



# Baby Bears

by  
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## Essential Question

How are **offspring** like their parents?  
Read to find out how baby bears are like their moms and dads.



## What is a bear?

Bears are animals called **mammals**. Mammals have hair or **fur** on their bodies. Bears are **covered** with fur. Mammals are born. You were born, too. You are a mammal.



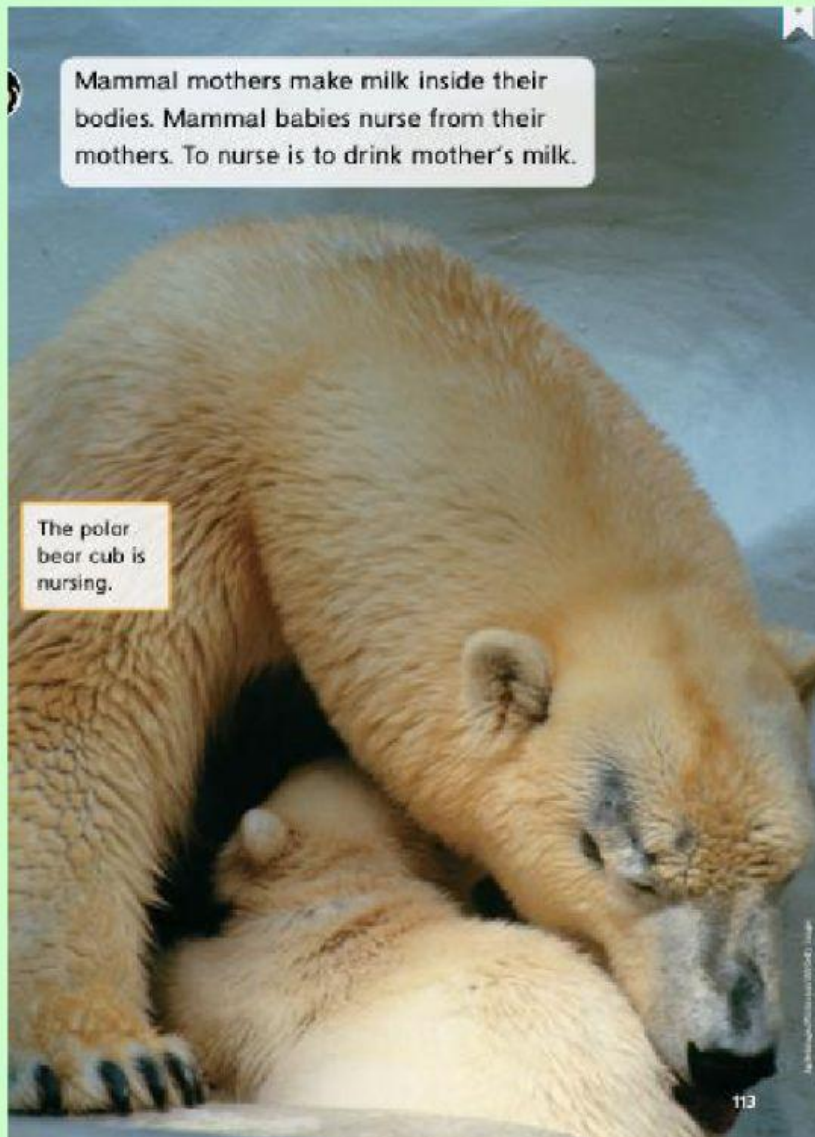
Baby bears are called cubs. Cubs are born with their eyes shut. Their eyes open when they are about six weeks old. This brown bear cub was just born. It has very little fur.

1. What are bears? Write one word only.

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2. Read the caption on p. 112. Which details support the idea that bears are mammals?

- a. Baby bears are cubs.
- b. Cubs are born with their eyes shut.
- c. Their eyes open when they are six weeks old.
- d. The cub has very little fur.



Mammal mothers make milk inside their bodies. Mammal babies nurse from their mothers. To nurse is to drink mother's milk.

The polar bear cub is nursing.

## Vocabulary:

Reread the paragraph and the caption.

Find text evidence.

3. **Nursing** means:

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4. What is the text evidence that helped you figure out the meaning?

- a. Synonym
- b. definition
- c. photograph
- d. caption



## Kinds of bears

There are eight kinds of bears. The bears shown on this page are an American black bear, a brown bear, and a polar bear. These bears all live in North America.

American black bears can be different colors. What color is this black bear?



There are different kinds of brown bears. These grizzly bears are one kind of brown bear.



Polar bears have white fur. They live in a cold place called the Arctic.



People who study bears once thought that giant pandas were raccoons. Now people think that these animals are bears. There are not many giant pandas left in the world. Giant pandas live in China.

### STOP AND CHECK

Reread. What animal did people used to think giant pandas were?  
Reread to check your understanding.

5. Read the heading, and look at the photos.

Decide the main idea statement.

- a. There are different kinds of brown bears.
- b. Pandas are bears.
- c. There are many kinds of bears.

6. Where do polar bears live? Write one word.

the

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## Bear bodies

Bears have four legs. They can walk on all four legs or on their two back legs. They have five toes with claws on each foot. Claws are curved nails.

This grizzly bear cub has brown fur covering its body.

Bears can smell, hear, and see very well.



Bears use their claws to climb and dig.

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## Bear coats

Bears have two kinds of fur. Some of their fur is short, and some is long. Their short fur keeps them warm. Their long fur keeps water away from their skin.

Polar bears have thick white fur.



Pandas have black-and-white fur.

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7. What do bears use their **claws** to?

a. -----

b. -----

8. Circle where you get this information, and post it in the chat box.