

BEAR FACTS

- Polar bears appear white due to their fur. Their skin is black for better heat absorption.
- Brown bears mate from May to July. Cubs are weaned at 5 months of age but remain with the mother until at least 2 years old, and have been known to reproduce at 25 years of age.
- Bears in captivity can live as long as 50 years.
- President Roosevelt was well known for his love of the outdoors and while on a hunting trip, he captured and adopted a black bear cub as a pet. With the President's permission, a New York doll manufacturer used this bear as a model for the first "Teddy Bear".
- The black bear's front feet are round and shaped like a human hand and the back feet are long in shape, just like a human foot.
- Grizzly bear females have something called delayed implantation. After they mate with a male grizzly, the resulting fertilized embryo waits inside the female until the fall. If the mother has enough fat reserves to be able to sustain a pregnancy, the embryo will implant itself in the wall of her uterus. If she doesn't have enough reserves, the embryo is simply reabsorbed into her system. Because of this delayed implantation, a female grizzly bear can carry more than one cub from more than one father, resulting in cubs from the same litter that don't look like each other.
- The grizzly bear has a pronounced shoulder hump, a concave or "dished" facial profile and much larger claws than the black bear. Black bears have a flatter, "Roman-nosed" profile, larger ears and no shoulder hump.
- A bear's hearing ability is excellent, and like dogs, bears hear high pitches, exceeding human frequency range and sensitivity.
- Bears see in color and have good vision, similar to humans.
- Bears are fast; they can run downhill and uphill at speeds exceeding 30 miles per hour. A full-grown bear can run as fast as a horse.