



Just like in the fairy tales, American black bears are fascinating creatures of the wild. They are the smallest, yet most common species of bears in North America. Covered in thick black fur, they can also sometimes be brown or cinnamon in color. With round ears, a long snout and big paws, they are easily recognizable and a wonder to behold.

Speaking of those big paws, did you know American black bears are incredibly strong climbers and swimmers? They make their homes mostly in forests, but can also be found in mountains and swamps across North America. Their habitats range from Alaska to Mexico, making them quite the adventurers! They are pretty solitary animals, preferring to live alone except when they have cubs.

Now, you might be wondering what these forest-dwelling creatures eat. American black bears are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. Their diet includes berries, insects, fish, and small mammals, but they also love a good old-fashioned honeycomb. Interestingly, they can eat up to 20,000 calories a day in autumn to prepare for hibernation in winter.



Interacting with these bears can be both amazing and challenging. While they are generally shy and try to avoid humans, they can be dangerous if they feel threatened or if they're really hungry. They have an important role in the ecosystem, helping to control insect and rodent populations. So, let's remember to respect these incredible creatures and their habitats, because the world of the American black bear is a world worth protecting.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What is the smallest species of bears in North America?
 - A. American black bears
 - B. Brown bears
 - C. Polar bears
 - D. Grizzly bears
- 2) Where can American black bears be found in North America?
 - A. Desert
 - B. Beach
 - C. Farm
 - D. Mountains
- 3) How many calories can American black bears eat to prepare for hibernating?
 - A. 10,000
 - B. 1000
 - C. 5000
 - D. Up to 20,000
- 4) When do American black bears eat up to 20,000 calories a day?
 - A. Autumn
 - B. Spring
 - C. Winter
 - D. Summer
- 5) What kind of a diet do American black bears have?
 - A. Vegetarian
 - B. Omnivore
 - C. Carnivore
 - D. Pescatarian
- 6) Where do American black bears make their homes?
 - A. Cities
 - B. Grasslands
 - C. Deserts
 - D. Forests
- 7) How do American black bears prefer to live?
 - A. In large groups
 - B. In pairs
 - C. In small groups
 - D. Alone
- 8) How do American black bears act when encountering humans?
 - A. Aggressive
 - B. Shy
 - C. Outgoing
 - D. Friendly
- 9) Are American black bears dangerous?
 - A. They are always dangerous
 - B. Only the females are dangerous
 - C. They are never dangerous
 - D. They can be if they feel threatened or really hungry
- 10) What color can American black bears be, other than black?
 - A. Brown
 - B. Yellow
 - C. Purple
 - D. Green

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I am an omnivore, so I enjoy a variety of foods like berries, insects, and even fish!"
- 12) "I'd rather live in packs than live alone."

1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



- 13) "Did you know I am the smallest but most common kind of bear in North America?"
- 14) "I'm known for my light grey fur."
- 15) "I can eat a whopping 20,000 calories a day, especially during autumn to prepare for winter hibernation!"
- 16) "I can't swim, so I have to hunt in the forests."
- 17) "I only live in Alaska, no other place."
- 18) "I refuse to eat any meat, I strictly stick to berries."
- 19) "My fur is usually black, but sometimes I can be brown or cinnamon."
- 20) "I don't do much climbing, I prefer to stay on the ground."
- 21) "Mexico is just too hot, I can't live there."
- 22) "I am the biggest species of bear in North America."
- 23) "I'd love to hang out in the desert, it's my favorite habitat."
- 24) "Although we are mostly shy and avoid humans, we can get dangerous if we feel threatened or too hungry."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 25) American black bears eat both plants and animals.
- 26) It is amazing that a bear as large as a black bear can climb trees.
- 27) American black bears are strong climbers and swimmers.
- 28) It is incredible that black bears can eat up to 20,000 calories in autumn.
- 29) American black bears are the most common species of bears in North America.
- 30) It's sweet to see a mother bear with her cubs.
- 31) In autumn, American black bears eat a lot of food, up to 20,000 calories a day, to get ready for winter hibernation.
- 32) American black bears can have fur that is brown or cinnamon in color.
- 33) Black bears are scary when they stand on their hind legs.
- 34) American black bears are cuter than other bear species.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 35) American black bears eat both plants and animals.
- 36) American black bears are herbivores.
- 37) American black bears make their homes mostly in forests.
- 38) American black bears are the largest species of bears in North America.
- 39) American black bears can also be brown or cinnamon in color.
- 40) American black bears can only be found in the mountains of North America.
- 41) American black bears only live in forests.
- 42) Black bears always have a black fur.
- 43) American black bears can eat up to 20,000 calories a day in autumn.
- 44) American black bears are the smallest species of bears in North America.



Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 45) American black bears are excellent swimmers.
- 46) Do American black bears hibernate?
- 47) American black bears usually hibernate during the winter.
- 48) American black bears are omnivorous animals, which means they eat both plants and animals.
- 49) How fast can American black bears run?
- 50) Where can American black bears be found?



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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> A </u> | 26. <u> opinion </u> |
| 2. <u> D </u> | 27. <u> fact </u> |
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| 11. <u> true </u> | 36. <u> false </u> |
| 12. <u> false </u> | 37. <u> true </u> |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> false </u> |
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| 18. <u> false </u> | 43. <u> true </u> |
| 19. <u> true </u> | 44. <u> true </u> |
| 20. <u> false </u> | 45. <u> declarative </u> |
| 21. <u> false </u> | 46. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 22. <u> false </u> | 47. <u> declarative </u> |
| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> declarative </u> |
| 24. <u> true </u> | 49. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 25. <u> fact </u> | 50. <u> interrogative </u> |



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What is the smallest species of bears in North America? (paragraph 1)
A. American black bears B. Brown bears
C. D.
- 2) Where can American black bears be found in North America? (paragraph 2)
A. Desert B.
C. D. Mountains
- 3) How many calories can American black bears eat to prepare for hibernating? (paragraph 3)
A. 10,000 B.
C. D. Up to 20,000
- 4) When do American black bears eat up to 20,000 calories a day? (paragraph 3)
A. Autumn B. Spring
C. D.
- 5) What kind of a diet do American black bears have? (paragraph 3)
A. Vegetarian B. Omnivore
C. D.
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A. B. Shy
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A. They are always dangerous B. Only the females are dangerous
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- 10) What color can American black bears be, other than black? (paragraph 1)
A. Brown B.
C. D.

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I am an omnivore, so I enjoy a variety of foods like berries, insects, and even fish!"
(paragraph 3)



12) "I'd rather live in packs than live alone." (paragraph 2)