



Complete the gaps (A-F) with the phrases (1-7).
There is one phrase that you do not need to use.

Brown Bears

There are around 120,000 brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) living in the mountains and forests of Russia, which is the largest population anywhere in the world!

In fact, this species of animal is so well known and loved in Russia that it was unanimously voted to be the mascot for the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.

Indeed, brown bears are beautiful, powerful creatures **A** _____. They are huge animals which have sharp claws up to 15 cm in length, and weigh up to 700 kg.

Contrary to popular belief, up to 90% of a brown bear's food is made up of vegetable matter, such as berries, roots and fungi. However, they also eat fish, insects, mammals such as squirrels and deer, and an enormous amount of moths in the summer, **B** _____.

However, bears are not always the cuddly animals **C** _____. People often don't realise just how dangerous brown bears can be. It is not unusual to see tourists in Russia walking along paths **D** _____.

Sometimes, too, villagers go out to gather berries from bushes which are within a few metres of a bear's territory.

Whilst it is relatively rare for bears to attack humans, they still kill ten people per year on average in Russia. Attacks only usually happen, however, either because a bear is injured or when a human encounters a mother bear with its cubs. They are also more common in years **E** _____. At these times they are forced to come into human settlements to find food.

The population of the brown bear has declined drastically in recent years because of poaching for skins and fat. Every year, more than 5,000 are hunted in Russia for their furs. Many are also killed by hunters **F** _____.

The Russian government is considering new laws that would ban the shooting of brown bears in the winter, as in some areas they are already extinct.

1. when there is a shortage of food in the wild
2. that bears commonly use
3. who pay a lot of money to shoot brown bears for trophies
4. that are commonly portrayed in cartoons and fairy tales
5. sometimes as many as 40,000 in a day
6. because they are mostly solitary creatures
7. with fur varying in colour from cream to almost black

A	B	C	D	E	F

