



## Great Grizzly Bears



photo NPS/Kent Miller

### Mini Fact:

Grizzly bears live about 12 to 30 years in the wild.

The grizzly bear is an awesome animal. It is so big and powerful that it has almost no enemies. A mother grizzly protecting her cubs is one of the most dangerous animals on Earth.

But grizzly bears are also intelligent and playful. This week, The Mini Page learns more about these fearsome, furry bears.

### Color and size

The grizzly bear is also called the brown bear. Its fur may also be black or blond. It gets the name “grizzly” from the white ends of its fur. (“Grizzled” means something scattered with white or gray.)

Grizzlies are among the biggest bears on Earth. The polar bear is the only other bear that can get as big. When it rears up on its back paws, a grizzly may be 7 feet tall. An adult male may weigh up to 1,700 pounds.

### What they eat

Grizzlies are **omnivores**, which means they eat a large variety of food. Their main foods are from plants, including grasses, fruits, berries, pine nuts, roots, honey and bulbs.

Grizzlies eat carcasses of dead animals. They hunt down elk or bison calves. They eat small animals such as gophers and ground squirrels, and insects such as ants and moths.



photo NPS/Jim Peaco

A grizzly feeds on a bison carcass near Yellowstone Lake.

They are great at fishing, standing in the water and scooping up salmon or trout.

### The grizzly year

When grizzlies start leaving their dens in April or May, the mother bear is especially protective of her cubs and their food, since they have not eaten for several months.

During the summer and early fall, a grizzly’s life revolves around food. It is either finding and eating food, or sleeping.

Each autumn, a grizzly gains about one-third of its body weight in fat. Around November, grizzlies usually dig a new den and then go into their long winter hibernation.

### Hibernating

When animals hibernate, they go into a special kind of deep sleep. They do this in order to survive long winters when food is scarce.

Grizzly bears may hibernate for more than half a year. During this time, they do not eat or drink, and they do not get rid of body waste. They live off layers of body fat.

Cubs are born when the mother is hibernating. The mother awakens to be sure the cubs are tucked in warmly. She regularly cleans and cares for the cubs during the hibernation period.

The cubs spend the rest of the winter drinking milk from their mom and sleeping.



photo NPS

A mom and cub in Denali National Park in Alaska.

### American habitat

Experts believe that about 200 years ago, there were around 50,000 grizzlies in the western U.S. Today there are fewer than 1,500 south of Canada. (There are about 31,000 in Alaska.) The grizzly is a threatened species in the lower 48 states.

The biggest threat to the grizzly is the destruction of its habitat by logging, mining, housing development and road building.

### A bear’s life

Grizzly bears spend most of their time alone. Males usually roam over a large area, often covering more than 2,000 square miles, more than the state of Delaware.

Females range over territory only about one-fourth as big.

During mating season, from May to early July, male grizzlies search for females. The males and females then stay in the same territory for a short time. Male grizzlies do not help care for the cubs.

Grizzlies are great diggers. They use their long claws and big muscles to help them dig up roots. They also can dig up small animals such as gophers from their underground homes.



photo NPS

A grizzly in Katmai National Park and Reserve in Alaska.

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPgrizzly](http://bit.ly/MPgrizzly)

### At the library:

- “Grizzly Bears” by Grace Hansen
- “Face to Face With Grizzlies” by Joel Sartore

## Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of grizzly bears are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ALASKA, ANIMALS, BEAR, BROWN, CUBS, DEN, FOOD, GRIZZLY, HIBERNATE, MATING, OMNIVORE, PLANTS, POWERFUL, SLEEP, SPECIES, TERRITORY, THREATENED, WINTER.

T E S C U B S N W O R B S J D  
G T L R S E R O V I N M O E Y  
N A E P L Y L Z Z I R G N X R  
I N E A S K B R D N F A P P O  
T R P U P L A N T S H N W F T  
A E X M B E A R Z U B I I C I  
M B B A L A S K A O I M N D R  
X I Q D S E I C E P S A T O R  
T H R E A T E N E D Y L E O E  
Y R Y L U F R E W O P S R F T

## Cook’s Corner

### Chocolate Bear Paws

#### You’ll need:

- 1 (4-ounce) package instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 (19-ounce) package brownie mix

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 small package of sliced almonds



#### What to do:

1. In a large bowl, combine the pudding and brownie mixes.
2. Add the eggs and oil. Mix well. With clean hands, form small balls with the dough.
3. Place balls on a greased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 8 to 10 minutes until firm.
5. Remove from oven and, while still warm, gently stick 5 sliced almonds into one side of each cookie to make bear claws. Makes 36 cookies.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. put a finger on (5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. go fast (4) \_\_\_\_\_
3. very old (7) \_\_\_\_\_
4. powerful ruler (7) \_\_\_\_\_
5. first month of the year (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. eating like a cow (7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. curved pasta (8) \_\_\_\_\_

UCH	GRA	OR	OM
MAC	UARY	AR	ZING
ZO	ONI	ANC	TO
EM	IENT	JAN	PER

Answers: touch, zoom, ancient, emperor, January, grazing, macaroni.



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## Mini Jokes



**Bianca:** What time is it when three bears are chasing you?

**Billy:** Three after 1!

## Eco Note



A herd of 15 wild Asian elephants that left a Chinese nature reserve in April have destroyed crops, wrecked barns and wandered through communities as they trekked relentlessly for nearly 300 miles. No one knows why the pack of pachyderms has made the journey, but one expert says that the leader possibly “lacks experience and has led the whole group astray.” Officials have been tracking the animals using drones and 76 cars.



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## For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about wild animals.

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