

FACTS ABOUT BROWN BEARS

Bear Facts

- Brown bears are often called "grizzlies."
- The tips of the hair on a brown bear look grayish or grizzly.
- Brown bears live in parts of North America, Europe, and Asia.
- Brown bears prefer forested mountains, meadows, or river valleys.
- Brown bears may reach seven feet tall.
- Male bears may weigh up to 700 pounds.
- Female bears may weigh up to 350 pounds.
- Brown bears eat mostly grass, roots, and berries.
- Brown bears may eat fish, insects, and ground squirrels, or larger mammals if they can catch them.
- Bears are commonly silent but can communicate with grunts, roars, or squeals.



Hibernation Facts

- Hibernation is a way of adapting to short food supplies in winter.
- During the fall, brown bears eat practically around the clock, stocking up for the next four to seven months. They may eat 90 pounds of food per day.
- Bears may dig their own den or they may hibernate in natural caves.
- One to five cubs are born during hibernation. The mother bears nurse the cubs during the winter. The cubs live off the mother's milk for the first year of life.
- Nearly 50 percent of all brown bear cubs die before they are one year old.
- Bears enter their dens during October/November and stay for five to six months.
- During hibernation, a bear's heart rate and body temperature may drop, but the bear can be easily awakened.
- Hibernating bears curl up to conserve heat, may change positions in the den, and might temporarily leave the den during the hibernation months.

Sources

- Kodiak: Hibernation (<http://www.kodiak.org/hibernation.html>)
- National Geographic Kids: Brown Bears (http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/creature_feature/0010/brownbears.html)
- National Wildlife Foundation: Grizzly Bears (<http://www.nwf.org/wildlife/grizzlybear/>)