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MEET BAILEY BEAR CUB

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A Brown Bear's Life

Life is good for bear cubs along the coast of Alaska. Meet a cub who's ready to tell you all about it!



◀ CALL ME CUTE

Thousands of brown bears live along the coast of Alaska. I, Bailey, am one of them. I'm just a few months old, enjoying my first spring. But you can see that I already have some serious claws on my paws! These will help me dig out a den one day, as well as get at roots and clams.

NURSING TIME ▼

Mom takes a break to let my sister and me nurse. Her rich milk helps us cubs grow very quickly.

by Bailey Bear, as told to Elizabeth Schleichert

Hi! It's me, Bailey—in the photo at **left**. I'm a *brown bear* cub, here to tell you all about growing up brown and bearish. I live with my mom and sister, Bridget, on the coast of Alaska. It's a great place to grow up, with lots of ponds and rivers to wade in and a long, sweeping seashore to explore.

Bridget and I were born this past winter in our mother's dark, cozy den. By spring we had grown strong enough to follow Mom out of the den and into the big, wide world. I was so excited—there was no stopping me! I raced around and around with Bridget.

We love being out and about with Mom. She keeps a close eye on us. We run to her side at the slightest sign of danger. And when she goes off looking for food, we tag along. We watch her and copy everything she does. It's how we cubs learn the *bear* necessities of life. After all, in another two years, we'll be leaving Mom's side forever. But for now, life is *sweet* for all of us bears here. Turn the page, and you'll see!



SCOTT GILBERT/Photo Disc

CAUGHT ONE

Way to go! Look at Aunt Beth—she just grabbed a fat salmon. Cousins Bea and Bob are watching from the bank, waiting for a bite of their mom's catch.

When salmon swim upstream to spawn (lay their eggs), lots of bears gather along the rivers for a fish feast.

COME ON, MOM!

Cousin Bob is trying to steal Aunt Beth's prized catch (photo 1). Bob has already pigged out on fish, but, like all of us cubs, he always wants more. Aunt Beth finally gives in and lets him run off with the fish (2).



LEO BELLER/ANIMALS ANIMALS EARTH SCENES (L); (2) JACQUES DUPAUX



THE BEAR FACTS

- Brown bears are often called grizzlies. That name comes from the white-tipped, or grizzled, fur that brown bears often have.
- North American brown bears live in Alaska, some western states, and parts of Canada.
- The brown bears that live along the coast of Alaska are huge. Along with polar bears, they're the largest meat-eating land mammals in North America.
- A male brown bear can weigh more than seven large men!
- Brown bears aren't always brown. Some are creamy, and others are nearly black.
- How can you tell it's a brown bear (grizzly)? Unlike other North American bears, it has a large shoulder hump.
- A brown bear may catch dozens of fish a day during the spawning season.