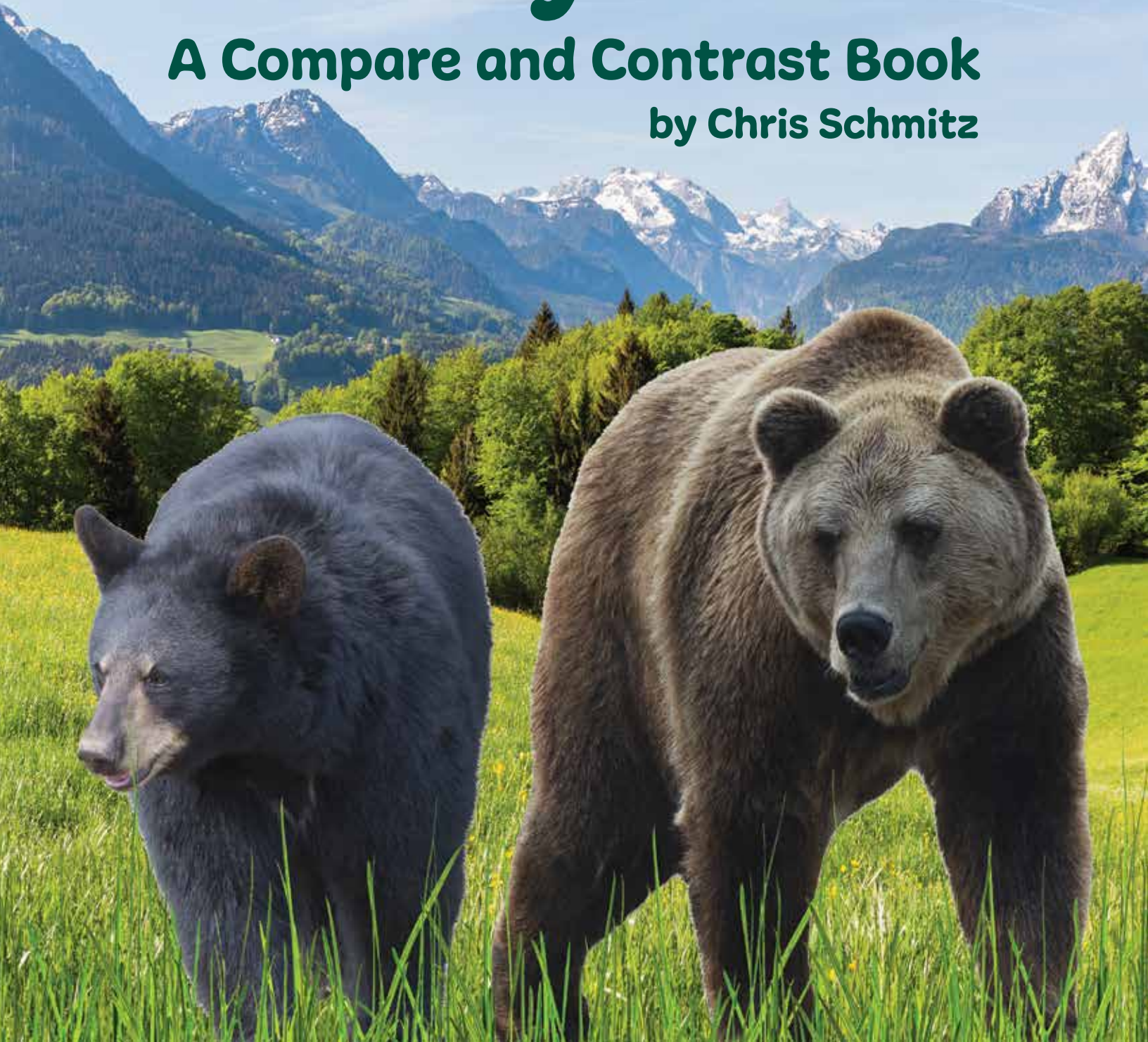


Black Bear or Grizzly Bear?

A Compare and Contrast Book

by Chris Schmitz



Black Bear or Grizzly Bear?

A note for parents and caregivers

If you were to see a bear in the woods, could you tell if it's a black bear or grizzly bear? Learn what these two species of bears have in common and how to tell them apart. Are grizzly bears always brown or are black bears always black? Which have short, sharply-curved claws and which have long, gently-curved claws? Do they eat the same things? Explore the similarities and differences between these mammals in this latest addition to the Compare and Contrast Series!

Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

The *For Creative Minds* includes

- Bear Math
- Bear Teeth
- Bear True or False?
- Bear Fun Facts

Thanks to Jesse Daniel, Sr. Manager of Engagement at the Birmingham Zoo for verifying the information in this book.

Arbordale's interactive ebooks read aloud in both English and Spanish with word-highlighting and adjustable audio speed. Available for purchase online.

Helping young children develop critical thinking skills is a gift they'll have for life. The book you are holding can help you to help them do just that.

Before reading the book, ask the child(ren) how they think these animals are alike or different. That helps you to understand what they already know or if they have any misconceptions.

After reading, go back through the book together looking at photos to find and discuss things. Ask verbal children to describe or explain what they see. Even young, non-verbal children can find and point to things. For example, have children find or point to:

- bear color variations
- grizzly shoulder humps
- claws
- bears eating (what are they eating?)

Ask the child(ren) to describe one new thing they learned or found most interesting.

Do the "For Creative Minds" activities in the back of the book with them.

Chris Schmitz has worked in environmental education at zoos and aquariums for over 35 years. She is the Director of Education at Utah's Hogle Zoo. Chris remembers hiking with her family as a child, turning the corner, and seeing a black bear sitting in the middle of the path eating huckleberries. The wonder of that moment observing that hungry bear and many other equally magical wildlife encounters as a child helped set her career path. She hopes this debut book will help children learn more about the natural world and motivate them to protect it.

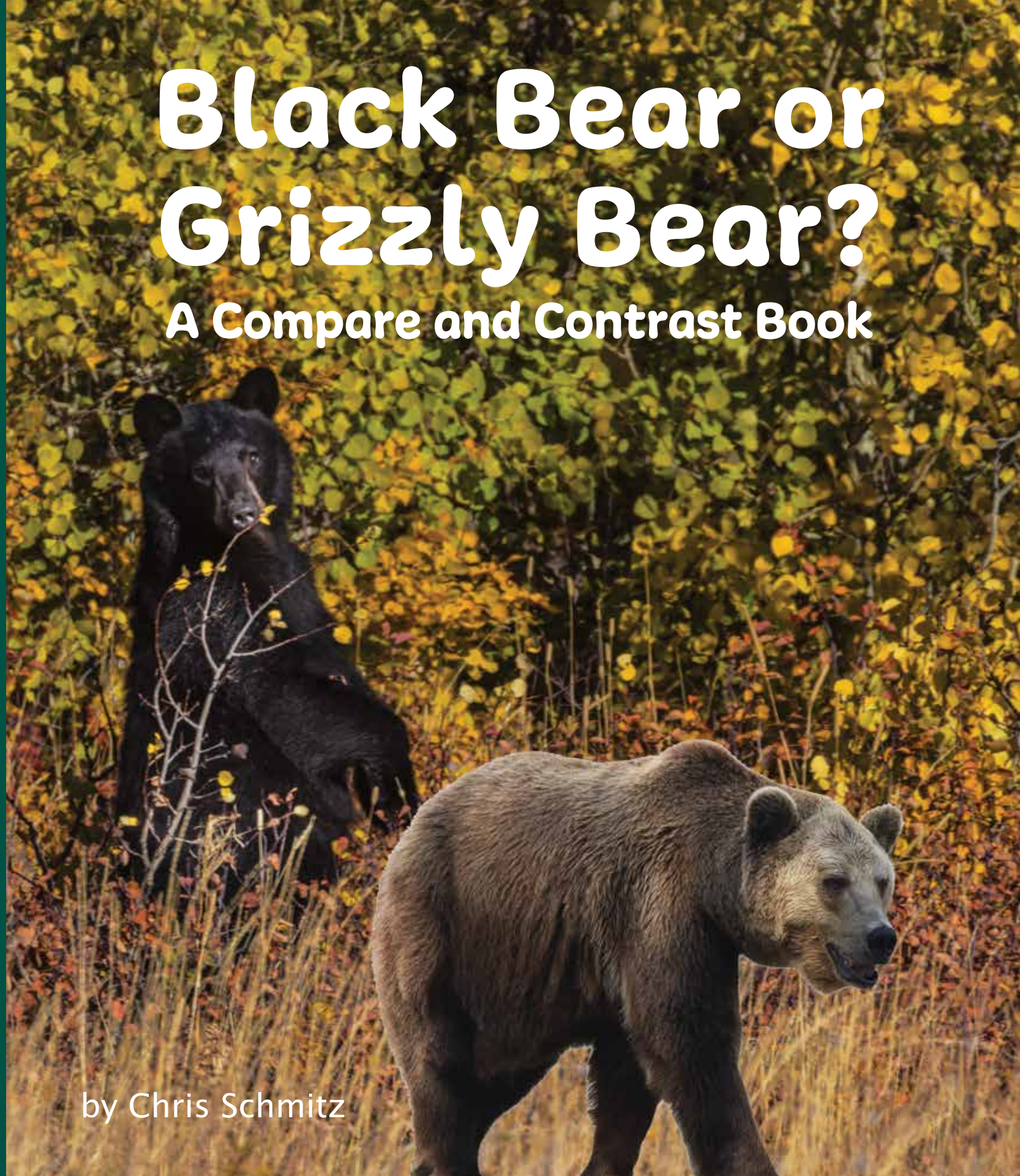


Chris Schmitz

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Bears are mammals that belong to the family Ursidae. There are eight different species, or kinds, of bears that live on earth today: the Asiatic black bear, brown bear, giant panda, North American black bear, polar bear, sloth bear, spectacled bear, and sun bear.

They all have big bodies with short legs, rounded ears, thick fur, and tiny tails. They walk on the soles of their entire feet. Bears have five claws on each paw that cannot be pulled in like a cat's. In North America, there are three species of bears: the brown bear, the black bear, and the polar bear.



Asiatic black bear



brown bear



polar bear



sloth bear



giant panda



North American black bear



spectacled bear



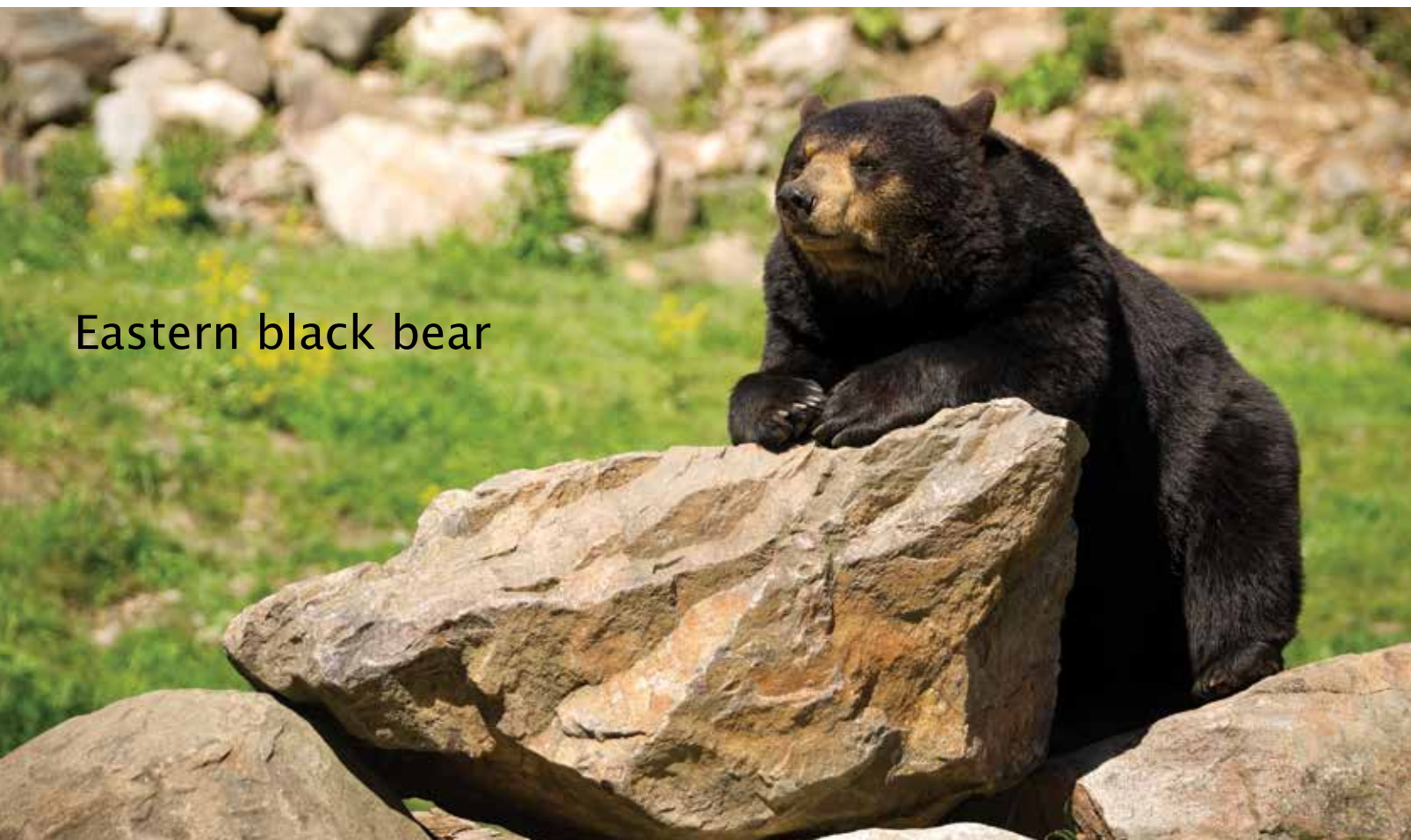
sun bear

Black bears in North America are divided into 16 subspecies based on minor differences in their looks and DNA. Some of their common names include Eastern black bears, Kermode bears, cinnamon bears, and glacier bears, but they are all black bears.

Black bears live in a variety of habitats throughout North America. These include forests, swamps, and mountain meadows.



Kermode bear



Eastern black bear



Cinnamon bear

Brown bears in North America are divided into three groups based on how they look and where they live: Kodiak brown bears, grizzly bears, and coastal brown bears.

Grizzly bears are found in the inland parts of North America. They usually live in thick forests, high mountain meadows, and mountain valleys.



Grizzly bear



Kodiak



Coastal brown bear

Just like humans have different-colored hair, so do bears—even brothers and sisters!

Despite being named black bears for their fur color, not all black bears are black. They can be brown, cinnamon, blond, or a combination of light and dark hair. A group of black bears in British Columbia, Canada, called the Kermode or spirit bears, are white.

Grizzly bears get their name from the silvery, blond-tipped hairs on their back and shoulders. Not all grizzlies are “grizzled,” but they do come in a lot of colors. They can be pale blond to reddish-blond, light brown, darker brown, or almost black.



For Creative Minds

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Bear Math

When standing on their hind feet, adult black bears can be between five and six feet tall (1.5 to 1.8 meters). They can weigh between 100 and 600 pounds (45 to 272 kilograms).

Adult grizzly bears are six to eight feet tall (1.8 to 2.4 meters) when standing on their hind feet. They can weigh between 300 and 600 pounds (136 to 272 kilograms). The largest grizzly on record was over 10 feet (3 meters) tall!

How tall are you?

How much do you weigh?

How tall is an adult in your life?

How do those heights and your weight compare to a black bear and a grizzly bear?



Both black and grizzly bears are fast runners because of their powerful front legs. They both can hit a top speed of 35 miles (56 km) per hour. That's faster than an Olympic runner and a racehorse at full speed.

Do you think you could outrun a bear?



Bear Teeth

Black and grizzly bears have 42 teeth designed for helping them eat a diet of plants, leaves, nuts, berries, insects, and some meat. That's ten more teeth than an adult person.

Using the information below, can you find the teeth in the skulls?

Black and grizzly bears' front teeth are **incisors**. These teeth are shaped like ours, except they are all pretty much the same size. It uses these teeth for clipping and tearing grasses and other emerging plants. They may also use them when cutting meat.

The large, pointed teeth are the bear's **canine** teeth. They use their canines to grab prey, tear open logs, and defend themselves.

Behind their canine teeth are four **premolars** on the top jaw. Most grizzly and black bears are missing two of their premolars on each side of their lower jaws. This space helps them strip leaves off branches as they pull the stem through the gap.

They have two **molars** on each side of their top jaw and three molars on each side of their bottom jaw. Like our teeth, the bears use them for crushing and grinding up plant materials and chewing meat.

Can you find each kind of teeth in your mouth? Which ones are similar? Which ones are different?



Bear True or False?

Using what you read in the book, determine whether these statements are true or false.

<p>1</p> <p>Bears are mammals that live in a variety of habitats including forests, swamps, and mountain meadows.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>There are three species of bears native to North America.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Black bears are always black.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Grizzly bears can be brown, blond, reddish-blond or even almost black.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Grizzly bears have longer claws than black bears.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Bears have good eyesight and an excellent sense of smell.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Black and Grizzly bears can only stand or walk on four feet.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Black bears are omnivores but eat more plants than animals.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Grizzly bears are also omnivores but eat more plants than animals.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bears that get too close to or too comfortable with people are often relocated or destroyed.</p>

Answers: 1-True; 2-True: they are brown/grizzly, black and polar; 3-False: They can be black, brown, cinnamon, blond or a combination of light and dark hair; 4-True; 5-True; 6-True; 7-False: They can stand on two or four feet; 8-True; 9-True; 10-True

Bear Fun Facts



Black and grizzly bears like to swim. One adult black bear swam nine miles along the Gulf of Mexico.

Black bears weigh 30 percent more in autumn than do in spring.

Grizzly bears are apex predators, which means they sit on top of the food chain without natural predators.

Bears that live in cold-weather areas in the winter do not truly hibernate. They do go to sleep for most of the winter but can be awakened if people approach too close to their dens.

Both black and brown bears are used in stories, cartoons, and as advertising symbols. Some of the famous bears are listed below. Can you think of any others?

- Yogi and Boo Boo bears are cartoon brown bears who live in Jellystone Park.
- The three bears in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* are brown bears.
- Mowgli's friend Baloo in the *Jungle Book* is based on a sloth bear.
- Smoky the Bear, who became a symbol for the US Forest Service's campaign to stop forest fires, was a real black bear cub who was orphaned and injured in a forest fire.
- The *Tales of Winnie the Pooh* started with a real black bear named Winnipeg (after the capital city of Manitoba, Canada) or Winnie for short. Lieutenant Harry Coleburn bought the cub in Manitoba, Canada, after its mother died. Winnie became the unofficial mascot of his regiment in World War I. After the war, Winnie lived at the London Zoo, where A.A. Milne's son Christopher Robin saw him and named his teddy bear Winnie the Pooh.

Koalas are sometimes called "koala bears," but they are marsupials (like kangaroos).

The grizzly bear is listed as threatened in the contiguous United States and endangered in parts of Canada.

North American black bears are not threatened or endangered.

The Kermode or Spirit Bear is one of the world's rarest mammals. There are only about 400 of them living in their native Canada habitat.



This book is dedicated to my parents for letting me run wild outdoors, my sister for sharing my adventures, and all those protecting wildlife and wild places.—CS

Thanks to Jesse Daniel, Sr. Manager of Engagement at the Birmingham Zoo for verifying the information in this book.

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