

ANIMAL FACTS: BLACK BEAR

Objective: Education is a big part of the Wildlife Waystation's mission. Lesson plans are available to download for students, teachers and anyone interested in learning more about wild and exotic animals.

CHLOE

There are several black bears at the Wildlife Waystation. Chloe is a cub. She lost her mom and could not be left alone in the wild. She has found a new family here with other bears around and many staff and volunteers who care for her. She is very playful and curious about everything.



Animal Facts:

Black bears are between 4 to 7 feet (nose to tail) and 3-4 feet tall. Their eyes are small – which indicates their eyesight is not very good – however their sense of smell and hearing are very good. They have rounded ears, a long snout, a large body, a short tail, and shaggy hair.

Black bears are omnivorous. They eat fruit, vegetation, acorns, insects, larvae, nuts, berries, small mammals and the salmon. Honey is also one of their favorites. The enrichment team at the Waystation brings the bears all sorts of treats – watermelon, grass, frozen berries during the summer.

Did You Know?

They have a very well developed sense of smell.

They are fast runner and can reach 30 miles per hour.

They eat a lot during the fall. They need to put on weight before the winter when they go into hibernation and don't eat for several months. As a matter of fact, they can survive without food for up to seven months.

They are very good swimmers.

They use different sounds to communicate.

They have excellent long term memory.

Mother bears are very affectionate and attentive with their cubs.

Black bears vary greatly in size depending on what food sources and quantity are available to them.

Black bears can be black, cinnamon or tan. “Kermode” bears are black bears with white coats. “Glacier” bears have pale blue coats. They differ from the Grizzly or brown bears because they don’t have a hump, their claws are curved and they are shorter.

Female black bears can be referred to as boars and sows.

Black bears communicate with grunts, tongue clicks and blowing. They also use body posture and scent marking.

The most dangerous enemy of black bears is Man.

QUIZ & LEARN

1. What is the name of the famous bear rescued from a forest fire in New Mexico?
2. Can black bear swim?
3. What keeps a black bear warm in the winter?
4. What is a bear’s keenest sense?
5. What kind of a bear is a “Kermode bear, a Cinnamon bear, or a Glacier bear?
6. Where did “Winnie the Pooh” get his name?

(See how you did by checking out the answers at the bottom of the page).

Project

Help Chloe the cub organize a Bear-y Fun Party! Download the template from our website.

Quiz Answers:

1) Smokey the Bear – 2) Yes, they are good swimmers, able to swim up to 1 ½ miles in fresh water. - 3) Lots of layers of shaggy fur. - 4) Smell - 5) They are all black bears. - 6) From a black bear by the name of Winnipeg in the London Zoo circa 1915.