

Grizzly Bear Family

LANGUAGE ARTS

LEXILE 390L

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Young Explorer

Objective

- Students will identify the main topic and retell key details in a text.

Resources

- Language Arts Master (page 4)

Summary

A mother grizzly bear takes care of her cubs. She helps them survive by protecting them, watching over them as they play, and teaching them how to find food.

WORD WORK

Sight Words: *takes, of, her, how, by, from, over, as*

BUILD VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

- mother bear
- take care
- cub
- survive
- protect
- safe

The words above are used in the article and may be new to students. Pronounce the words for students.

Have students work with a partner. Give each pair one of the following sets of words written on index cards.

mother bear, cub
protect, take care
survive, safe

Ask students to talk about the words and discuss how the words relate to each other. Then have students come together as a class to share their thinking. Correct any misconceptions students might have about the words and their meanings and how the word pairs relate to each other.

READ AND DISCUSS

Read the article “Grizzly Bear Family” aloud to students as they follow along. You may want to read the entire article first, and then reread the article, taking time to stop and discuss each two-page spread.

Pages 2–3 Read the title aloud to students. After reading the title say: **Look at the picture of the grizzly bear family. What can you tell me about this bear family?** (*Accept reasonable responses, such as there are 3 bears in this picture; there are 2 baby bears/cubs and 1 adult. They look like they are playing in tall grass.*)

Say: **Lets find out more about a grizzly bear family.** Then read the text on page 2. Ask: **What did we find out about a grizzly bear family?** (*A mother grizzly bear takes care of her cubs and helps them survive.*) Help students understand that this is the main topic of the article and that as you read on, you will find out more details about how a mother bear takes care of her cubs and helps them survive.

Pages 4–5 Read the text on pages 4 and 5. Point out the definition of *protect* on page 4. Then ask: **What are some ways a mother bear protects her cubs?** (*She keeps the cubs safe by her side. She watches over the cubs as they play.*)

Remind students of the main topic: A mother bear takes care of her cubs and helps them survive. You might want to write the main topic on chart paper or a board. Ask students to tell you again the details you learned on pages 4–5. Then write those under the main topic.

Pages 6–7 Read the text on these pages and ask: **What are some other details we learn on these pages about how a mother bear takes care of her cubs and helps them survive?** (*A mother bear shows her cubs how to find food. She shows them how to catch fish and find berries.*) Sum up the lesson by guiding students to understand that a mother bear helps her cubs get what they need to survive.

TALK AND WRITE

Students can respond to the article by talking and writing. Use the following prompts to guide them. You might also want to use the Language Arts Master for this article.

- **Talk about something you learned about a grizzly bear family.**
- **Write or draw something you learned about a mother bear.**

Grizzly Bear Family

SCIENCE

Objective

- Students will understand and describe the ways an animal helps its offspring survive.

Resources

- Science Master (page 5)

Science Background

Grizzly bears are a type of North American brown bear. The average life span of grizzly bears is 25 years. They are large mammals of about 5 to 8 feet in length and around 800 pounds.

The name “grizzly” comes from the word *grizzled*, which means gray or partly gray hair. The grizzly bear’s brown fur can look white or gray at the tips, or “grizzled.”

Grizzly bears are mostly solitary animals, except for the females and their cubs. Brown bears hibernate in the winter and the females give birth during this time, often to twins.

ENGAGE

To engage students, spend time looking for pictures of animal families, including bears. Discuss with students what makes up the animal families in the various pictures. Ask: **How many babies and adults are in this animal family?** Also discuss what the young and adult animals are doing in the pictures. Many times pictures show young animals playing with one another.

EXPLORE

Continue to use the pictures as a source of reference for students as you explore what animals might need to survive. You might ask some of the following questions:

- **What do you think the baby animals need to survive?**
- **Do they need food?**
- **Do they need water?**
- **Do they need a safe place to live?**

You might find out from students if they know what some of the animals in the pictures eat and the safe places they might find to live, such as in a den, a nest, or the hollow of a tree.

EXPLAIN

Read the article to students.

After reading, have students discuss what bears need to survive and how the mother bear helps them. Say: **A mother bear protects her cubs. They stay safe by her side.** Ask: **Why do you think the cubs are safe by her side?** It will take some inference on the students’ part to answer this question. Guide them in understanding that if the cubs are close by, the mother bear can lead them away from danger. It is easier to protect them when they are close by. Then say: **What else does the mother bear do?** (*She watches over her cubs as they play.*) **Why do the cubs play?** (*The cubs learn by playing.*) **What do you think the cubs learn by playing?** (*Again, this will take some inference on the students’ part. Guide them to understand that playing and roughhousing will help the cubs learn how to move and react, which will help them hunt and fight, when needed.*)

Say: **The cubs need to eat to survive.** Ask: **How does the mother bear help them with this?** (*She shows her cubs how to find food. She shows them how to catch fish and find berries.*)

ELABORATE

Research with students other types of bears. Find pictures and discuss how these bears are similar to or different from the grizzly bear. Find out where these bears live and what they need to survive. Some other bears you might research are listed below:

- Sun Bear
- Black Bear
- Polar Bear
- Moon Bear

EVALUATE

Assess students’ understanding with the Science Master for this article. You might also use the following prompts.

- **What do grizzly bear cubs need to survive?**
- **What things do the cubs learn from the mother bear?**

LANGUAGE ARTS: Main Topic and Details

Circle the main topic. Then write two details from the story in the detail boxes.

Main Topic

1. A mother bear is large and furry.
2. A mother bear takes care of her cubs and helps them survive.
3. The mother bear has three cubs that play together.

Detail

Detail

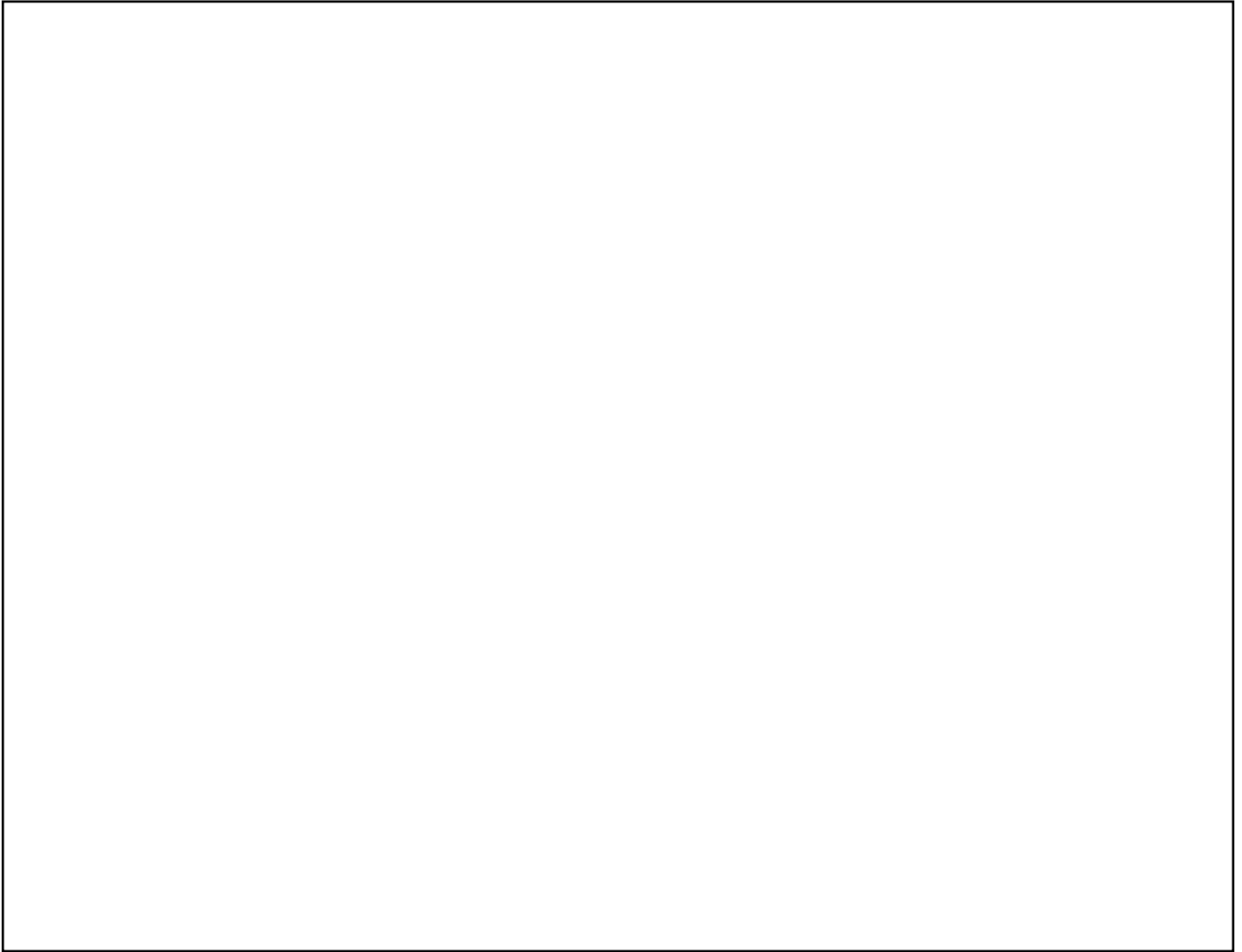
Name _____

Date _____

SCIENCE: What do cubs need to survive?

Draw what cubs need to survive.

Write about your picture.



ANSWER KEY

Grizzly Bear Family

Language Arts: Main Topic and Details, page 4

Students should circle the main topic (*A mother bear takes care of her cubs and helps them survive.*) and write two details (*Accept reasonable responses such as the following: A mother bear protects her cubs. A mother bear shows her cubs how to find food.*)

Science: What do cubs need to survive?, page 5

Students should draw what cubs need to survive and write about what they drew.