

# Spirit Bear

## Solitary Omnivore



- A spirit bear is a special kind of black bear that is born with a coat of white fur.
- Black bears that are able to have white cubs are called Kermode bears.
- 1 in 10 Kermode bears will be born with white fur.
- Black bears in the Great Bear Rainforest may give birth to white cubs, and white spirit bears may give birth to black cubs.
- In the fall/autumn their main food source is salmon. In the spring and summer they eat plants, berries, mussels and anything else they can find.
- White bears are 30% better at catching salmon than black bears during the day, but bears with black fur are better at catching salmon at night.
- They mate between May and July. Like other bears, the female doesn't become fully pregnant until it's time to hibernate.
- If a female bear is unable to gain enough weight during the summer and fall, her body will tell her not to proceed with the pregnancy.
- They hibernate in dens in hollows beneath old cedar trees for 3–5 months. The mother bear wakes up from hibernation to give birth to 1–4 cubs in the den.
- Cubs are born blind and hairless, and spend their first months in the den nursing and sleeping. They leave the den in the spring.
- Cubs stay with their mother for the first 1–1.5 years of their life. The mother drives the cubs away when she is ready to breed again.
- A local native group, the Gitga'at, gave the spirit bear its name, which is 'Moksgm'ol' in their language. They believe it is the guardian of the rainforest.
- With only about 200 spirit bears in the world, they are rarer than wild pandas. Spirit bears can live for up to 25 years in the wild.

# Spirit Bear Life Cycle

Fill in the life cycle stages and answer the bonus challenge in the circle!

Use these words:

hibernation

Kermode

3-5, 30, 10, 200

guardian

rainforest

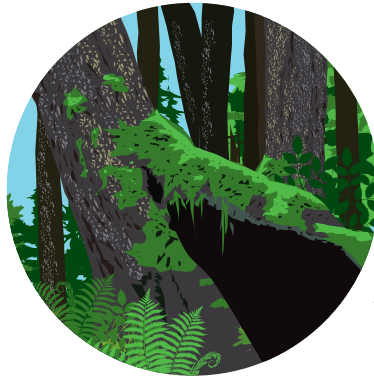
cedar

Moksgm'ol

nursing

Great Bear Rainforest

Gitga'at



Bears that carry a special gene for white fur are called \_\_\_\_\_ bears.

One in \_\_\_\_\_ of them are born with white fur.

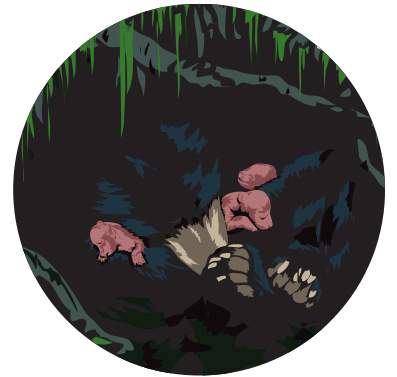
Spirit bears spend the winter in dens beneath \_\_\_\_\_ trees. They stay underground for \_\_\_\_\_ months.



Spirit bears are \_\_\_\_\_% better at catching salmon than their black relatives.

There are about \_\_\_\_\_ spirit bears in the wild, and they all live in the \_\_\_\_\_.

A local native group, called the \_\_\_\_\_, gave the spirit bear its name, which is \_\_\_\_\_ in their language. They believe the spirit bear is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.



Cubs are born during \_\_\_\_\_.

The mother wakes up to give birth, and the cubs spend their first months \_\_\_\_\_ and sleeping.

