

# THE BEAR FACTS

A bear's teeth keep on growing all its life! To find the age of a bear, scientists remove a tooth, cut it in half and count the rings - the same way they find the age of a tree.

Bear cubs are born while their moms are denning, during the coldest months of winter - January and February. They are the only mammals who do this. The cubs nurse, sleep and play in the den until it's time to come out in the spring.

Bears don't get lost! Bears have an amazing ability to find their way around - day or night. Bears have a keen sense of smell and are extremely intelligent, but no one knows exactly how they do this. Some people say that bears can sense the earth's magnetic field. Others believe that they keep imaginary maps in their brains. You could say that bears have 'compass - sense'!

Bear **\*populations** grow very slowly. A male and female black bear born this year could grow into a population of 15 bears in 10 years. During the same time, a pair of grizzlies might only produce 8 bears. However, two white-tailed deer could produce 1,400 deer in 10 years.

Bears have been around way longer than people! Fossil records of 'Ursavus elemensis' date back 20 million years ago to the Miocene era.

