

Our Louisiana Black Bears...

The Cycle of Seasons:

When food is scarce, bears go into 'winter sleep'. They rest in a safe den for months without food or drink. Every other year the female gives birth to 1 to 3 cubs while in her den. They stay together in the den until April.



Cubs are small and helpless when born. They nurse, cling to their mother, and grow during the winter months.



By spring (April) cubs are active and beginning to learn about their world.

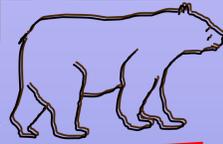


Insects, grasses and new growing leaves are the important foods for bears in the spring

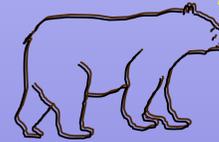
Cubs stay with their mothers for 1 1/2 years learning how to survive. After their 2nd winter together cubs head out on their own.



Winter



Spring



Bears can live to be as old as 20 years. A female could have up to 8 litters in that time, but most bears don't live to such a ripe age.



Fruits and berries are the food of choice in the summer. They are high in sugar, and energy.



Bears are excellent climbers and can climb on delicate branches to reach fruits and nuts. Nuts are an important fall food for bears. Acorns and other nuts provide fat that bears need to survive the winter.



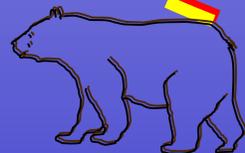
Summer is the breeding season. Males travel long distances to find and compete for females.



Bears have strong, curved front claws, making it possible for them to climb trees for food and safety.



Fall



Summer



One more thing to be proud of in Louisiana!

