

# AMERICAN BLACK BEAR



**Conservation Status:**  
not listed as threatened or endangered

## Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Ursidae

Genus: *Ursus*

Species: *americanus*



## FAST FACTS

**Weight:** 90 - 300 pounds  
with males being larger than females

**Length:** 50 - 80 inches

**Height:** up to 3 feet at the shoulder

**Life Span:** 30 years

**Gestation:** 220 days, including a period of delayed implantation

**Number of young:** 2-3

**Range:** Northern and western U.S., Canada and Mexico with small populations in the south and east U.S.

**Diet:** Omnivore, eats mostly plant matter, but will eat meat

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Black bears can have black, brown, blonde or white fur. Although they are different colors, they are still black bears.
- Black bears have brown eyes, but when they are born their eyes are blue.

## Ecology & Conservation

In the past, bears were often seen as a threat to livestock and a nuisance to humans and are sometimes still viewed in such a way today. Because of this, they have been eliminated from much of their original range. Black bears are sometimes hunted for their gallbladders which are thought to have healing properties in Asian markets.