

Caring for the environment

1. Listen and read the text. Use the dictionary for the words you don't know.

Save the **ORPHAN BEARS**

Dear Friend

I want to tell you about Yuri. Yuri is a young brown bear. He was born in winter and like all bear cubs, he was blind and he had no teeth. His mother was hibernating in her den, deep inside the Russian forest. Outside, it was very cold and everything was covered by thick snow. Inside the den with his mother, however, Yuri felt safe and warm.

Then, when Yuri was only a few weeks old, some hunters came. Dogs were sent into the den. Yuri's mother was woken up by the dogs. She tried to protect her cub, but when she climbed out of the den, she was shot by the hunters.

Every year, between 3,000 and 4,000 brown bears are hunted and killed like this. There are only 110,000 brown bears in Russia today and they are almost extinct in the rest of Europe. Their meat and fur are sold for thousands of dollars, so people will continue to hunt them. The cubs are usually just left to die. Without their mothers they can't survive.

Yuri, however, was lucky. He was found by one of the hunters and he was taken to The Russian Bear Orphanage, 350 kilometres northwest of Moscow. The orphanage is run by Professor Valentin Pazhetnov. Here, Yuri will be looked after. He and other orphan bears will be fed and taught how to survive. When they are old enough, they will be taken to a nature reserve in Bryansk, where they will be protected. Professor Pazhetnov hopes that in the future some bears will be released in other European countries where they are now extinct.

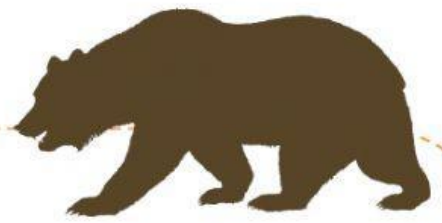
So far, over a hundred bear cubs have been saved by the orphanage. Seventy bears have been returned to the forest. We want to save more. That's why I'm writing to you now. Money is needed for food, transport and for people to look after the baby bears. Yuri and his friends need your help. Please send a donation today. Together we can save the orphan bears.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Fred O'Regan





2. Correct these sentences.

- 1 Yuri was born in spring.
- 2 His mother was sleeping in a cave.
- 3 Yuri's mother was killed by the hunters' dogs.
- 4 Brown bears are hunted because they are dangerous
- 5 Bears are almost extinct in Russia.
- 6 The cubs are usually taken home as pets.
- 7 At the orphanage, the bears are taught how to do tricks.
- 8 When they are older, the bears will be sold to zoos.
- 9 Professor Pazhetnov has saved seventy-five bear cubs
- 10 So far, over a hundred bears have been released.

3. Match the words from the text to their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 a cub | ☐ a bear's hair |
| 2 hibernate | ☐ a child with no parents |
| 3 so far | ☐ hit by a bullet from a gun |
| 4 a den | ☐ to sleep through the winter |
| 5 shot | ☐ a place where animals are protected |
| 6 blind | ☒ 1 a baby bear |
| 7 a nature reserve | ☐ money that you give to help |
| 8 an orphan | ☐ a place where orphans are looked after |
| 9 an orphanage | ☐ They have all died. |
| 10 extinct | ☐ a bear's home |
| 11 fur | ☐ can't see |
| 12 a donation | ☐ up to now |

