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?
Wild About Bears

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  ____
2. Denning  ____
3. Nocturnal  ____
4. Omnivore  ____
5. Polar bear  ____
6. Grizzly bear  ____
7. Glacier bear  ____
8. Bromeliads  ____
9. Tibetan  ____
   Moon bear
10. Termites  ____
    and Ants
11. Sun bear  ____
12. Giant panda  ____
13. Poaching  ____
14. Steppe  ____

A. Active at night.
B. An animal that walks with the entire soles of its feet.
C. The largest bear species.
D. Another name for the Brown bear.
E. A rare, subspecies of North American black bear.
F. The illegal bear parts trade.
G. Another word for “hibernating.”
H. The rarest of the world’s bears.
I. An animal that eats a variety of plants and animals.
J. A type of plant that is one of the spectacled bear’s favorite meals.
K. A large, flat, semi-dry plain covered in grass.
L. Another name for the Asiatic black bear.
M. The Sloth bear’s favorite foods.
N. The smallest bear species.
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?