

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Use the reread strategy to be sure you understand what you read.

## Adaptations: Grizzly and Polar Bears

Every animal has adaptations. These are special ways that a body works or is made. Not all birds eat the same things. Their beaks have different shapes. Some fish that live at the bottom of the ocean glow in the dark. Mammals live all over the world, so they need to have different skills and body shapes. Giraffes have long tongues. They use them to pull leaves off the tops of trees. Jackrabbits have wide feet to run across sand.

These things help animals be as effective as they can be. This means that they can do the best job possible of finding food and raising offspring. Adaptations are very important for keeping all animals alive and able to reproduce, or have offspring.

### Similarities

Mammals have adapted to live in different parts of the world. Bears live all over the world. Grizzly bears live in North America. Polar bears live inside the Arctic Circle. In many ways they are the same. They are very large animals. They can weigh more than 1,500 pounds. Both kinds of bears have toes with claws they cannot retract. This means bears cannot pull their claws inside. They can stand on their hind legs. They can even sit up, as if they were sitting in a chair! And all bears have rounded ears.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Differences

Grizzly bears and polar bears have adapted to conditions in the different places they live. Polar bears' fur is white. They can blend in with the ice and snow in the Arctic Circle. They can sneak up on prey without being seen. They also have a layer of blubber, or fat, over four inches thick. This helps keep them warm even though the air temperature can be  $-80^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Their paws have fur on the bottom. This protects them from the ice and snow.

Grizzly bears do not live in the ice and snow. Their fur is brown. This helps them blend in with the trees and rocks in their environment, or where they live. Their claws are longer than a polar bear's. Polar bears eat only meat. Grizzlies are omnivorous. They are just as happy eating fish as they are eating berries. They use their claws to catch fish. They also use them to dig in the ground for roots or insects. These bears also have a large hump of muscle over their shoulders. This makes their front legs very strong. It also helps them run quickly in order to catch prey.

Bears are only one kind of animal, and as you can see, where they live greatly affects what they are like. Adaptations are very important to bears, and they are important to every other kind of animal. Adaptations are what make each kind of bear unique.



A grizzly and a polar bear in relation to a person.