

Wild About Bears: A Game

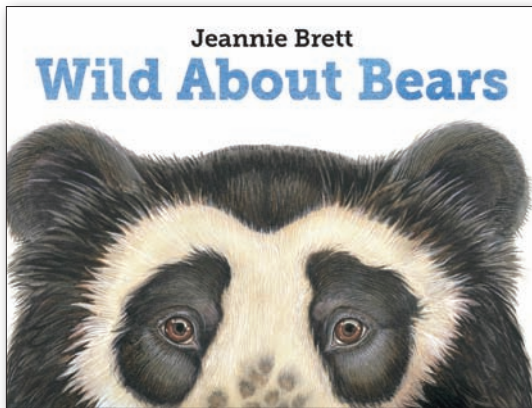
Bear Species Game Board

Polar bear		Brown bear
N. American black bear		Spectacled bear
Asiatic bear		Sloth bear
Sun bear		Giant panda

Based on the nonfiction book, **Wild About Bears** by Jeannie Brett (Charlesbridge Publishing).
For more bear activities and resources visit www.wildaboutbears.com.

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Educator Instructions

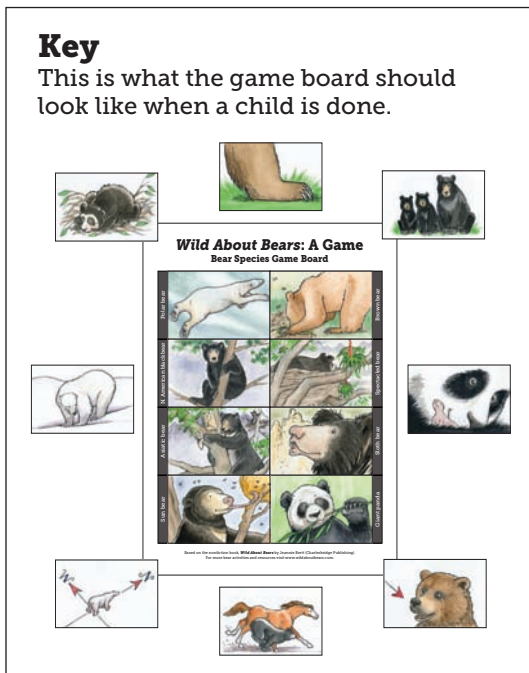


Let's face it, I am wild about bears. Since the release of **Wild About Bears** (Charlesbridge Publishing), educators and librarians have been sharing the wonderful ways they use the book to compare and contrast bear species.

To give you and the brilliant children you teach a hands-on tool to think about the species' similarities and differences, I have designed a simple single-player game.

How do you prep for the game?

- 1) Print out a Bear Species Game Board for each player.
- 2) Print out a set of Trait Cards for each player.
- 3) The Trait Cards are intended to be double-sided. Cut each out, fold them down the middle, and glue, tape or laminate them with the blank sides facing in.
- 4) Put all the cards together as a 16-card deck. Shuffle them.
- 5) Print out the Player Instructions for each player. (There are 4 sets on a page).
- 6) Expose the players to **Wild About Bears** by Jeannie Brett (Charlesbridge Publishing).
- 7) Discuss how you might compare and contrast the featured bears. Discuss the word "adaptation". What traits make each bear species different and what traits are the same throughout the Bear Family (Urisdae or Modern Bear).
- 8) Reinforce, play with and test these discussions with the game.
- 9) Follow the key to the left for the answers I came up with!



I would love any pictures, feedback or ideas for variations of the game! Visit me at www.jeanniebrett.com or www.wildaboutbears.com

—Jeannie Brett, Children's Book Author & Illustrator

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Player Instructions

Show that you are wild about bears!

Draw a Bear Traits Card from the pile.
Each card will either compare or contrast the traits of bears.

Does the card show an adaptation or trait that makes this bear different from other bears? If so, match the trait card to a bear on the Bear Species Game Board. Place the trait card over that bear.

Does the card show a trait that all bears share? If so, place the trait card on the table next to the Bear Species Game Board. When you draw more cards from the pile that show similar traits, place them so they form a circle around the board.

Stuck on an answer? Refer to the nonfiction book, **Wild About Bears** by Jeannie Brett (Charlesbridge).

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Trait Cards



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

Like humans, bears are plantigrades. Plantigrades walk with the soles of their feet on the ground.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

Bear cubs stay with their mothers for one to three years.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

Bears can run as fast as a horse for short distances.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

Bear cubs are nearly hairless, blind and tiny at birth.

Cut on dotted lines & fold in middle

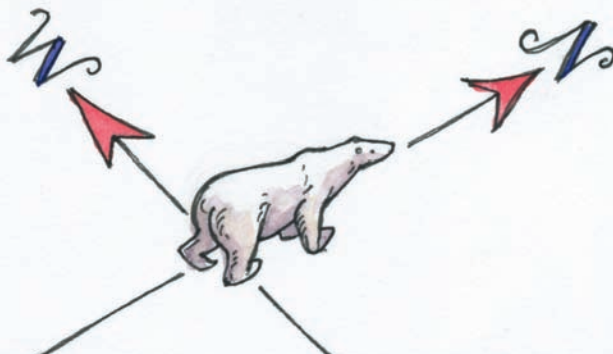
Wild About Bears: A Game

Trait Cards



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

Bears have an astounding sense of smell.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

Bears have an excellent memory and sense of direction.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

Bears have day beds for resting.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

Bears' fur coat is adapted to the bear's habitat.

Cut on dotted lines & fold in middle

Wild About Bears: A Game

Trait Cards



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

This bear has a streamlined body and partially webbed feet, which makes it an excellent swimmer. It has a thick layer of fat to keep it warm and buoyant.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

This bear's slightly curved claws, which grow up to four inches long, are perfect for digging up roots and insects, which are among their favorite foods.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

This bear is the most adaptable bear in the world today. It lives in a wide variety of habitats. It has claws about two inches long, which are perfect for climbing up a nearby tree for protection and resting.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

This bear spend much of its time in nests made from branches, in the trees of cloud forests. The nest gives it handy access to plant foods, protection and serves as a lookout.

Cut on dotted lines & fold in middle

Wild About Bears: A Game

Trait Cards



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

This bear spends much of its time high up in trees (60 feet high!). They use their short, strong claws for opening termite mounds and peeling off tree bark to eat the soft wood underneath.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

This slow moving bear often hangs from tree limbs. It sniffs out termites and ants from 300 feet away. Not having front teeth and having flexible lips, allows it to slurp up its favorite food with ease.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

This bear has an extra-long tongue to help feed on honey and bee larvae. Its long curved claws and bowed legs make it an excellent tree climber.



From the nonfiction book, *Wild About Bears*

This bear has enlarged flexible wrists that work like an opposable thumb or sixth digit. This adaptation helps it handle the 25 to 33 pounds of bamboo it eats daily.

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