



Grizzly Bear Facts

- The grizzly bear, or *Ursus arctos*, is a subspecies of the brown bear.
- Grizzly bears can weigh anywhere from 300 to 1,500 lbs (135 to 680 kgs).
- Grizzly bear coat colour ranges from shades of blond, brown, black or a combination of these; the long outer guard hairs are often tipped with white or silver giving it a grizzled appearance, hence its name.
- Grizzly bears have a large hump over their shoulders which is a muscle mass used to power the forelimbs in digging.
- In spite of its mass, grizzly bears can run at speeds up to 40 mph (60 km/h).
- In British Columbia, grizzly bears inhabit most of the province except Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlotte Islands, and the Lower Mainland. Nearly half of Canada's grizzly bear population (approximately 13,000) live in British Columbia.
- Grizzly bears are primarily nocturnal and in the winter season gain up to 400 lbs (180 kg) of fat.
- Grizzly bears are not true hibernators and can be woken easily. They den up in a protected spot, such as a cave, crevice or hollow log during the winter months.
- Grizzly bears are omnivores and feed on a variety of plants and berries including roots or sprouts, fungi, fish, insects and small mammals.
- Grizzly bears congregate alongside streams and rivers during the salmon spawn.
- Females produce 1 to 4 cubs every other year. Newborns are approximately the size of rats, weighing only 1 lb (.45 kg).
- Grizzly bear prints are characterized by an oval pad with five toes along the wider top of the pad on the hind feet. The front feet have a smaller heel pad and a dew claw.