet 11 inches to 6 feet 3 inches long. It is sexually dimorphic, with males being typically 10 to 20% larger than females. A thumb is visible on its forepaw, which helps



**in holding bamboo in place for feeding. It has large molar teeth and expanded temporal fossa to meet its dietary requirements. It can digest starch and is mostly herbivorous with a diet consisting almost entirely of bamboo and bamboo shoots.**



**The giant panda lives exclusively in six montane regions in a few Chinese provinces at elevations of up to 9,800 feet. It is solitary and gathers only in mating seasons. It relies on olfactory communication to communicate and uses scent marks as chemical cues and on landmarks like rocks or trees. Females rear cubs for an average of 18 to 24 months. The average lifespan is about 15-20 years for wild pandas and about 30 years for those in human care. The oldest known giant panda was 38 years old.**

**As a result of farming, deforestation and infrastructural development, the giant panda has been driven out of the lowland areas where it once lived. The wild population has increased again to 1,864 individuals as of March 2015. Since 2016, it has been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. In July 2021, Chinese authorities also classified the giant panda as vulnerable. It is a conservation-reliant species. As of November 2024, the global population of giant pandas in captivity was 757. In the wild, there are fewer than 1,900 giant pandas. It has often served as China's national symbol, appeared on Chinese Gold Panda coins since 1982 and as one of the five Fuwa mascots of the 2008 Summer Olympics held in Beijing.**

### Wild Panda Habitat (Range)

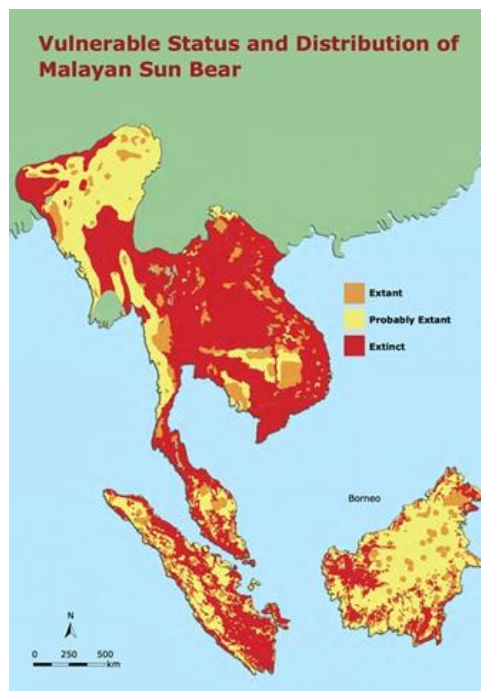


### Sun Bear



The sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) is a bear species in the family Ursidae found in the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. It is the only species in the genus *Helarctos* and the smallest bear species, standing nearly 28 inches at the shoulder and weighing 55 to 143 pounds. It is stockily built, with large paws, strongly curved claws, small, rounded ears and a short snout. The fur is generally short and jet black, but can vary from grey to red. The sun bear gets its name from its characteristic orange to cream-colored chest patch. Its unique morphology—inward-turned front feet, flattened chest, powerful forelimbs with large claws—suggests adaptations for climbing.

The most arboreal (tree-living) of all bears, the sun bear is an excellent climber and sunbathes or sleeps in trees 7 to 23 feet above the ground. It is mainly active during the day, though nocturnality might be more common in areas frequented by humans. Sun bears tend to remain solitary but sometimes occur in twos (such as a mother and her cub). They do not seem to hibernate, possibly because food resources are available the whole year throughout the range. Being omnivores, sun bears' diet includes ants, bees, beetles, honey, termites, and plant material such as seeds and several kinds of fruits; vertebrates such as birds and deer are also eaten occasionally. They breed throughout the year; individuals become sexually mature at two to four years of age. Litters comprise one or two cubs that remain with their mother for around three years.



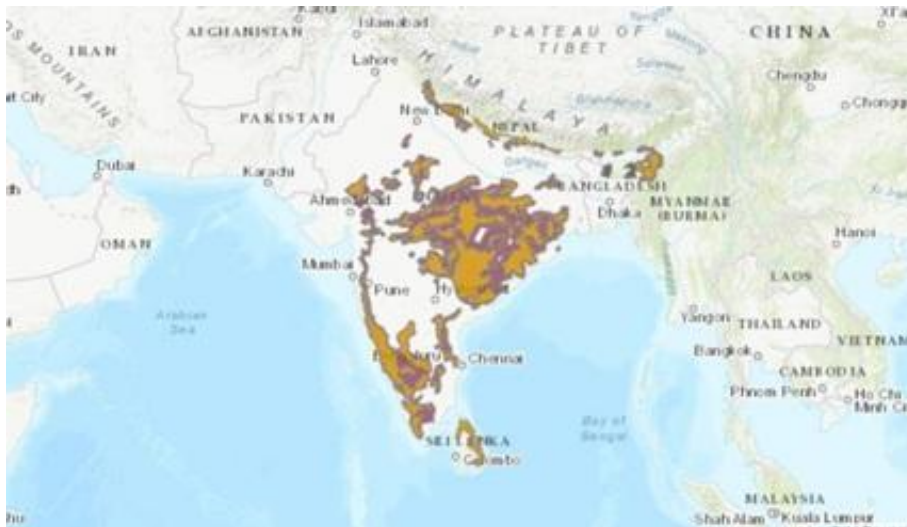
The range of the sun bear is bounded by northeastern India to the north then south to southeast through Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam in mainland Asia to Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia to the south. These bears are threatened by heavy deforestation and illegal hunting for food and the wildlife trade; they are also harmed in conflicts with humans when they enter farmlands, plantations, and orchards.

Sun bears are considered vulnerable, with anywhere between 1000 and 10,000 left in the wild, however there are no conclusive numbers. Sadly, sun bears now occupy just 32% - 40% of their historical South Asian range and are at risk of extinction unless urgent conservation action is taken.

## Sloth Bear



The sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), also known as the Indian bear, is a myrmecophagous bear species native to the Indian subcontinent. It feeds on fruits, ants and termites. It is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, mainly because of habitat loss and degradation. Fewer than 20,000 sloth bears are estimated to survive in the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka



It has also been called "labiated bear" because of its long lower lip and palate used for sucking up insects. It has long, shaggy fur, a mane around the face, and long, sickle-shaped claws. It is lankier than brown and Asian black bears. It shares features of insectivorous mammals and evolved during the Pleistocene from the ancestral brown bear through divergent evolution.



**Sloth bears breed during spring and early summer and give birth near the beginning of winter. When their territories are encroached upon by humans, they sometimes attack them. Historically, humans have drastically reduced these bears' habitat and diminished their population by hunting them for food and products such as their claws. Sloth bears have been tamed and used as performing animals and as pets.**



### **Spectacled Bear**



**The spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), also known as the South American bear, Andean bear, Andean short-faced bear or mountain bear. The spectacled bear is the only bear native to South America and is the largest land carnivore in that part of the world, although as little as 5% of its diet is composed of meat. Among South America's extant, native land animals, only the Baird's tapir, South American tapir and mountain tapir are heavier than the bear.**

**The spectacled bear is a mid-sized species of bear. Overall, its fur is blackish in color, though bears may vary from jet black to dark brown and to even a**

reddish hue. The species typically has distinctive beige or ginger-colored markings across its face and upper chest, though not all spectacled bears have "spectacle" markings. The pattern and extent of pale markings are slightly different on each individual bear, and bears can be readily distinguished by this. Males are a third larger than females in dimensions and sometimes twice their weight. Males can weigh from 220 to 440 pounds and females can weigh from 77 to 181 pounds. Head-and-body length can range from 47 to 78.5 inches.

Compared to other living bears, this species has a more rounded face with a relatively short and broad snout. In some extinct species of the Tremarctinae subfamily, this facial structure has been thought to be an adaptation to a largely carnivorous diet, despite the modern spectacled bears' herbivorous dietary preferences.

The spectacled bear's sense of smell is extremely sensitive. They can perceive from the ground when a tree is loaded with ripe fruit. On the other hand, their hearing is moderate, and their vision is short.

### **Bears in Cartoons, Folklore, Fairy Tales, Sports Mascots, and Other Places**

#### **Famous Bears**



**Smokey Bear**



**Teddy Bear**

## Some Other Cartoon Bears



## Sports Teams with a Bear as the Mascot

**Staley Da Bear** is the official mascot of the Chicago Bears of the National Football League. He is an anthropomorphic bear with a customized team jersey. Staley's name is eponymous to A. E. Staley, who founded the Bears' franchise in 1919.



**Clark (mascot)** Clark is the official team mascot of Major League Baseball's Chicago Cubs. He was announced on January 13, 2014, as the first official mascot in the modern history of the Cubs franchise.



Now in his 19th season, **Grizz**, the mascot of the Memphis Grizzlies, has remained a furry fan favorite among members of Grizz Nation, so much so that he was named 2011 NBA Mascot of the Year as voted by his peers.





**Oski the Bear (Oski) is the official mascot of the University of California, Berkeley ("Cal"), representing the California Golden Bears. Named after the Oski Yell, he made his debut at a freshman rally in the Greek Theatre on September 25, 1941.**



**The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) mascot is Joe Bruin, a brown bear, and his female counterpart, Josephine "Josie" Bruin.**



**The University of California, Riverside. Though numerous nominations for a campus mascot "including Rocks, Tigers, and Aphids" were presented to the charter students in 1954, "Scottie Highlander," the theme acknowledged the campus' elevation relative to the rest of the city.**



**Baylor University has had a live bear as its mascot since 1917. The original bear — known as both Ted and Bruin — was gifted to the program by the 107th Engineers of the Army's 32nd Division, who were stationed in Waco. Although the live bear is no longer allowed on the sideline, the Bears' mascot is still officially a live bear.**



**Brown University's mascot is Bruno the Bear. Bruno was a live bear when introduced in 1921. There have been a number of bears representing Bruno over the years and later being represented by a person in costume in the late 60's.**





**The Hershey Bears are a professional ice hockey team based in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Coco the Bear is the Official Mascot. At GIANT Center Coco skates around and hangs with members of Bear Nation!**



### **Places in the United States**



**Big Bear Lake, California**



**Bear Lake, Northern Utah and Southern Idaho**

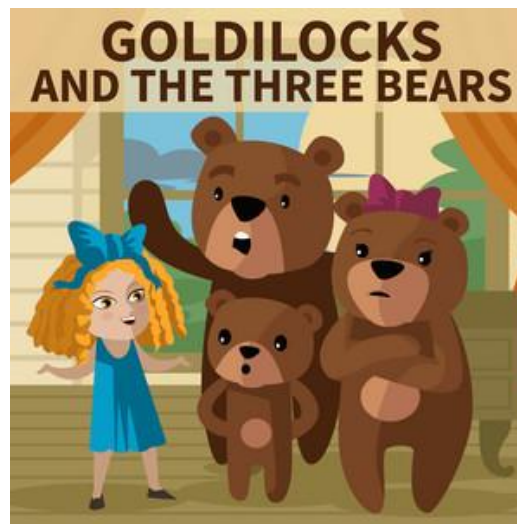
**Bear, Arkansas  
Bear, Delaware  
Bear, Idaho**

### State Flag with a Bear on it

California's state flag features a California grizzly bear, making it the only state flag to depict an extinct animal. The flag is also known as the "Bear Flag".



### Fairy Tales



*Once upon a time there were three Bears, who lived together in a house of their own in the woods. One of them was a Little Wee Bear, and one was a Middle-sized Bear, and the other was a Great Big Bear. They had each a bowl for their porridge; a little bowl for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized bowl for the Middle-sized Bear; and a great bowl for the Great Big Bear. And they had each a chair to sit in; a little chair for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized chair for the Middle-sized Bear; and a great chair for the Great Big Bear. And they had each a bed to sleep in; a little bed for the Little Wee Bear; and a middle-sized bed for the Middle-sized Bear; and a great bed for the Great Big Bear.*

*One day, after they had made the porridge for their breakfast, and poured it into their porridge-bowls, they walked out into the woods while the porridge was cooling so that they might not burn their mouths by beginning too soon, for they were polite, well-brought-up Bears. And while they were away a little girl called Goldilocks, who lived on the other side of the woods and had been sent on an errand by her mother, passed by the house, and looked in at the window. And then*

*she peeped in at the keyhole, for she was not at all a well-brought-up little girl. Then seeing nobody in the house she lifted the latch. The door was not fastened, because the Bears were good Bears, who did nobody any harm, and never suspected that anybody would harm them. So, Goldilocks opened the door and went in; and well pleased was she when she saw the porridge on the table. If she had been a well-brought-up little girl she would have waited till the Bears came home, and then, perhaps, they would have asked her to breakfast; for they were good Bears—a little rough or so, as the manner of Bears is, but for all that very good-natured and hospitable. But she was an impudent, rude little girl, and so she set about helping herself.*

*First, she tasted the porridge of the Great Big Bear, and that was too hot for her. Next, she tasted the porridge of the Middle-sized Bear, but that was too cold for her. And then she went to the porridge of the Little Wee Bear, and tasted it, and that was neither too hot nor too cold, but just right, and she liked it so well that she ate it all up, every bit!*

*Then Goldilocks, who was tired, for she had been catching butterflies instead of running on her errand, sat down in the chair of the Great Big Bear, but that was too hard for her. And then she sat down in the chair of the Middle-sized Bear, and that was too soft for her. But when she sat down in the chair of the Little Wee Bear, that was neither too hard nor too soft, but just right. So, she seated herself in it and there she sat till the bottom of the chair came out, and down she came, plump upon the ground; and that made her very cross, for she was a bad-tempered little girl.*

*Now, being determined to rest, Goldilocks went upstairs into the bedchamber in which the Three Bears slept. And first she lay down upon the bed of the Great Big Bear, but that was too high at the head for her. And next she lay down upon the bed of the Middle-sized Bear, and that was too high at the foot for her. And then she lay down upon the bed of the Little Wee Bear, and that was neither too high at the head nor at the foot, but just right. So, she covered herself up comfortably and lay there till she fell fast asleep.*

*By this time the Three Bears thought their porridge would be cool enough for them to eat it properly; so, they came home to breakfast. Now careless Goldilocks had left the spoon of the Great Big Bear standing in his porridge.*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN AT MY PORRIDGE!"  
said the Great Big Bear in his great, rough, gruff voice.*

*Then the Middle-sized Bear looked at his porridge and saw the spoon was standing in it too.*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN AT MY PORRIDGE!"  
said the Middle-sized Bear in her middle-sized voice.*

*Then the Little Wee Bear looked at his, and there was the spoon in the porridge-bowl, but the porridge was all gone!*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN AT MY PORRIDGE AND HAS EATEN IT ALL UP!"  
said the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.*

*Upon this the Three Bears, seeing that someone had entered their house, and eaten up the Little Wee Bear's breakfast, began to look about them. Now the careless Goldilocks had not put the hard cushion straight when she rose from the chair of the Great Big Bear.*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR!"  
said the Great Big Bear in his great, rough, gruff voice.*

*And the careless Goldilocks had squatted down the soft cushion of the Middle-sized Bear.*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR!"  
said the Middle-sized Bear in her middle-sized voice.*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR AND HAS SAT THE BOTTOM THROUGH!"  
said the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.*

*Then the Three Bears thought they had better make further search in case it was a burglar, so they went upstairs into their bedchamber. Now Goldilocks had pulled the pillow of the Great Big Bear out of its place.*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED!"  
said the Great Big Bear in his great, rough, gruff voice.*

*And Goldilocks had pulled the bolster of the Middle-sized Bear out of its place.*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED!"  
said the Middle-sized Bear in her middle-sized voice.*



*But when the Little Wee Bear came to look at his bed, there was the bolster in its place! And the pillow was in its place upon the bolster!*

*And upon the pillow?*

*There was Goldilocks's yellow head—which was not in its place, for she had no business there.*

*"SOMEBODY HAS BEEN LYING IN MY BED—AND HERE SHE IS STILL!" said the Little Wee Bear in his little wee voice.*

*In it lay Goldilocks, sound asleep. Baby Bear prodded her toe.*

*"Who's that? Where am I?" shrieked the little girl, waking with a start. Taking fright at the scowling faces bending over her, she clutched the bedclothes up to her chin. Then she jumped out of bed and fled down the stairs.*

*"Get away! Away from that house!" she told herself as she ran, forgetful of all the trouble she had so unkindly caused. But Baby Bear called from the door, waving his arm:*

*"Don't run away! Come back! I forgive you, come and play with me!"*

*And this is how it all ended. From that day onwards, haughty rude Goldilocks became a pleasant little girl. She made friends with Baby Bear and often went to his house. She invited him to her house too, and they remained good friends, always.*

*The End*

**[Bigdrifter44@gmail.com](mailto:Bigdrifter44@gmail.com)**

**[Bigdrifter.com](http://Bigdrifter.com)**