



# BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE? A POLAR BEAR AND A BLACK BEAR?

Link to our exhibit: "Polar Bear, Brown Bear, and the Canebrake"

## BEARS

When you visit us at the museum, you can observe three different types of bears! The brown bear, the black bear and the polar bear. But do you know the differences between them? Lets take a look at what makes them all unique.

### QUESTIONS:

Which bear is the fastest?

Which bear is the biggest?

| COMMON NAME         | BLACK BEAR   | BROWN BEAR   | POLAR BEAR  |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| BEAR LATIN NAME     | <i>Ursus americanus</i>  | <i>Ursus arctos</i>  | <i>Ursus maritimus</i>  |
| COMPARATIVE SIZE    | Smaller, up to 6 feet long and 300 pounds.   | Large, up to 7 feet long and 1,500 pounds.   | Large, up to 10 feet long and 1,700 pounds.   |
| FUR AND SKIN COLOR  | The fur ranges in color from black to brown.   | The fur ranges in color from black to brown, and even sometimes blond.   | The skin is black. They have two type of fur, a woolly fur close to the skin and a layer of hollow hairs on top to keep them drier. |
| ANATOMICAL FEATURES | They are smaller then the brown bear. They also have a long muzzle.                          | Large head and long muzzle. A large mass of muscles that strengthen their front legs creates a large hump on their shoulder. | Small head, black nose, very thick layer of fat under the skin to help them keep warm.  |
| TRACKS              | Their front claws are longer than the rear claws.  | Their front claws are very long, up to 4.75 inches.  | Wide front paws with webbed toes for better swimming agility.   |
| SPEED               | Can run up to 30 mph.  | Can run up to 35 mph.  | Can run up to 25 mph.   |
| HABITAT             | In forests and swamps of North America.  | In forests or river valleys of North America, Europe and Asia.   | In the Arctic.  |
| DIET                | Omnivorous.  | Omnivorous.  | Carnivorous.  |
| OTHER               | These bears are mostly harmless. They are not only good swimmers, they can also climb trees. |  | They are very good swimmers who are able to hunt seals in the water.  |





**GAME 1:** Now that you know the main differences between bears, here is a game for you. Three mommy bears lost their children. Can you help them find their own little cubs by following their tracks?

Hint: Each one of these bears has a very specific track.

