

# THE AMAZING AMERICAN BROWN BEAR

## Task 1 - Read & Annotate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

As you read through *The Amazing American Brown Bear* for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Amazing American Brown Bear

### Margin Notes

Have you ever camped in some areas of the United States and Canada? Then, you might have been given some tips for how to make sure your food is safe from bears. That means you have shared space with one of nature's most powerful creatures: brown bears. These bears are the most common of all bears. They are found in the northwest of North America, Europe, and Asia. Brown bears are adapted to life in these regions.

Brown bears are also known as grizzly bears. They vary greatly in size. The largest of these bears are the Kodiak bears in Alaska. They can reach the same size as polar bears. They can weigh over 1,500 pounds. However, most brown bears weigh about 700 pounds. They may grow to be about 5 to 8 feet long. When standing, a brown bear may tower over you at 11 feet tall.

The diet of brown bears also changes depending on where they live. Bears are omnivores. This means they hunt for meat and also eat plants. While bears can be terrifying predators, most of their diet is plant based. They eat nuts, berries, fruit, roots, and leaves. As hunters, bears eat a wide range of other animals. They eat rodents, fish, and moose. Throughout the year, bears eat different things depending on what is available. In some areas of Alaska, bears flock to the rivers during the yearly salmon run. As salmon swim upstream to spawn, the bears feast on the fish.

In the months leading up to winter, brown bears may eat up to 90 pounds of food in a day. Why? They are preparing to hibernate. Brown bears go into a deep sleep for 4 to 8 months. In this way, they survive the cold winter months when little food is available. Before hibernating, bears may weigh up to twice as much as what they'll weigh in the spring. Bears dig out a den in a hillside. They hibernate here. Female bears often give birth during hibernation. The mother stays in the den with her cubs until spring. The cubs nurse and grow. By the time the mother and her cubs emerge, the bears are very hungry.

Brown bears can be very aggressive, especially if they're surprised. Mother grizzlies with cubs can be especially dangerous. The mother will do anything to protect her young. These amazing bears can run up to 30 miles per hour. It is difficult to outrun them. For this reason, people who live in areas with bears often carry bear spray. The best way to stay safe in a bear encounter is to stay calm and back away slowly.

Brown bears are found in many areas of North America, Europe, and Asia.

## Task 2 - VOCABULARY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Read *The Amazing American Brown Bear* a second time. Find 4-5 words which are unfamiliar to you and complete the vocabulary diagram below.

WORD	PICTURE	SENTENCE

## Task 4 - Reread & Respond

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage *The Amazing American Brown Bear*. Complete the chart by listing the main idea and four supporting details from the passage.

Main Idea	Detail 1	Detail 2

## Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Reread the passage *The Amazing American Brown Bear*. Use evidence from the passage to answer the following questions:

### Text Evidence Questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. List three details that support the main idea:  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cite 2 pieces of evidence from the text that show that brown bears are omnivores.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Explain four things that happen during winter hibernation.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_  
d) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Give 2 pieces of text evidence that shows that brown bears can be dangerous.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_

# DIFFERENTIATED CLOSE READING UNIT



CREATED BY: SHELLY REES

# 2 Different Reading Levels

## High-Interest Passage!

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

### The Amazing American Brown Bear

#### Margin Notes

Have you ever camped in some areas of the United States and Canada? Then, you might have been given some tips for how to make sure your food is safe from bears. That means you have shared space with one of nature's most powerful creatures: brown bears. These bears are the most common of all bears. They are found in the northwest of North America, Europe, and Asia. Brown bears are adapted to life in these regions.

Brown bears are also known as grizzly bears. The largest of these bears are the Kodiak bears in Alaska. They can weigh over 1,500 pounds. They may grow to be even larger. When standing, a brown bear may tower over you.

The diet of brown bears also changes depending on where they live. Bears are omnivores. This means they hunt for meat and also eat plants. While bears can be terrifying predators, most of their diet is made up of berries, fruit, roots, and leaves. As hunters, bears also eat rodents, fish, and moose. They eat different things depending on what is available. During the yearly salmon run, the bears flock to the rivers to feast on the fish.

In the months leading up to winter, brown bears eat a lot of food. Why? They are preparing to sleep for 4 to 8 months. In this way, they store up energy. Before hibernating, bears eat as much food as they can. As what they'll weigh in the spring. Bears hibernate here. Female bears often give birth to cubs while they are in the den. The mother stays in the den with her cubs until spring. When the mother and her cubs emerge, the bears are very hungry.

Brown bears can be very aggressive, especially if they're surprised. Mother grizzlies with cubs can be especially dangerous. The mother will do anything to protect her young. These amazing bears can run up to 30 miles per hour, which means it's difficult to outrun them. For this reason, people who live in areas with bears often carry bear spray or learn special strategies for staying safe in a bear encounter.

Brown bears are incredible creatures. The next time you visit a brown bear habitat, see if you can catch a glimpse of one of these amazing animals.

### The Amazing American Brown Bear

#### Margin Notes

If you go camping in some areas of the United States and Canada, you might be given some tips for how to make sure your food is secure from bears. That means you're sharing space with one of nature's most powerful creatures: brown bears. These bears are the most widespread of all bears. They are found in the northwest of North America, Europe, and Asia. Brown bears are specially adapted to life in these regions.

Brown bears, also known as grizzly bears, vary greatly in size. The largest of these bears are the Kodiak bears in Alaska. They can reach the same size as polar bears, weighing in at over 1500 pounds. However, most brown bears weigh about 700 pounds and may grow to be about 5 to 8 feet long. When standing, a brown bear may tower over you at 11 feet tall.

The diet of brown bears also changes depending on where they live. Bears are omnivores, which means they hunt for meat and also eat plants. While bears can be terrifying predators, most of their diet is plant materials such as nuts, berries, fruit, roots, and leaves. As hunters, bears eat a wide range of other animals including rodents, fish, and moose. Throughout the year, bears eat different things depending on what's available. For example, in some areas of Alaska, bears flock to the rivers during the yearly salmon run. As salmon swim upstream to spawn, the bears take advantage to feast on the fish.

In the months leading up to winter, brown bears may eat up to 90 pounds of food in a day. Why? They are preparing for hibernation. Depending on where they live, brown bears go into a deep sleep for 4 to 8 months. In this way, they survive the cold winter months when little food is available. Before hibernating, bears may weigh up to twice as much as what they'll weigh in the spring. Bears dig out a den in a hillside in which to hibernate. Female bears often give birth during the winter hibernation. The mother stays in the den with her cubs until spring. During this time, the cubs nurse and grow. By the time the mother and her cubs emerge, the bears are very hungry.

Brown bears can be very aggressive, especially if they're surprised. Mother grizzlies with cubs can be especially dangerous as the mother will do anything to protect her young. These amazing bears can run up to 30 miles per hour, which means it's difficult to outrun them. For this reason, people who live in areas with bears often carry bear spray or learn special strategies for staying safe in a bear encounter.

Brown bears are incredible creatures. Thanks to their adaptations, they are able to survive even in very cold environments. The next time you visit a brown bear habitat, see if you can catch a glimpse of one of these amazing animals.





# Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

## CLOSE READING STEPS

The following steps are a **suggested sequence** in which you could approach the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of the passage, requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the packet is to be completed in one day/lesson. With 5 total tasks per passage, each should take one week to complete.



**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Student reads the passage. As they read, they use their annotation symbols to identify unfamiliar words, questions they have, and parts of the passage that they agree with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate**. This task also includes some basic recall questions.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Teacher (or partner) rereads the passage a second time while students follow along. Have students complete **Task 2: Vocabulary**. This allows students to demonstrate their understanding of unfamiliar words from the passage, leading to a deeper comprehension of the text.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** Students reread the passage then respond in writing, citing text evidence. Students complete **Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper**. This page of questions requires students to cite text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students complete **Task 4: Reread and Respond**. These final tasks use the text evidence to write a supported summary.

## Annotating Markers

As you read the passage, make the following marks:

➔ **Circle** powerful words.

➔ **Underline** words or phrases you do not understand.

➔ **Place a question mark** next to something that makes you think of a question.

➔ **Write an exclamation mark** next to something that surprises you.

➔ **Draw an arrow** where you see a personal connection to certain words or ideas.

➔ **Write your important thoughts** in the margins.

Work chart shows of course here.

## ABOUT THIS PACKET

The Close Reading passage included in this packet is provided at 2 different reading levels, so that you may more easily differentiate your instruction. The informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All question sheets are the same, but makes it easy for you to provide an informational reading passage on each student's level, but use the same question and activity sheets for the entire class!

**NOTE:**  
The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.  
The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Each passage with its activities is designed for a 5-day time frame, following this schedule:

Day	Title of Activity	Purpose
1	<b>Task 1: Read and Annotate</b>	Read passage for the first time. Use annotation symbols to annotate. Answer surface level questions.
2	<b>Task 2: Vocabulary</b>	Read passage for the second time. Students choose vocabulary words that are unknown to them and complete the vocabulary activity using those words.
3	<b>Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper</b>	Read passage a third time. Students answer deeper level questions, citing text evidence to support answers.
4	<b>Task 4: Reread and Respond</b>	Students use the graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of the passage.
5	<b>Task 5: Summarize</b>	Using the completed graphic organizer from Day 4, students write a summary supporting details for the passage.

The reading levels for each differentiated passage are provided in this chart:

Passage Title	Symbol	Lexile Level
The Amazing American Brown Bear	■	750
	▲	950

# 5 Days of Close Reading Activities for GREATER Reading Comprehension

## Task 1 - Read & Annotate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

As you read through The Amazing American Brown Bear for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

### First Reading Questions:

1. What is this passage mostly about?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What other name are brown bears known by?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the word **omnivore** mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How much do most brown bears weigh and how tall do they grow to be?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Task 2 - VOCABULARY

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage a second time. Find 4-5 words which you would like to add to your vocabulary diagram below.

WORD

SENTENCE


## Task 4 - Reread & Respond

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read The Amazing American Brown Bear again. Answer the following questions:

What is the main idea?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What text that show that brown bears are omnivores?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What text that show that brown bears hibernate?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What text that shows that brown bears can be dangerous?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detail 2

Detail 4

## Task 5 - Summarize

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Write a summary of the passage. The main idea is \_\_\_\_\_  
Then use the four details to write four sentences by restating the main idea.

THE AMAZING AMERICAN BROWN BEAR

**NO PREP!**  
**Print and Go!**



# Answer Keys Provided

## Task 1 - Read & An The Amazing American B ANSWER KEY

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that is confusing.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that is surprising.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection.
- Write your important thoughts in the margin.

### First Reading Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is this passage mostly about?  
This passage is mostly about the American brown bear and how it lives and adapts to its environment.
2. What other name are brown bears known by?  
They are also known as grizzly bears.
3. What does the word omnivore mean?  
An omnivore is an animal that eats both plants and animals.
4. How big are brown bears?  
Most brown bears weigh about 700 to 8 feet long.

## Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper The Amazing American Brown Bear ANSWER KEY

### Text Evidence Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?  
Brown bears are the most common of all bears and adapt to life in North America, Europe, and Asia.
2. List three details that support the main idea:
  - a) Brown bears are found in the northwest North America, Europe, and Asia.
  - b) The diet of brown bears changes depending on where they live.
  - c) Throughout the year, bears hibernate in different ways depending on what is available.
3. Cite 2 pieces of text that show that brown bears are omnivores.
  - a) They eat berries, fruit, roots, and leaves.
  - b) They also eat fish, and moose.
4. List four things that happen during winter hibernation.
  - a) In the months leading up to winter, they may eat up to 90 pounds of food per day.
  - b) Brown bears go into a deep sleep for 4 to 8 months.
  - c) They dig out a den in a hillside.
  - d) Females often give birth during hibernation.
5. Give 2 pieces of text evidence that shows that brown bears can be dangerous.
  - a) Brown bears can be aggressive, especially if they are surprised.
  - b) It is difficult to outrun them.