Name: _____ Date: _____

How Bears Get Through the Winter

Circle group

In winter, snow covers the ground. Plants die back. Food is hard to find. A bear has a plan. It sleeps through much of the winter.

All summer and fall, a bear eats and eats. It eats berries, nuts, fish, and plants. Its body turns the extra food into a thick layer of fat. The fat is like a pantry inside the bear.

When it gets cold, the bear finds a den. A den can be a cave, a hollow log, or a hole under a tree. The bear curls up inside. Its heart beats slowly. The bear lives on its stored fat. It does not eat or drink for a long time.

A bear in a den is not in a deep sleep. It can wake up if something bothers it.

A mother bear may have cubs in the den. In spring, the bears walk out. They are hungry and ready to eat.

Questions

1. Why is winter hard for a bear?

_____

_____

2. What does a bear eat in summer and fall?

_____

_____

3. What does the bear's body do with extra food?

_____

_____

4. What can a bear use as a den?

_____

_____

5. Why is the fat like a pantry?

_____

_____

6. Why is a bear hungry in spring?

_____

_____

Words to know

den: a safe, hidden place where a wild animal rests
hollow: empty on the inside
pantry: a place where food is kept
stored: saved for later
cubs: baby bears

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Bears Get Through the Winter

Triangle group

In winter, snow covers the ground. Plants die back and food is hard to find. A bear has a plan for this hard season. It sleeps through much of the winter.

All summer and fall, a bear eats and eats. It eats berries, nuts, fish, and plants. Its body turns the extra food into a thick layer of fat. This fat is like a pantry packed inside the bear.

When the cold comes, the bear looks for a den. A den can be a cave, a hollow log, or a hole dug under a tree. The bear curls up inside. Its heart beats slowly and its body stays cool. The bear lives on its stored fat, so it does not need to eat or drink for a long time.

A bear in its den is not in a deep sleep like a log. It can wake up if something disturbs it.

If a mother bear has cubs, they are often born in the den during winter. When spring comes, the bears walk out, hungry and ready to eat again.

Questions

1. Why is winter a hard time for a bear?

_____

_____

2. What does a bear eat in summer and fall?

_____

_____

3. What does the bear's body do with the extra food?

_____

_____

4. What can a bear use as a den?

_____

_____

5. Why does the writer say the fat is like a pantry?

_____

_____

6. Why is a bear hungry when spring comes?

_____

_____

Words to know

den: a safe, hidden place where a wild animal rests
hollow: empty on the inside
pantry: a place where food is kept
stored: saved for later
cubs: baby bears

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Bears Get Through the Winter

Square group

During winter, snow blankets the ground, plants die back, and food becomes extremely difficult to find. A bear has a remarkable strategy for surviving this harsh season: it sleeps through a large part of the winter.

Throughout the summer and fall, a bear eats constantly. It feeds on berries, nuts, fish, and plants, and its body converts the extra food into a thick layer of fat. This fat is similar to a pantry that is packed inside the bear.

When the weather turns cold, the bear searches for a den. A den might be a cave, a hollow log, or a hole dug beneath a tree. The bear curls up inside, its heart beats slowly, and its body stays cool. Since it lives on its stored fat, it does not need to eat or drink for a long period of time.

A bear in its den is not in a deep sleep like a log. If something disturbs it, the bear can wake up.

If a mother bear has cubs, they are often born in the den during the winter. When spring finally arrives, the bears walk out into the daylight, hungry and eager to eat again.

Questions

1. Why is winter such a difficult season for a bear?

_____

_____

2. What does a bear eat throughout the summer and fall?

_____

_____

3. What does the bear's body do with the extra food?

_____

_____

4. What might a bear use as a den?

_____

_____

5. Why does the writer compare the fat to a pantry?

_____

_____

6. Why is a bear hungry when spring arrives?

_____

_____

Words to know

den: a safe, hidden place where a wild animal rests
hollow: empty on the inside
pantry: a place where food is kept
stored: saved for later
cubs: baby bears

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How Bears Get Through the Winter

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How Bears Get Through the Winter

Easier · 154 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. Snow covers the ground and food is hard to find.
2. Berries, nuts, fish, and plants.
3. It turns it into a thick layer of fat.
4. A cave, a hollow log, or a hole under a tree.
5. It stores food inside the bear for later.
6. It has used its fat and has not eaten for a long time.

Triangle: How Bears Get Through the Winter

This passage · 179 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. Snow covers the ground and food is hard to find.
2. Berries, nuts, fish, and plants.
3. It turns it into a thick layer of fat.
4. A cave, a hollow log, or a hole under a tree.
5. It stores food inside the bear for later.
6. It has used its fat and has not eaten for a long time.

Square: How Bears Get Through the Winter

Harder · 197 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. Snow blankets the ground and food is hard to find.
2. Berries, nuts, fish, and plants.
3. It converts it into a thick layer of fat.
4. A cave, a hollow log, or a hole beneath a tree.
5. It stores food inside the bear to be used later.
6. It has used up its fat and has gone a long time without eating.