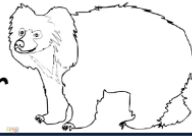


Read these amazing facts about giant panda bears and sloth bears.

Amazing Facts About Bears!				
	The Giant Panda Bear		The Sloth Bear	
Appearance				
	<div>1.2 - 1.5 m</div> height	<div>5 claws 1 thumb</div> <div>The extra thumb helps it when eating bamboo, which it loves.</div>	<div>1.5 - 2 m</div> height	<div>5 claws</div> <div>Extremely long claws help it dig up ants and honey, which it is very fond of.</div>
Weight of an adult male		<div>75 - 160 kg</div>		<div>55 - 140 kg</div>
Senses		 <div>a highly developed sense of smell</div>		 <div>a good sense of smell</div>
Life Span	<div>15 - 20 years</div> in the wild	<div>around 30 years</div> in captivity	<div>20 - 25 years</div> in the wild	<div>around 40 years</div> in captivity
Population	<div>around 2,000</div> <div>Scientists predict that the giant panda will become extinct in 70 years.</div>		<div>7,000 - 10,000</div> <div>There has been a steady decline in numbers over the last years.</div>	
<div> Giant panda bears and sloth bears are considered vulnerable. Threats to these species are:</div> <div><div> shortage in natural food resources</div><div> hunting and human contact</div><div> destruction of their natural habitat</div></div>				

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

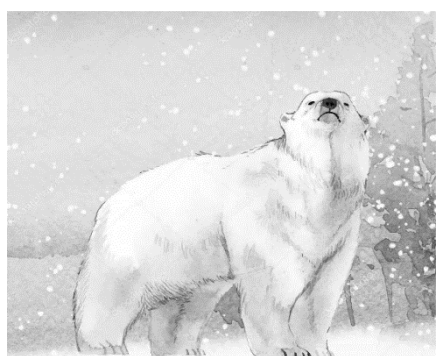
Read the following text which is divided into two sections. Then answer the questions on your booklet.

Section 1

The bear stood on his two hind legs, rearing up like a brilliant white stallion into the sky. The combination of powerful muscle and raw brute strength took April's breath clean away. She let out a little gasp **before quickly clapping her hands over her mouth.** (paragraph 1)

'You're the most incredible thing I've ever seen,' she whispered and, without even knowing why, a solitary tear **trickled** down her face. Not because she was sad. But because it was the only way for the size of the emotion to come out. The feelings swung from awe, to wonder, to joy and then mixed together like a milkshake, so she felt dizzy and **light-headed** with them. (paragraph 2)

For a brief moment she wished her father were here with her so he could see the polar bear with his own eyes. 'I knew I wasn't imagining things,' she said, at last finding her voice. 'I did see you that night. You are real.' (paragraph 3)



He heard her then. He dropped back to all fours and lifted up his head. His ears pricked. He sniffed the air, his black nose twitching against the cold and the damp fog. And then, ever so slowly, he turned, and across the beach they locked eyes. A shiver ran down her spine. Even if she'd wanted to run away, she couldn't. Instead, she became rooted to the ground as every nerve in her body buzzed and hummed like electricity. It was as if time suddenly froze, or at least slowed down. Daylight had begun to drain away, and the air felt sharp and still. The wind stopped. Even the sea held its breath. (paragraph 4)

Section 2

April gazed through the binoculars at the barren pebbly beach that stretched out in front of her. She saw an old tumbledown shack, with the door hanging off its hinges. Upturned on the shore was an old green fishing boat. She turned the little nozzle until the bear came into focus. ‘Why, you’re beautiful,’ she breathed out. ‘You’re the most beautiful thing I’ve ever seen. Look at you! You’re like . . .’ (paragraph 5)



At which point, the bear’s mouth opened into the hugest, most cavernous roar and even from this distance April could feel the power of it. Such a deafening, ear-splitting roar made her teeth chatter, and she almost dropped her binoculars. He might have sounded ferocious, but she could tell that there was something wrong. She scanned her binoculars over his whole body, until she finally saw it. ‘Oh my!’ she exclaimed in horror. ‘What have you done to yourself?’ A bit of glass, green like a mermaid’s tail, was wedged in his front right paw. (paragraph 6)

The bear brought the paw up to his mouth and licked it gently, letting out a low, painful moan. He looked so helpless. His head had sunk onto his paws and his whole body radiated sadness. April’s heart lurched. (paragraph 7)

‘That’s heart-breaking,’ she murmured. ‘It’s no use! He can’t remove the glass himself,’ she said eventually. She was determined to help. ‘I’ll be back,’ she whispered. ‘I give you my word.’ The bear reared up on his hind legs and bellowed out a thunderous roar. (paragraph 8)

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