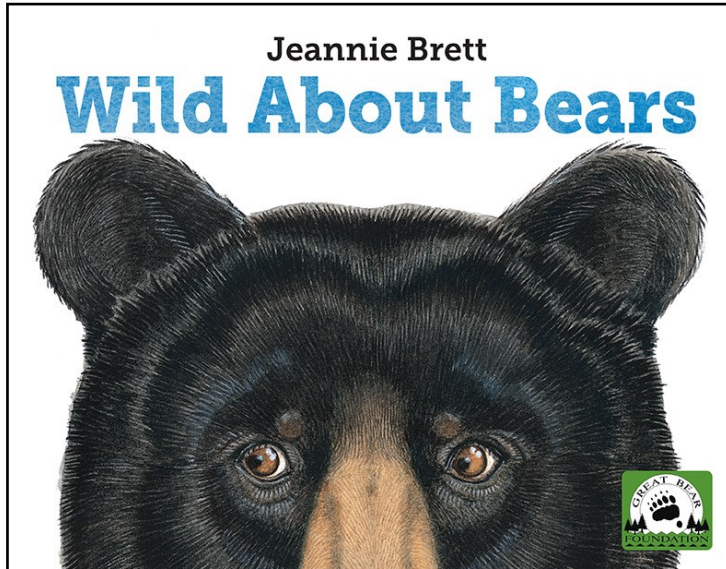


Wild About Bears

Activity and Discussion Guide

Developed by Charlesbridge



978-1-58089-418-0 HC \$17.95

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Ages 6–9; 32 pages

Meets Common Core State Standards for Grades 1–4

Also available in E-book editions

There are only eight different species of bears on earth today. From the polar bear to the sun bear, from the sloth bear to the brown bear, discover their shared traits and behaviors as well as their unique characteristics.

Be transported to a cloud forest with the spectacled bear, perch in a tree with the Asiatic black bear, roam deep in the forest with the North American black bear, and share a bite of bamboo with a giant panda.

“With its clear text and illustrations, this introduction is just the ticket for younger elementary readers.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

Look closely at the cover.

- Describe what you see.
- What do you think this book will be about?
- What do the size and shape of the book tell you about the topic?
- What do you know about bears?
 - ◊ How many different species of bears are there?
 - ◊ Where do bears live?
 - ◊ What do bears eat?
 - ◊ What are baby bears called?
 - ◊ Are bears endangered?
- What does the word “wild” mean to you?
- Have you ever seen a bear?
 - ◊ Where? When?
 - ◊ What species was it?

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Activities

- Each species of bear lives in a different habitat. Pick a species of bear and draw their natural habitat. Include details like the bear's day bed, den, and special home markings.
- Create a large map of the world denoting "Where Bears Live," like the penultimate spread in the book.
 - ◊ Have students place their drawings in the appropriate place on the map.
 - ◊ Visit the Free the Bears Foundation website, www.freethebears.org.au, to learn more about what has been done in each of these unique habitats to protect and rescue bears.
 - ◊ Have each student come up with a plan that will allow for them to help protect bears.
- Using the Habitat Glossary in the back of the book, research other animals that live in the same habitats as the bears.
 - ◊ How do these animals coexist with the bears? Are they friend? Foe? Food?
 - ◊ Are these animals endangered?
 - ◊ Is anything being done to protect the other animals who share the bears' habitat? If so, what is being done?

Matching

Use *Wild About Bears* to match the description on the right with the answer on the left!

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Plantigrade _____ | A. Active at night. |
| 2. Denning _____ | B. An animal that walks with the entire soles of its feet. |
| 3. Nocturnal _____ | C. The largest bear species. |
| 4. Omnivore _____ | D. Another name for the Brown bear. |
| 5. Polar bear _____ | E. A rare, subspecies of North American black bear. |
| 6. Grizzly bear _____ | F. The illegal bear parts trade. |
| 7. Glacier bear _____ | G. Another word for "hibernating." |
| 8. Bromeliads _____ | H. The rarest of the world's bears. |
| 9. Tibetan _____ | I. An animal that eats a variety of plants and animals. |
| Moon bear _____ | J. A type of plant that is one of the spectacled bear's favorite meals. |
| 10. Termites _____ | K. A large, flat, semi-dry plain covered in grass. |
| and Ants _____ | L. Another name for the Asiatic black bear. |
| 11. Sun bear _____ | M. The Sloth bear's favorite foods. |
| 12. Giant panda _____ | N. The smallest bear species. |
| 13. Poaching _____ | |
| 14. Steppe _____ | |

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Answer Key

1. Plantigrade B
2. Denning G
3. Nocturnal A
4. Omnivore I
5. Polar bear C
6. Grizzly bear D
7. Glacier bear E
8. Bromeliads J
9. Tibetan Moon bear L
10. Termites and Ants M
11. Sun bear N
12. Giant panda H
13. Poaching F
14. Steppe K



Post-Reading Discussion Questions

- How many bear species live on earth today?
 - ◊ What are their names?
 - ◊ Where do they live?
 - ◊ What do they eat?
- In *Wild About Bears*, Jeannie Brett tells us that bears “mark” their homes by scratching or clawing at, rubbing against, or even urinating on trees. How do humans “mark” their homes?
 - ◊ What makes your home unique?
 - ◊ How do other animals mark their homes?
- *Wild About Bears* also explains that polar bears have webbed feet to help them swim and a dense layer of underfur that keeps them warm. What other animals have specific traits that make them uniquely suited to their habitat?
 - ◊ Do humans have specific traits for different activities?
 - ◊ What do humans use to keep warm?
- In what different ways do bears use their claws?
- What challenges do bears face because of people?
 - ◊ What can you do to help bears and preserve their habitats?