MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

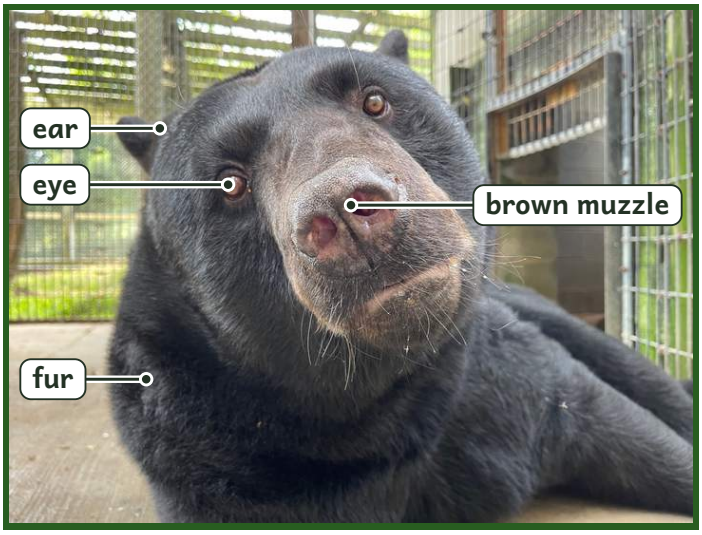
AMERICAN BLACK BEAR

Ursus americanus

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



This is Louie. Look at his brown nose.

Its body

A black bear has short claws.
The claws help it climb trees.
It is not always black!
It can be brown or even white.

Its home (habitat)

It lives in North America.
It lives in forests.
Some live in Maryland.
Louie lives at our zoo.



Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats plants and berries.
It eats nuts and honey too.
It eats bugs and small animals.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby bear is a **cub**.
A new cub weighs under 1 pound.
It drinks milk in the **den**.
Its mother sends it up a tree to be safe.

Fun facts

Louie gets a shower each day.
A video of it is famous!

Words to know

cub: a baby bear
den: a safe place where a bear rests
muzzle: an animal's nose and mouth

Talk about it

1. How do claws help a bear?
2. Where do cubs drink milk?
3. What does a black bear eat?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/american-black-bear/ · **Sources:** Maryland Department of Natural Resources; IUCN Red List; Plumpton Park Zoo records.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo · Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

AMERICAN BLACK BEAR

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the american black bear fact sheet for grades K–2 · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A black bear can climb trees. **YES** **NO**
2. All black bears are black. **YES** **NO**
3. A baby bear is a cub. **YES** **NO**
4. Black bears eat only meat. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ ears
- ☐ eyes
- ☐ brown muzzle
- ☐ black fur
- ☐ claws
- ☐ paws

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · climbing · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a black bear climbing a tree. Show its claws.

Draw here

A black bear has _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular american black bear sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/american-black-bear/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–5: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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