



SUN BEAR

Kingdom: *Animalia* Phylum: *Chordata* Class: *Mammalia* Order: *Carnivora* Family: *Ursidae*
Helarctos malayanus

Description: The Sun Bear gets its name from the creamy yellow mark on its chest.

Height: 2.5 feet

Length: 3-4.5 feet

Weight: 60-150 pounds

Habitat: Tropical and subtropical forests

Distribution: Burma, Sumatra, Borneo, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia

Diet: Omnivores, fruit, honey, insects, small mammals, birds, eggs

Life Span: 20-30 years

Status: Endangered

Special Characteristics:

- Also known as the Malayan bear, it is the smallest of the bear family.
- The long pointed claws are used for ripping into the bark of trees for insects and honey.
- They have extremely long tongues and mobile snouts to help them eat insects and get honey from beehives.
- You can count the rings of a Sun Bear's tooth to tell its age.
- It has a highly developed sense of smell and will sit up to sniff the air.
- They walk up trees and descend backwards.
- They do not hibernate
- When it walks all four feet are turned inward.
- Active at night, they like to sleep in trees during the day.
- The gall bladders and other body parts of Sun Bears are used in folk medical practices.
- They are plantigrade, meaning they walk on their entire foot like a human.

Reproduction:

- Sexual maturity at 3 years for females and 6 years for males
- They mate throughout the year.
- Mate for life.
- Gestation 96 days
- Litter size 2
- Cubs are born on the ground.

