

Name _____



What Do Bears Eat?

Bears are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. Their diets can vary depending on the species and where they live. Some bears eat mostly plants, while others hunt for meat more often.

Brown bears eat a mix of berries, nuts, roots, and fish. During salmon season, brown bears catch fish using their sharp claws and teeth. They also dig for insects and snack on fruits like blueberries and raspberries.

Polar bears are mostly carnivores, meaning they eat mainly meat. They hunt seals by waiting near holes in the ice. When a seal surfaces for air, the polar bear uses its powerful paws to catch it. Polar bears also eat fish and sometimes scavenge for food.

Panda bears have a very different diet. They are herbivores, eating almost only bamboo. Pandas use their strong jaws and teeth to chew the tough bamboo stalks. Sometimes, they eat small rodents or birds, but bamboo makes up nearly all their food.

Black bears are true omnivores. They eat berries, nuts, insects, small mammals, and fish. Black bears are also known to raid garbage cans when food is scarce, showing how adaptable they can be.

Bears have special ways to find food. Their sharp sense of smell helps them find food from far away. They can climb trees to reach fruits or dig into the ground for insects. Bears need plenty of food, especially before winter when they prepare for hibernation.