

Read these amazing facts about polar bears and grizzly bears.

Amazing Facts About Bears!				
		The Polar Bear	The Grizzly Bear	
Appearance	<div>2.4 - 3 m</div> <div>height</div>	<div>5 - 7 cm</div> <div> length of claws</div>	<div>1.98 m</div> <div>height</div>	<div>up to 10 cm</div> <div>length of claws</div>
Weight of an adult male	<div> 400 - 600 kg</div>	<div>180 - 360 kg</div>		
Top Speed	<div>up to 350 km of continuous swimming</div> <div>in water  on land</div>	<div>up to 40 km</div>	<div>as fast as 56 km</div> <div>on land</div>	
Life Span	<div>25 years</div> <div>in the wild</div>	<div>around 35 years</div> <div>in captivity</div>	<div>22 years</div> <div>in the wild</div>	<div>around 40 years</div> <div>in captivity</div>
Population	<div>20,000 - 25,000</div> <div>Scientists predict that the majority of the population will be lost by 2050.</div>		<div>around 50,000</div> <div>These days grizzly bear numbers are slowly recovering in North America.</div>	
<div></div> <div>Polar bears and grizzly bears are considered vulnerable. Threats to these species are:</div> <div><div> global warming</div><div> hunting and human contact</div><div> shortage in natural food resources</div></div>				

(Adapted from: <http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com>)

Read the following text which is divided into two sections. Then answer the questions on your booklet.

Section 1

The bear lurched forward, taking a step towards her, and April let out an involuntary whimper. A burnt feeling scorched through her nerve endings and **her breathing was tight and shallow**, trapped somewhere in her throat. What if he came closer? What if he attacked? But, just as quickly as he'd moved, the bear stopped abruptly. There was something cautious about the way he was keeping to the other side of the beach. Of course, he would be **just as wary** about her as she was of him and she let out a deep, shaky breath of relief. (paragraph 1)

Picking up the binoculars once more, she **chewed her lip in worry** because although he was huge, he really was desperately thin. She could even see his ribs poking through his fur. And surely his fur should look shinier and far less matted than that? (paragraph 2)

There was also a sharpness to his face. Not a horrible sharpness the way some people's faces are sharp permanently. But a sharpness born of hunger and desperation. 'Oh, you poor thing,' she murmured. 'You're starving.' (paragraph 3)

The sun had dropped lower in the sky and April could barely see him in the fading light. 'Are you hungry?' she asked. 'You're not going to eat me, are you?' She scanned the rest of his face quickly through the binoculars. Even though he was a wild animal, he did look friendly – for a polar bear anyway. The tickly whiskers, the soft, wet black of his nose and his dark, chocolate-coloured eyes which, even from this distance, seemed gentle. She cleared her throat and wondered what to say next. (paragraph 4)

Section 2

‘My name is April,’ she offered at last. ‘April Wood. I’m eleven years old, I like hot chocolate, especially with marshmallows on top, and I’m here with my dad. He said there were no bears left on the island, but I knew I’d seen you that first night. Why would you risk coming so close to our cabin? Maybe . . .’ She stopped as the idea hit her. ‘Maybe you wanted to be seen? But why would that be?’ (paragraph 5)

She gazed at him in puzzlement, and it wasn’t until she scanned her binoculars over his whole body that she finally saw it. ‘Oh my!’ she exclaimed in horror. ‘What have you done to yourself?’ His front left paw had something tightly wrapped around it – a blue plastic of some kind. (paragraph 6)

The bear brought the paw up to his mouth and gnawed at it with long, sharp teeth, growling under his breath as he tried to bite it off. But it was no use. The paw had swollen to twice its size and the plastic had wound its way impossibly tight – there was no way it was coming off. His head remained hanging low and he looked so vulnerable, that April’s first instinct was to run across and give him a big squeeze hug even though she knew how dangerous that would be. (paragraph 7)

‘That looks so painful,’ April murmured. She wanted to help. ‘I’ll be back,’ she whispered. ‘I promise.’ And the bear lifted his head and roared. (paragraph 8)

(Adapted from *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold)

