MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

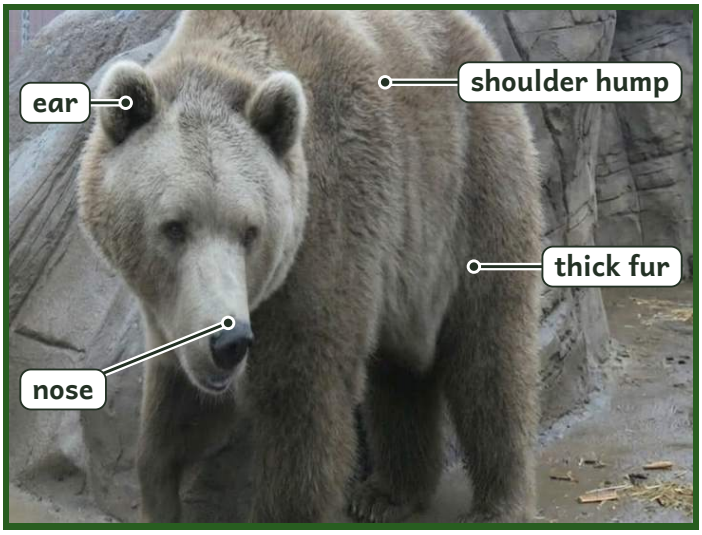
EUROPEAN BROWN BEAR

Ursus arctos arctos

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



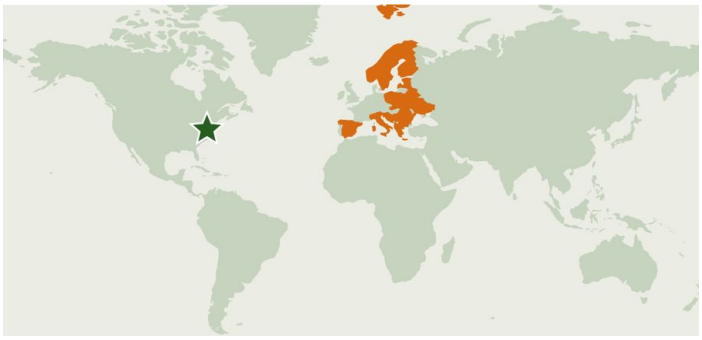
A brown bear by the rock den at our zoo.

Its body

A brown bear is very big.
It has long front claws.
Its shoulder **hump** helps it dig.

Its home (habitat)

These bears live in Europe.
Frankie and Hope live at our zoo.
They were both rescued.



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

Its food

It eats mostly plants.
It eats berries and nuts.
It eats bugs too.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby bear is a **cub**.
A new cub weighs about 1 pound.
It is born in a **den**.
It stays with its mother for 2 or 3 years.

Fun facts

It rests in a den in winter.
It is a very good swimmer.

Words to know

cub: a baby bear
den: a safe place where a bear rests
hump: a big muscle on its shoulders

Talk about it

1. How does a hump help a bear?
2. How long does a cub stay with its mother?
3. What does a brown bear eat?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/brown-bear/ · **Sources:** International Association for Bear Research and Management; Animal Diversity Web (University of Michigan); EuroNatur; IUCN.
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

EUROPEAN BROWN BEAR

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the european brown 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 brown bear has long claws. **YES** **NO**
2. A new cub is very big. **YES** **NO**
3. A baby bear is a cub. **YES** **NO**
4. Brown bears cannot swim. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ shoulder hump
- ☐ ears
- ☐ nose
- ☐ long claws
- ☐ thick fur
- ☐ den

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · swimming · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a brown bear digging with its long claws.

Draw here

A brown 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 european brown 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/brown-bear/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: 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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