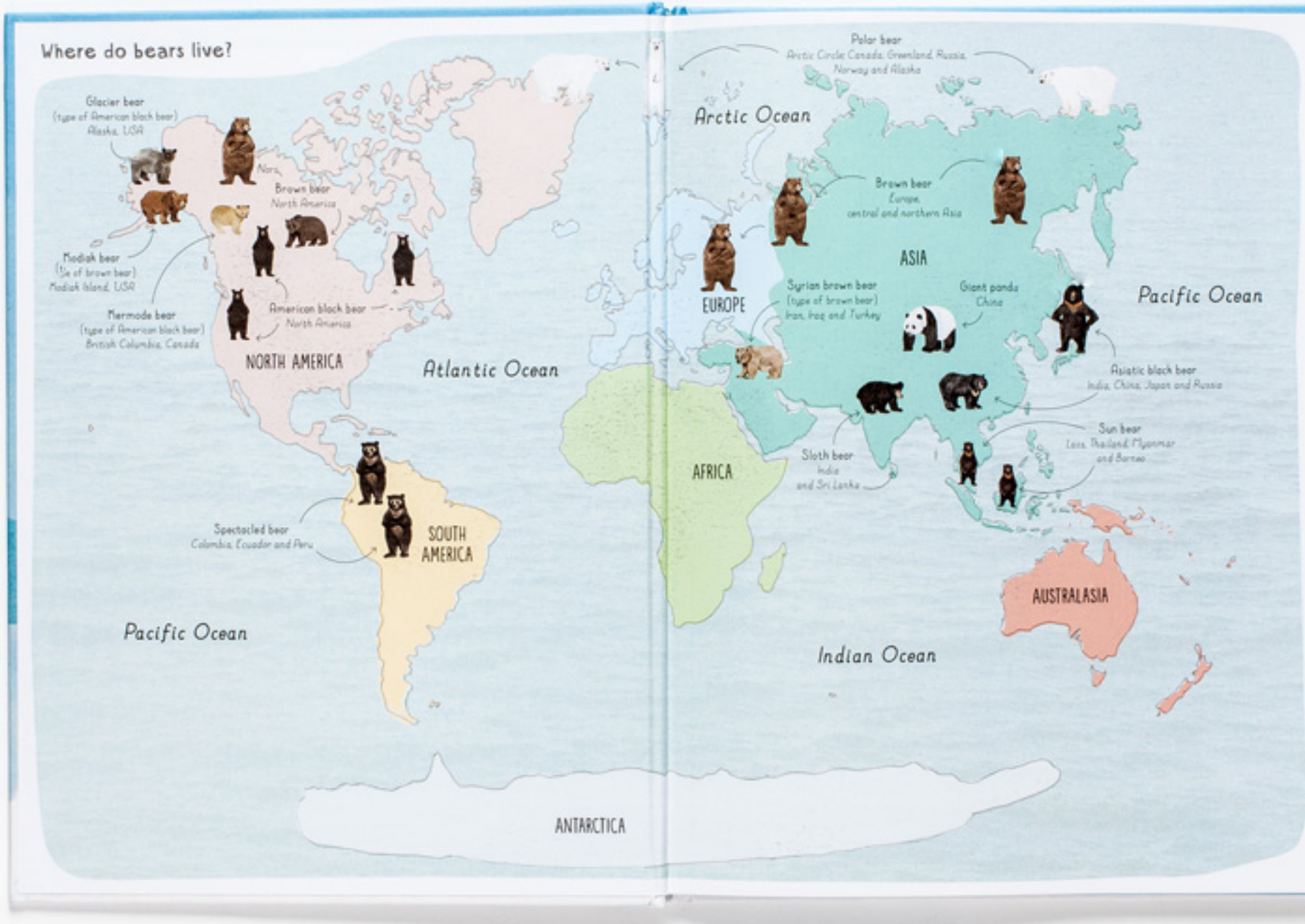
Where do bears live?



Meet the bears

There are eight different species of bearing in the world.

We bears don't all live in one place. We just got together today to help make this book.



Sloth bear

Brown bear (there are quite a few different types of brown bear)

Giant panda (I'm a bear too!)

American black bear (I live in North America)



Spectacled bear

Polar bear

Asiatic black bear (I live in Asia)

Sun bear

Sun bears

Helarctos malayanus

There are fewer than 10,000 sun bears in the world, and they live in the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia.

Sun bears have short fur so that they can stay cool in hot weather and they have long, curved claws that are perfect for sticking into tight spots to reach honey and other tasty food.

Their super-long tongues help them to extract honey from beehives. This special skill, and their love of honey, has given them the nickname of the honey bear.



Sun bears get their more common name from the sun-shaped, yellow marking on their chests.

Sun bears are a shy species of bear and they like to spend their time hidden away in trees eating honey.

Their small size (which is great for climbing) and their long tongues mean they're perfectly suited for this pastime.



HOW DO THEY SIZE UP?

At around 1.4 metres tall, sun bears are the world's smallest species of bear. They weigh up to 80 kilograms. That's less than half as heavy as an American black bear.

Polar bears

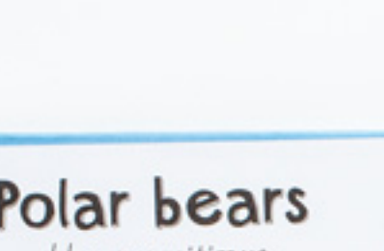
Ursus maritimus

Polar bears live in the Arctic, a cold, icy place that surrounds the North Pole. There are around 20,000 polar bears in the wild and they are mostly found in parts of Canada, Greenland, Russia, Norway and Alaska in the USA.

Polar bears are amazingly well adapted to their chilly surroundings.

Thick white fur for staying warm and for blending in with their snowy environment. This helps the bears get close to their prey without being seen.

Incredible sense of smell for tracking prey over long distances.



Very large feet (up to 30 centimetres wide!) for walking on snow and ice, and for speedy swimming. Their feet even have fur on the bottom to keep out the cold and their paw pads are covered in small bumps to give them extra grip.

Underneath their fur, polar bears actually have black skin. This absorbs sunlight and keeps them feeling warm and cosy.

Polar bears love to eat seals and, unfortunately for the seals, they are very good at catching them. The bears wait by the edge of the water, or above holes in the ice, and then pounce when a seal appears.

They are very patient animals and can wait for hours and hours at a time.

HOW DO THEY SIZE UP?

Reaching a great height of over 3 metres and weighing up to 700 kilograms, polar bears are not only the biggest of all of the bear species, but they're also the largest meat-eating animal on land. An adult male polar bear can weigh up to ten times as much as a sun bear!



You could try searching for seals with a snorkel.

Polar bears are great at sneaking up on their prey. Their long necks also give them a good view above the water while they swim.



Eating

One thing that all bears have in common is their love of food.

Bears find food in all sorts of places and what they eat depends on where they live, what time of year it is and what they can get their paws on. But most bears have a favourite dish...

Panda bears just love bamboo – they can eat for hours on end and they never get bored of it.

Sun bears prefer all things honey-flavoured, including honeycomb, bees and, best of all, honey itself.

Sloth bears like a range of different foods, including fruit, insects and eggs, but their real favourite is lots and lots of termites.

Brown bears are particularly fond of salmon and berries. But not necessarily at the same time.

American black bears like to eat grasses, berries and nuts.

Polar bears have a taste for seal. Don't tell the seals.

Spectacled bears love wild fruit and nuts. In fact they are especially keen on oranges.

Asiatic black bears also like fruit, and a side plate of insects is always a real bonus!

HONEY

Swimming

All eight species of bear are good swimmers. Some swim to catch food, some swim to travel from place to place and some swim just for the fun of it!

However, some are much fonder of a splash than others.



Polar bears are the best swimmers of all the bears. All-rounders when it comes to life in the water, they can swim for an amazing 350 kilometres without stopping, dive deep down into the ocean and even jump out of the water to catch seals that are lying on the ice.



Even though giant pandas can swim, they don't enjoy it as much as the other bears do. Eating almost nothing but bamboo, pandas don't need to find food in the water and they don't need to swim across lakes or rivers to get around, so swimming isn't a big part of their routine.





The American black bear and the sloth bear both enjoy being in the water and are very good swimmers. They like to snack on fish when they can catch them.



The spectacled bear, the sun bear and the Asiatic black bear are strong swimmers, too.

Brown bears love being in the water and are expert swimmers. They spend a lot of time hunting for fish (especially salmon) in rivers, and sometimes they like a dip to relax.