



AMERICAN BLACK BEAR

Ursus americanus



The American Black Bear has a black or brown fur coat and large feet with claws that do not retract. It is an omnivore, which means that it eats both plant and animal matter. They live in thick forests and swamps, typically away from most human activity. The black bear stores fat all summer long so that it can live through the winter without eating or drinking. It is able to do this by slowing down all of its bodily functions to the minimal amount needed to survive. The female black bear has her young during this hibernation period. The black bear has few natural predators.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The American Black Bear is typically between four and six feet in length and three to three and a half feet high.

WEIGHT

The American Black Bear can weigh anywhere between 100 to 900 pounds. The average weight of Michigan's black bears is probably between 150 and 250 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The American Black Bear is an omnivore. It eats vegetation, especially berries and fruit. It will also eat small mammals, fish, and carrion.

HABITAT

The American Black Bear can be found in a variety of habitats, including forests, swamps, and farmland.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The American Black Bear is found mostly in the northern regions of North America. However they can be found as far south as Florida and Mexico. They can be found as far north as the Arctic.

FUN FACT

The American Black Bear can have fur that is black, brown, rusty, blond, or cinnamon in color.