



Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style) Reading Comprehension Booklet 5



Name.....

Useful words

subspecies

originate

grizzled

exceptional

rodents

omnivores

hibernation

captivity

The Grizzly Bear



The grizzly bear (a subspecies of the brown bear) is a magnificent creature. These huge animals originate from Europe and Asia, but today they can be found only in North America and Canada. They live in woodlands, forests and valleys near rivers.

Questions

1 The grizzly bear is a subspecies of which bear?

Tick one.

polar bear

brown bear

black bear

koala bear

2 Where can grizzly bears be found today?

Grizzly bears usually have brown fur, but hairs on their shoulders and back have white tips which give them a "grizzled" look. That is why they are known as grizzly bears.

You can recognise grizzly bears by the hump on their back and long claws about two to four inches long. Both the hump and the claws are features which give the grizzly bear its exceptional digging ability.

3 Why are these bears known as **grizzly** bears?

Tick **one**.

the hairs on their shoulders and back have white tips

the hairs on their shoulders and back have brown tips

the hairs on their shoulders and back have black tips

the hairs on their feet and back have white tips

4 What gives grizzly bears their exceptional digging ability?

Grizzly bears are omnivores (they eat plants and animals) and find their food with their excellent sense of smell. They like to eat berries, rodents, roots, plant bulbs, cutworm moths and pine nuts. They will also eat mountain sheep and goats, deer, moose and elk. Sometimes grizzly bears will even eat black bears. The grizzly bear spends a lot of time searching for food and eating in the late summer and early autumn.



5 What do grizzly bears use to find their food?

6 When do grizzly bears spend most of their time searching for food?

Grizzly bears need to eat a lot in the summer and autumn in order to build up enough fat to survive the winter denning (hibernation) period which starts in October. This is particularly true for pregnant females, who must have stored enough fat to keep themselves and their unborn young going until they give birth in January and until mother and cubs eventually leave the den in April or May.

7 In which month do grizzly bears hibernate?

Tick one.

March

April

January

October

8 Why do grizzly bears need to eat a lot in summer and autumn?

Mother bears rear cubs for two to three years. Males do not help raise the cubs. In fact, males can be a danger to the cubs, so females often avoid male grizzly bears while rearing their cubs.

9

Why do female grizzly bears often avoid males?

More interesting grizzly bear facts

- Cubs will stay with their mother for 2-4 years. She is very protective and if you come close to her cubs she can easily kill you.
- Cubs can climb trees when they are young. After few years they will lose this ability because of their long claws. A bear's claw is long like a human's finger.
- Bears are excellent swimmers. They are also fast runners; they can run up to 30 miles per hour.
- They have perfect eyesight and an excellent sense of smell. They will detect smell better than hound dog.
- Grizzly bears live up to 30 years in the wild and up to 40 years in captivity.

10

How fast can grizzly bears run?

Tick **one**.

up to 40 miles per hour

up to 300 miles per hour

up to 50 miles per hour

up to 30 miles per hour

11

Why do grizzly bears lose their ability to climb trees?

12

For how long do wild grizzly bears live?

Useful words

lumbered

ambled

crouched

hind

pounding

Two Travellers and a Bear



One cold winter's day two friends, called Jack and Tom, set off to travel to the town. They talked and laughed as they strode along. It was cold and snow was falling but the two men hardly noticed - they were enjoying each other's company so much. What a pleasant fellow he is, each of them thought. I'm glad that we are travelling together.

The road to the town lay through a forest. It was late by the time the men reached it. "We should turn back," said Tom nervously. "It'll soon be dark and there are bears in that forest."

Jack was just as scared as Tom, but didn't want his friend to know. So he laughed. "Pah! Bears. That's nothing to be afraid of. I fought a bear once - and he ran away."

13

Why didn't the two friends notice that it was cold and snowy?

Tick one.

they had their eyes closed

they were enjoying each other's company so much

they were wearing warm clothes

they were feeling very scared

14

Why did Tom want to turn back?

Tom felt ashamed of himself. "I am a coward, but he is brave." he thought. "Then we'll go on," he said.

It was very dark in that forest.

The trees grew close together and it was hard to see the road clearly. It was hard to see anything at all!

But Tom wasn't afraid any more. He listened as Jack told him all about his fight with the bear. "It was very big," he boasted. "Twice as big as me. But I picked up a stick and fought it off."

15

Why wasn't Tom afraid any more?

16

How big did Jack say the bear was?

Tick **one**.

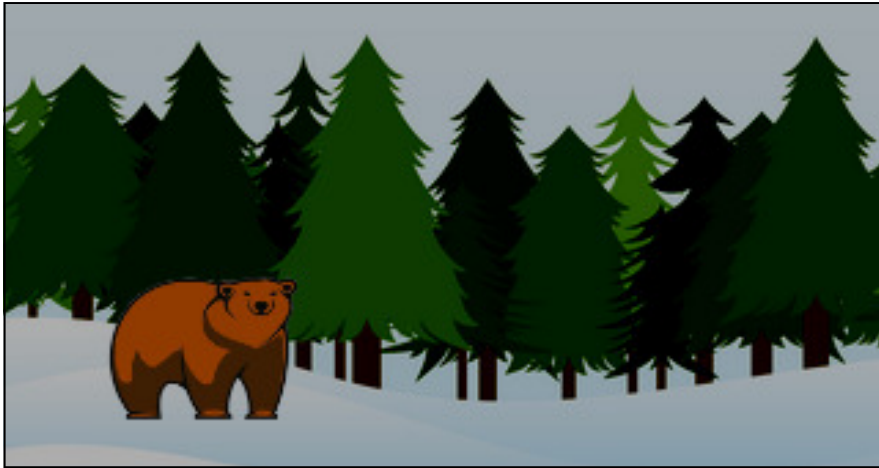
as big as Tom

twice as big as Jack

half as big as Jack

as big as Jack

All of a sudden there was an enormous crash and out of the bushes lumbered... a bear.



The men had never seen such a huge bear. When it saw the men it licked its lips. "At last!" it said, standing up on its hind legs and growling. "Dinner!"

With a cry of fright, Jack ran to the nearest tree and hauled himself up onto a branch. "Aren't you going to fight the bear?" Tom cried.

"Fight it! You must be mad," said his Jack. "It will kill us." Tom ran up to the tree where Jack crouched, trembling. "There's room for us both in that tree," he cried. "Help me up."

But his Jack pushed him away. "No there isn't. Find somewhere else to hide," he said.

17

Which word in the text describes how the bear moved out of the bushes?

Tick one.

licked

lumbered

hauled

crouched

18

Why did Tom think that Jack would fight the bear?

"What shall I do?" thought Tom. The bear was so close now he could have stretched out a hand and touched it. "If I try to run it will run faster. If I fight it, it will kill me. It is bigger and stronger than me." Tom flung himself to the ground and lay there, as still as he could. "Perhaps it will leave me alone if it thinks I am dead." he thought. The bear was very hungry. It hadn't eaten for a long time. But it was puzzled when it saw the Tom drop to the ground. "Is he dead?" it wondered. "Let me see."

19

What did Tom think the bear would do if tried to run?

Tick one.

go away

lick its lips

growl

run faster

20

Why was the bear puzzled?

The bear bent down, so close that Tom could feel its fur brush his cheek. Then it put out a paw and prodded him. The man lay still, his heart pounding. "Any minute now," he thought, "that bear will tear me to pieces." But the bear got up. "He hasn't moved. He must be dead," it thought. "And I don't like dead meat." Disappointed, the bear ambled away into the forest.

21 Why was the bear disappointed?

Tom got up and dusted himself down. He didn't look at his friend. He was very angry with him. He had pretended to be brave, but he was a coward. He had left him to face the bear on his own.

"I saw the bear whisper in your ear," said Jack, climbing down from the tree. "What did he say?"

"He said a man who leaves his friend to face danger isn't a true friend." Tom replied, and with that he turned away, leaving Jack to make his own way home.

22 What do you think we can learn from this story?
