

# BROWN BEAR



## Conservation Status:

not listed as threatened or endangered

## Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Ursidae

Genus: *Ursus*

Species: *arctos*



## FAST FACTS

**Weight:** up to 1,300 pounds  
with males being larger than females

**Length:** 6 to 9.8 feet

**Height:** 3 to 4 feet at the shoulder

**Life Span:** 25 years in the wild, up to 40 in captivity

**Gestation:** 6 to 8 months, including a 5 month delayed implantation period

**Number of young:** 1 to 4, average is 2

**Range:** Northwestern North America, Europe, northern Asia, Atlas Mountains of Africa

**Diet:** Omnivore, most of their diet consists of plant matter, but they will eat meat if they can find it

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Bears do not defecate or urinate for the entire time they are in winter sleep. Doctors have been able to help patients with kidney failure by studying the way bears recycle urine.
- During the winter, bears live off of the body fat they have stored up over the summer and fall. When they emerge from winter sleep, they may have lost up to 1/3 of their body weight!

## Ecology & Conservation

The brown bear once ranged throughout the Northern Hemisphere, but due to hunting for meat and medicinal purposes, and a lack of understanding, their population has shrunk considerably. As humans continue to place growing pressures on these bears, it will become increasingly difficult for humans and bears to coexist.