



# ALL ABOUT BEARS

## Reading Comprehension

Bears are powerful animals that live in the boreal forest, which stretches across North America, Europe, and Asia. The most common type of bear is the brown bear, also called the grizzly bear in North America. In Europe and Asia, other species include the Eurasian brown bear and the Asiatic black bear. These bears are well adapted to the cold climate of the boreal forest, with thick fur and strong bodies.

Bears are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. In the boreal forest, their diet includes berries, roots, fish, and small mammals. They can eat up to 90 pounds of food in a single day to prepare for hibernation. During the summer and fall, they eat as much as they can to build up fat for hibernation, a period of deep sleep in the winter when food is scarce.

During hibernation, bears stay in dens like caves or hollow trees. Their body temperature drops, and their heart rate slows, allowing them to survive on stored fat until spring. Unlike many other hibernating animals, bears can wake up during their hibernation if they need to.

Bears are important to the boreal forest ecosystem. They help control animal populations and spread seeds, which helps plants grow. Without bears, the balance of the forest would be disrupted.



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## Comprehension Questions

- 1** What types of bears live in the boreal forest?
- 2** What do bears eat in the boreal forest?
- 3** Why do bears eat a lot during the summer and fall?
- 4** Where do bears go during hibernation, and what happens to their bodies during this time?
- 5** How do bears contribute to the boreal forest ecosystem?

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## Answer Key

- 1** What types of bears live in the boreal forest?

The types of bears in the boreal forest include the brown bear, Eurasian brown bear, and Asiatic black bear

- 2** What do bears eat in the boreal forest?

In the boreal forest, bears eat berries, roots, fish, and small mammals.

- 3** Why do bears eat a lot during the summer and fall?

Bears eat a lot during the summer and fall to build up fat reserves for hibernation.

- 4** Where do bears go during hibernation, and what happens to their bodies during this time?

During hibernation, bears stay in dens, their body temperature drops, and they rely on stored fat.

- 5** How do bears contribute to the boreal forest ecosystem?

Bears help control animal populations and spread seeds, which helps plants grow.