

Common Name: Grizzly bear	Scientific Name: <i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>
Class: Mammalia Order: Carnivora Family: Ursidae	Feeding Type: Omnivore Statistics: Weight: 650-700 lbs Height: 8 ft

DESCRIPTION: Grizzly bears have a hump of muscles atop their shoulders, while in black bears it is located further back. Coat color ranges from off-white, tan, yellow, and brown to black. The name grizzly comes from the grizzled gold coloration on the tips of the fur as the bear matures. It has a concave face and a very short tail. Canine teeth may be up to 3" in length. Front claws are longer than in most bear species, up to 6" and curved.

RANGE: Canada, Alaska, remote areas of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, including Yellowstone Park, Grand Teton Park, and Glacier National Park. It is found mainly in the western half of the North American continent.

HABITAT: Grizzlies live in mountainous terrain and alpine meadows; home range may cover 45 square miles and overlap extensively, and there is no evidence of territorial defense. Most seem to prefer open areas, such as tundra, alpine meadows and coastlines.

ADAPTATIONS: Grizzly bears have a keen sense of smell and hearing, but eyesight is poor. A heavy, fleecy undercoat and coarse guard hairs protect them from the cold. The shoulder hump is composed of fat and muscle. Dentition and powerful jaws allow for a varied diet. Claws are used for digging and marking territory by slashing tree trunks.

Grizzlies can swim well, and can run up to 35 mph on land for short periods of time. Not true hibernators, a grizzly can be aroused easily from its den, which may be natural or dug by the bear.

Dormancy begins in October-December and ends in March-May. Although generally solitary, grizzlies are the most social of North American bears, occasionally gathering in large numbers at major food sources, and often forming family foraging groups with more than one age class of young. Only cubs climb trees.

REPRODUCTION/GROWTH: Breeding occurs in May or June. Cubs are born helpless in December or January, but grow rapidly and leave the den with the mother at three to four months of age. They leave their mothers between one and two years, reaching sexual maturity at three to four years, and full growth at eight to ten years. No lasting social bonds are present except those between females and young.

LONGEVITY: Wild - 25 to 30 years.
Captivity - 40+ years

PREY/PREDATOR: Prey to humans
Predator to any smaller animals - top of food chain.

DIET: WILD: Eat roots, leaves, and berries for the bulk of the diet, but also relish meats such as squirrel, elk, moose, and deer.

SZ: Kale, dog food, monkey biscuits, smelt, NBC carnivore meat, variety of fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, fish

STATUS: Have been eliminated from parts of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, and have some protection as a threatened species in the South of Canada. With increasing loss of habitat and growing human presence in the northern Rockies, grizzly survival is becoming more dependent on human actions for protection. The grizzly bear is listed as threatened by the USDI in the contiguous United States (48 states).

SPECIAL NOTES: Most human attacks involving grizzlies are related to either mothers protecting cubs, grizzlies raiding campsites for food, or territory defense.

Often referred to as the most dangerous animal in North America, if you disregard venomous insects, disease-spreading rodents, domestic animals, and people, this may be true.

Average weight of the grizzly is twice that of the black bear.

The grizzly bear is actually a type of brown bear. Brown bears still exist in North America, Europe, and Asia. Brown bears are most common in North America along the coast of Alaska and western Canada. The term grizzly bear is often applied just to brown bears that are found inland.



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