



BROWN (GRIZZLY) BEAR

Ursus arctos horribilis



As the fall months approach, brown bears will spend most of the day and night eating to prepare for a long winter in hibernation. On the average fall day, an adult brown bear will consume 90 pounds of food. During the months spent in hibernation, a brown bear will live off its stored body fat. At this time the bear will fall into a deep sleep, dropping its heart rate from the average 40 beats per minute to 8 beats per minute. Female brown bears are usually pregnant when they enter their dens for hibernation. The female will give birth to one to three offspring without ever waking up from her sleep. The cubs nurse the mother's milk, rich in fat and calories, and grow strong enough to follow the mother outside of the den when spring arrives.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The grizzly bear can exceed seven feet in length and may have a shoulder height of four feet.

WEIGHT

The average grizzly bear weighs around 500 pounds, but they can reach weights of over 1,000 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The grizzly bear is an omnivore. It eats a variety of animals including deer, squirrels, and fish. It also eats grasses, fruits, and other vegetation.

HABITAT

The grizzly prefers forested or shrubby habitats. They are also often found near the coast.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Once found throughout most of the western United States, the grizzly bear is now found almost solely in Canada. There are a few areas in the United States in which grizzlies are occasionally spotted.

FUN FACT

Like the black bear, grizzly bears can also vary greatly in color. They can be white, brown, blonde or black. The grizzly has a distinctive hump between its shoulder blades that easily distinguishes it from the black bear.