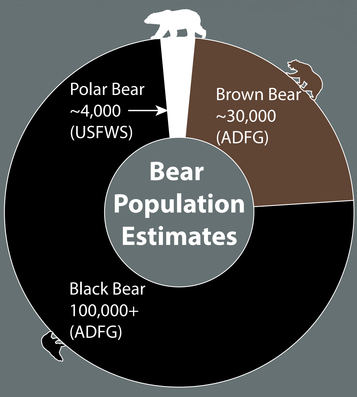
# BEARable Knowledge FOR ALASKA




## DID YOU KNOW?

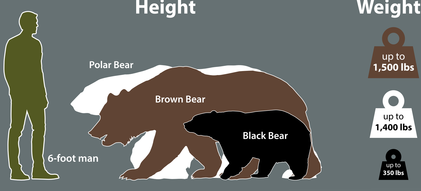
All grizzly bears are brown bears, but not all brown bears are grizzly bears. Southern coast brown bears that have access to coastal food resources like salmon, are brown bears. Brown bears that live in the interior feeding on non-marine animals, berries, vegetation, invertebrates, and carrion are referred to as "grizzly" bears. Because of this difference in diet, brown bears typically outweigh grizzly bears.

## Habitat Ranges

Alaska is the only state to have all three North American bear species.

## Big Bears

In Alaska, average bear height is 3-5 feet from paw to shoulder. Polar bears and brown bears can be the same size while black bears are much smaller. But when it comes to weight, brown bears outweigh polar bears.




## Tailored Tools

## DID YOU KNOW?

Black bears have five toes on their front and rear paws with short hooked claws allowing them to be expert tree climbers.

**Brown Bear Claw**

Very long curved claws great for fighting, digging, and grasping food.

**Polar Bear Claw**

Thick curved claws great for grasping prey and traction on ice.

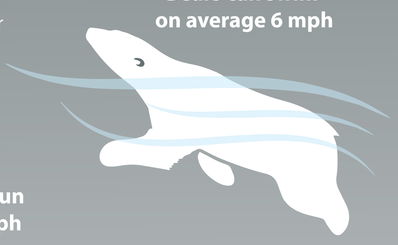
**Black Bear Claw**

Small curved claws great for getting into things and climbing trees.

## Faster Than They Look

## DID YOU KNOW?

Fat not only keeps polar bears warm, but increases their buoyancy when they smim.



**Bears can swim on average 6 mph**

**Bears can run over 25 mph**

**Learn more about our wildlife program at www.blm.gov/alaska/wildlife**

Brown bears in the Kivalina River downstream from the Raven Bluff archeological site, Alaska. Photo by Craig McCaa (BLM)

References: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Oceana, and Live Science. Data as of 2020.