



THE POLAR BEAR

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Bears

The Earth is home to a variety of different plant and animal species. Each living thing is suited to life in its environment, from the freezing Arctic to the tropical rainforest. In the deepest oceans, and on the highest mountains, the ability of different organisms to adapt to their surroundings is one of the wonders of life.





Bears are among the largest and most impressive predators in the world, and live in many different habitats. Most species of bears live in the Northern Hemisphere; in North America, Europe, and Asia. Each species of bear has special characteristics to allow it to survive in different conditions. Although they are apex predators, bears are omnivores – they eat both plants and animals. In fact, the diet of most bears consists mainly of plants. However, there is a bear that relies almost entirely on hunting other animals to survive: the polar bear.

The most common species of bear in the world is the brown bear, or 'ursus arctos' – which means 'bear bear'!



Bears – The Polar Bear

Word Bank

(pp. 4-5)

species (n) = a type of plant or animal

environment (n) = natural surroundings

ability (n) = a skill; sth you can do

organism (n) = a living thing

adapt (v) = to change to suit your environment

surroundings (pl n) = the things or places around you

among (prep) = in a group with

impressive (adj) = surprisingly good

predator (n) = an animal which hunts and kills other animals

habitat (n) = the natural environment where sth/sb lives

characteristic (n) = a feature

survive (v) = to continue to live

condition (n) = a circumstance

apex predator (phr) = an animal which is not hunted by other animals in its environment

omnivore (n) = an animal that eats both plants and animals

diet (n) = the food sb/sth eats

consist of (phr v) = to be made up of

rely on (phr v) = to depend on

entirely (adv) = completely

hunt (v) = to chase and kill animals to eat

survive (v) = to continue to live

(pp. 6-8)

native (n) = a plant or animal that lives naturally in a place

region (n) = a large area of land

patch (n) = a small area of a surface

shoulder (n) = the area of the body between the top of the arm and the neck

endangered (adj) = in danger of becoming extinct

status (n) = condition

conservation group (phr) = an organization that tries to protect the environment or species

extinction (n) = (of plant and animal species) disappearance

shaggy (adj) = (of hair) long and messy

coat (n) = the fur, wool, etc. covering an animal's body

snout (n) = the protruding part of the face of some animals which contains the nose and mouth

nocturnal (adj) = active at night

recorded (adj) = (of information) written down or stored in a computer

measure (v) = to be a specific size

crescent-shaped (adj) = shaped like the moon when it is partly visible

decrease (v) = to become less

habitat destruction (phr) = the loss of an animal's natural environment

unpredictable (adj) = cannot be predicted

aggressive (adj) = violent, angry

mammal (n) = any animal which gives birth to babies, not eggs

powerful (adj) = physically strong

evidence (n) = proof

in comparison (phr) = when compared with sb/sth

physical (adj) = of the body

adaptation (n) = a physical or behavioral change that makes sb/sth better suited to their environment

cope (v) = to handle; to manage

food chain (phr) = the order in which living things eat other living things

harsh (adj) = rough; severe

distribution (n) = (of animals) the way in which different species are spread out over different areas in the world

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Choose word/phrase that you think best completes each sentence.

- 1 Bears live in a **small variety of/many different** habitats.
- 2 Sloth bears are active during the **night/day**.
- 3 An **Asian black bear/A Kodiak bear** was the largest living bear ever recorded.
- 4 The polar bear is the king of all **land/sea** animals.

b)  Listen, read, and check.

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and choose the best answers from A, B, C, or D.

- 1 Most species of bears live in
A Europe. C the Northern Hemisphere.
B Asia. D North America.
- 2 Most species of bears eat
A only plants. C both plants and animals.
B only animals. D only plants and insects.
- 3 The relies mainly on hunting to survive.
A sloth bear C Asian brown bear
B polar bear D panda bear
- 4 Polar bears are the of all bear species.
A least powerful C youngest
B most aggressive D tallest

2 Read the text and fill in the gaps below.
Use: Alaska, China, polar, panda, Kodiak, southeast Asia, Asian black, Arctic.



Species: sloth bear
Habitat: India and surrounding countries



Species: 1) bear
Habitat: 2) , USA



Species: 3) bear
Habitat: 4) regions



Species: 5) bear
Habitat: all over 6)



Species: 7) bear
Habitat: certain areas of
8)

4 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Fill in:
food chain, apex predators, nocturnal, extinction, habitat destruction.

- 1 Being , bears have no natural enemies.
- 2 Polar bears are at the top of the Arctic
- 3 As sloth bears are animals, you don't often see them during the day.
- 4 is leaving the Asian black bear without places to live.
- 5 Conservation groups are trying to save pandas from

5 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Which of the words below relate to bears' physical characteristics? Which relate to bears' behavior? Complete the table.

- nocturnal • hunt • patch • face • leg
• unpredictable • swim • snout • fur • chest
• omnivore • aggressive • weight
• adaptations • shoulder • arm • thrive

PHYSICAL FEATURES	
BEHAVIORS	

After-Reading activities

- 6 Write down three things you have learned from the text.
- 7 ICT Collect more information about one of the bear species in the chapter. What adaptations allow the species to survive in its environment? Tell the class.