

THE BEAR FACTS



The Eight Bears

Bears have been living in the world for millions of years, although many early types are now extinct. One of these, the giant short-faced bear, used to be over 14 feet tall, making it the largest predatory land mammal of all time! Another, the European cave bear, was so fearsome it was worshipped by Neanderthal cavemen, although, in fact it only ate plants.

There are eight species of bear alive in the world today. Until recently there were thought to be only seven, but recent research has shown that giant pandas, thought to be a type of raccoon, are actually an early type of bear. On the other hand, koala bears, although they look bear-like, are in fact marsupials, related more closely to kangaroos than to other bears.

Bears are really amazing animals. Although they are amongst the biggest, strongest and most dangerous of mammals (if provoked), they are also extremely popular with children and adults alike. Most children have a teddy bear at some time, and many of the most popular children's stories feature loveable bears.

Here then, is a selection of fascinating 'bear facts'. As you can see, the writers of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*,

Paddington and other stories didn't always get everything right about bears...



Giant Pandas

Asiatic Black Bears

Sloth Bears

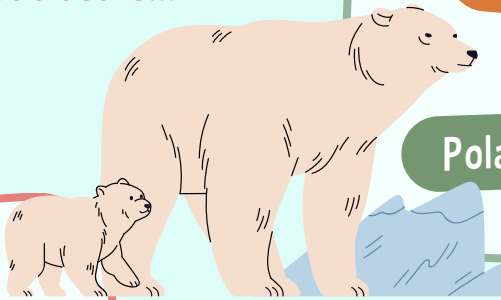
American Black Bears

Spectacled Bears

Brown Bears

Polar Bears

Sun Bears



Not porridge again!

It's unlikely that many wild bears get the chance to try porridge, but most bears will eat almost anything. Like humans, they are omnivorous, which means they'll eat meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, berries and insects. The polar bear will normally only eat meat – usually seals – although, if it is offered fruit, it will devour it. Giant pandas, on the other hand, eat only bamboo and even have a special extra 'thumb' to help them hold it. The sloth bear is more like an anteater than a bear, as it eats only termites. Its specially adapted muzzle can form a tube through which the bear sucks up insects from their nests, making a sound that can be heard over 300 feet away!

One writer who did get his facts right was A A Milne, who wrote the *Winnie the Pooh* books. As we know, Pooh Bear loved honey more than anything else in the world. And so do some real bears. They love it so much that they will break open beehives with their heavy paws to get at it, even though it means they get stung



What kind of bear was...?

There have been many famous bears in stories and films, but what kind of bears were they? Here are some possible answers:

Winnie The Pooh

This foolish but loveable bear was based on a real American black bear that lived at London Zoo during World War I. It had been brought to London by a Canadian soldier who had named it Winnipeg (Winnie for short), the name of his home town. Winnie became a hugely popular attraction at the zoo and, when writer A A Milne saw it, he based his famous character on it.

Baloo

As Baloo is found in *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling, he must be an Indian bear as that is where the story (and the Disney cartoon) is set. The most widespread bear in India is the sloth bear, but sun bears, black bears and brown bears are also found in small numbers. As Baloo is rather large, it seems most likely he is a brown bear, as the other types are quite small.

Paddington Bear

Created by Michael Bond, Paddington was an intrepid travelling bear from darkest Peru, in South America. This means he must be a spectacled bear, as they are the only type to be found there.

Yogi Bear

In the cartoons, the smart-talking Yogi Bear lives in an American national park, suggesting that he is either an American black bear or a brown bear.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

And finally, the Three Bears in the fairy tale which, as it is a European story, must be brown bears, amongst the fiercest of all bears. No wonder Goldilocks was scared!



NOT

What Goldilocks should have done, or tips on... WHAT TO DO IF YOU MEET A BEAR

Although strong and potentially dangerous, bears are naturally shy of people and will avoid us if they can. The best thing to do if you think bears are around is travel in groups, making lots of noise and staying out in the open. That way if a bear sees or hears you, it will have a chance to move away. Bears only tend to attack if they are cornered or taken by surprise.

If, like Goldilocks, you DO happen to meet a bear, you should:

- * Stay calm and don't run away. Running only seems to make a bear want to chase you and bears can run much faster than humans.
- * Avoid eye contact as it might think you are challenging it.
- * Back away slowly, talking in a soothing voice.
- * If the bear starts to growl with its ears laid back, it may be about to attack. The only answer is to drop down to the ground and 'act dead'. If the bear thinks you are no longer a threat, it will leave you alone.
- * Stay down even if you think the bear has gone. Give it time to move away before you get up.
- * And finally, don't do what Goldilocks did and either enter a bear's home (usually a cave, tree or hole in the ground) or eat their food!



The Three Bears

In the famous story, Goldilocks meets a family of three bears, Daddy, Mummy and Baby. In real life, however, bears mostly live alone, travelling across huge areas every day to find food. The only time when bears are found living together is when a mother bear is looking after her cubs. In other words, bears live as single parent families, with the father never meeting or having anything to do with his 'children'.



The Amazing Breakfast Wordsearch



There are twenty-one breakfast things hiding in this wordsearch.

Can you find all the words below?

They may be written across, up, down, diagonally and even backwards!

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

ORANGE JUICE

CROISSANTS

CEREAL

EGG

FRIED EGG

BACON

SAUSAGES

PORRIDGE

TEA

TOMATO

COFFEE

MUSHROOMS

TOAST

MILK

PANCAKES

SMOKED KIPPER

BAKED BEANS

MARMALADE

JAM

HONEY

FRUIT

What did the
Teddy Bear
say after a big
breakfast?
I'm stuffed!



Teddy Trouble!



What do you
get when you
cross a toy
bear with a
wild hog?
A teddy
boar!



Baby Bear has left his teddies piled up in a corner of the room,
and they are all in a heap! Can you tell how many bears there are?

Spot the Difference

There are ten differences between these two pictures.
Can you find them all?



What do you
call a cold bear?
A Brrrrrrr!



Who Has What?

The Three Bears have lots of famous cousins!

Can you match each of these well-known bears with the objects below?

a

Baloo

b

Winnie the Pooh

c

Gentle Ben

d

Ben
(from *Grizzly Adams*)

e

The Bear in the Big Blue House

f

Yogi Bear

g

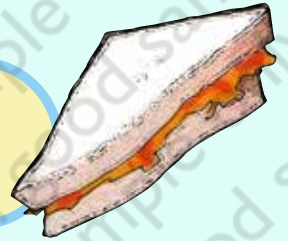
Rupert Bear

h

Paddington

What do you call a wet bear?
A drizzly bear!

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



Puzzling Porridge

Baby Bear wasn't looking where he was going and has spilled all the porridge!

Can you find your way to the only bowl that isn't spilled?

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A gummy bear!



Colour Me In!



How do you start a bear race?
Ready, Teddy, GO!



Answers

Puzzling Porridge



The Amazing Breakfast Wordsearch



Who Has What?

a - 3, b - 7, c - 5, d - 2,
e - 6, f - 4, g - 8, h - 1

Teddy Trouble

There are ten
tidied-up Teddies

Spot the Difference

