



# Η ΚΑΦΕ ΑΡΚΟΥΔΑ

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## The Brown Bear

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June 2021

1<sup>ο</sup> ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ  
ΔΙΑΒΑΤΩΝ  
1<sup>st</sup> Primary School of  
Diavata  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade

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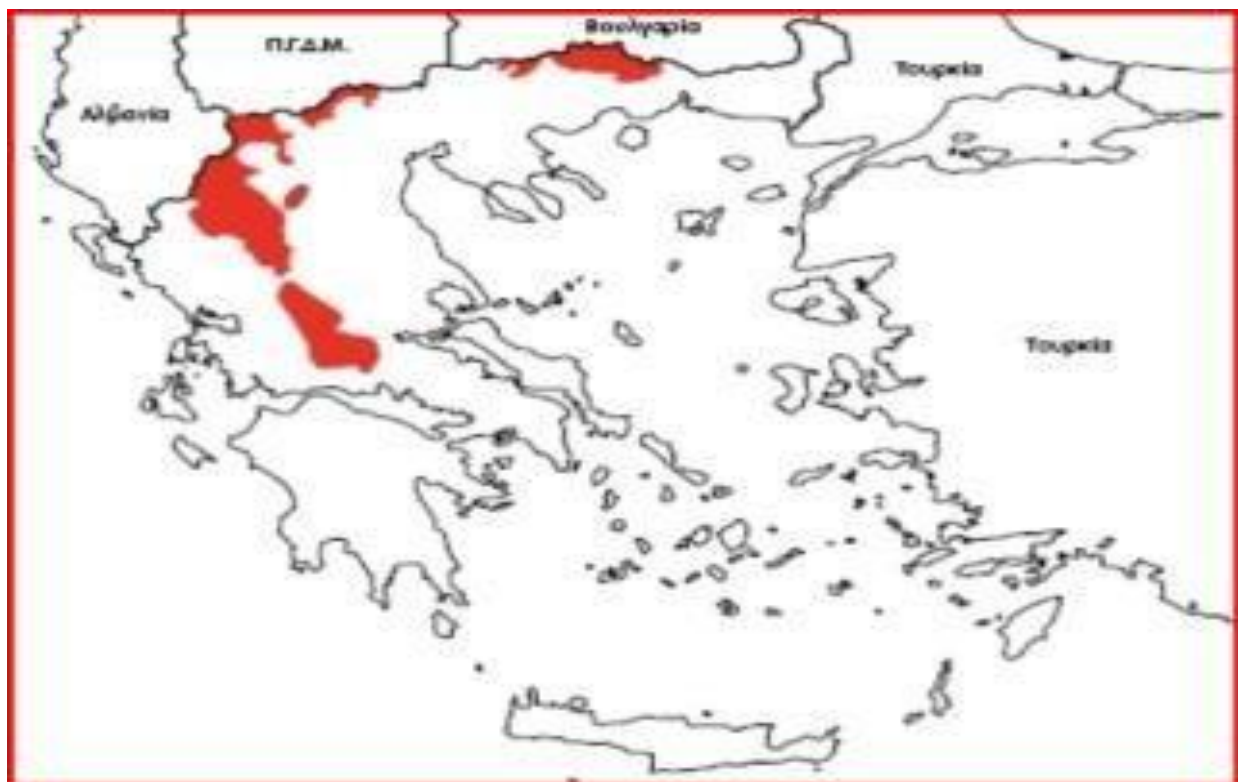


# The bear in Europe and Greece

The first bears appeared 3-8 million years ago. Now there are 8 different species of them, worldwide. In Europe, the Brown Bear lives on the Ural Mountains, in West Finland, on the Carpathian Mountains, on the Pyrenees and in the areas of Alpes and Apennine Mountains.

**In the last two centuries its population has decreased by 50%.  
This is due to hunting and the destruction of its habitat.  
It has completely disappeared from some countries.**

About 450 bears live in our country. In the past they existed in the whole mainland of Greece, whereas today the brown bear lives in the forests of coniferous trees (pine, fir) and deciduous trees (beech and oak) of Pindos and Rhodope.



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# Bear features

To the most people, bears are known for the catalytic role in children's fairytales.

**In Greece it is estimated that there are around 450 small populations living in the remote areas of Pindos and Rhodope mountains, which are the largest populations in the European Union.**

Despite the fact that it is omnivorous, it is more into plant foods. It has advanced hearing and smell but less good sight. The height of an adult animal reaches 1.10 meters, while its width 1.70 - 2.20 meters. A male bear's weight may be approximately 280 kilograms, while the female does not get over the weight of 150 kilograms. Each bear's weight is unstable. During spring when it wakes up from hibernation it is weak whereas in autumn it has stored a great range of fat. It has a triangle shaped head, small round shaped ears, and tiny eyes. It has 42 teeth, strong canines and molars. Its body is covered by fur, waterproof, brown hair. The fur's color depends on the age, the gender of the animal and the environment it lives in. It steps on the whole paw as it walks. It moves with both of its legs of the same side in every step. This makes it look slow and clumsy but in fact it is very flexible. It reaches the speed of 60 kilometers per hour. It has huge muscle mass and long strong claws. It moves in the quiet morning hours of the dawn, the dusk and the night. A bear never attacks a human, unless it senses that itself or its cubs are in danger. Its loud roaring may sometimes be innocent. The average life limit of the bear is 20-25 years. It is also a very clever animal. It is said that it is the cleverest mammal with surprisingly great memory.



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## Dietary habits

The bear is an omnivorous animal. It mostly prefers natural food (85%) and needs huge food quantities in order to keep its body volume and its strength. It approximately needs 30 kilos of food daily. It eats different kinds of fruit, such as: blackberries, cherry plums, cherries, acorn and small mammals. She likes honey.

**The most difficult time for the bear is spring, because all its fat has been consumed.**

**During the hibernation it loses about 30% of its weight.**

Because of the fact that nuts have not ripened yet, it eats roots, bulbs, wheat, corn, ants and, again, small mammals. During this season there have been cases of attack to herds of pets and as well as to beehives. Autumn is the season when bears eat too much food, storing fat, because they are preparing for their hibernation. The rich eating habits of the bear contributes indirectly to the growth of bushes and trees in the forests.



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# Bear breeding

The bear is a lonely animal which socializes during the mating season. Male bears are able to walk for hundreds of meters away to find their other half.

The male and the female meet only on the last days of spring and the first days of summer during the period of reproduction. After being pregnant for 7-9 months the female gives birth, being in a lethargic state in a specially designed cave, one or two cubs.

**Newborns are naked and blind. They weigh from 300 to 500 grams. The growth of the newborns is very fast and this is thanks to the high nutritional value of breast milk. The 1<sup>st</sup> year its weight can be multiplied up to 50 times.**

Cubs spend their first 2 years of their lifetime following their mother, which takes care of them and teaches them whatever they need to know to survive in the forest. The male bear does not participate in the upbringing of the cubs.



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# Hibernation

Hibernation is a way for the bear to survive in the winter as there is not enough food for it.

As the snow falls for the first time, it reaches out for a home, to spend the winter, which is usually a cave.

While being in hibernation, the bear consumes neither water nor food. Its body functions are slower, its heartbeat becomes less and its body temperature falls.

**The bear wakes up very easily if it's disturbed in its cave. This is her greatest sensitivity because she hardly falls into hibernation again.**

In Greece, where we have mild winters, its sleep lasts about 2-3 months. Hibernation is one of the most important moments of the brown bear's biological cycle.



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# Enemies and threats

The bear is a huge mammal and does not have any enemies in its habitat. The human is its enemy because he trespasses its land.

- The opening of wide roads and the lack of fencing in the highways.
- The building of dams.
- The building of accommodations for tourists
- Logging.
- Fires.
- Poisoned baits.
- High temperatures have affected their biological circle badly.

**Poaching and killing are the main threats leading to the bear's extinction.**

Hunting has been banned since 1969.





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# The coexistence of the man and the bear

In the past, the man did not affect the bears' life, as he used to take advantage of the nature with traditional ways.

During the last few years, the extreme exploitation of natural resources resulted in the disappearance of the bear from many regions, where it used to be its home.

The bear has been registered in the red book with the endangered animals, like the wolf, the otter, the chamois etc.

**In the recent years, organizations have been founded in Greece for the protection of the brown bear, such as Arcturos, Callisto, Life Arktos, Grammos Rodopis.**

**These organizations help for the smooth coexistence of the bear and many times for its reintegration into its natural habitat.**

The brown bear is currently protected by international European and Greek legislation. The capture, captivity, trade and killing of the animal are prohibited. Moreover, in the red book of Endangered Animals of Greece, it is mentioned as an "*endangered species*".



# The bear man and the captive bear

The gypsy was called “Arkoudiaris” (Arkouda called the bear in Greek) together with his bear.

He used to appear in outdoor performances, such as weddings, festivals, squares, etc.

**People called “Gypsybears” the gypsies who had and trained bears from an early age. They put burning coals in a pit and covered it with sheet metal. While the sheet metal was burning, they would raise the cub up, where its paws were burning, while they were playing the tambourine. It was tied up and could not leave. It lifted its legs and looked like it was dancing. This is how cubs were trained.**

They destroyed the canines and pierced their noses with hoops. They removed their claws and wore a muzzle with a chain around their necks. As they grew older, they became more tyrannical. While carrying them to the festivals, they dragged them with a ring on their nose. Fortunately, in the 1970s, torture ceased to be legal, and they returned to their natural habitat.





## Poem

Μια μικρή αρκουδίτσα  
όμορφη σαν καραμελίτσα.  
Ήτανε πολύ ζωηρή  
σαν ποντικάκι στην αυλή.

Την άνοιξη ξυπνούσε ορεξάτη  
με άδειο το στομαχάκι  
και το χειμώνα με μεγάλη κοιλίτσα  
έπεφτε για ύπνο, η μικρή αρκουδίτσα.

**Άννα Χατζηιορδάνου – Ιωάννα Καζαντζίδου**

A little teddy bear  
beautiful as a candy.  
She was lively  
like a mouse in the yard.

In spring she woke up hungry  
with an empty stomach  
and in winter with a big belly  
the little teddy bear was falling asleep.

**Anna Chatziordanou - Ioanna Kazantzidou**

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# Callistos' myth

In Greek mythology we have the myth of Kallistos, which explains how the constellations of the Little and the Great Bear were created.

*The myth goes as follows:*

Once, they say, Zeus fell in love with the nymph Callisto. After chasing her and making her his own, she gave birth to a son, Arkas, a great hero of Arcadia. But all this provoked the wrath of Hera, the wife of Zeus, who transformed her into a bear, to punish her, while in another version Artemis is the one who transforms Callisto into a bear. When Arkas grew up, one day he went hunting in the forest and there he found Callisto - a bear, who, despite her transformation maintained the human thought. He aimed at her with his bow, not knowing who she was and he was ready to kill her. Then Zeus transformed Arkas into a cub to recognize his mother.

Fearing, however, the wrath of Hera, he finally decided to carry them up to the sky like constellations.

Thus, the Little and the Great Bear were created. And there, next to them, a guard stands to protect them. It is the star Arcturos.



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# The two friends and the bear

Once upon a time, two friends were walking on the same road, through mountains and valleys. Although he was in an unknown place, the man felt safe because he was sure that his friend would help him face any danger came up in front of them.

As they were walking and talking to pass the time, suddenly a bear appeared in front of them, in the middle of the path. One man ran quickly to a nearby tree, grabbed a branch and climbed. So he managed to escape from the bear that did not see him.

The other man stood motionless for a moment and then fell to the ground in order to pretend to be dead. The wild beast immediately ran over the man who was on the ground, in order to grab its prey. With its crooked claws, it lifted the unfortunate man off the ground.

The man's legs and arms had become, from fear, so stiff and icy that the bear thought it had indeed found a dead body. So, despite its anger, it left the man and went away to its nest.

When the other person felt safe since he could not see the bear, he came down from the tree and asked his partner, being smart as well:

***"Tell me, my friend, what did the bear tell you while you were lying down, trembling with fear? It must have told you about many things in this long discussion. "***

And the other man answered back to him:

***"The bear told me not to travel with friends who leave me in time of danger."***

Aesop



# Jokes with bears



1. The bear makes a list of the animals that are bothering her and has to kill.

The bear meets the fox:

- Is what I heard about the list true? asks the fox.

- Yes.

- Am I in, too?

- Yes, says the bear and kills her. The bear meets the lion.

- Is what I heard about the list true? asks the lion.

- Yes.

- Am I in, too?

- Yes, says the bear and kills it. The bear meets the hare.

- Is what I heard about the list true? The hare asks.

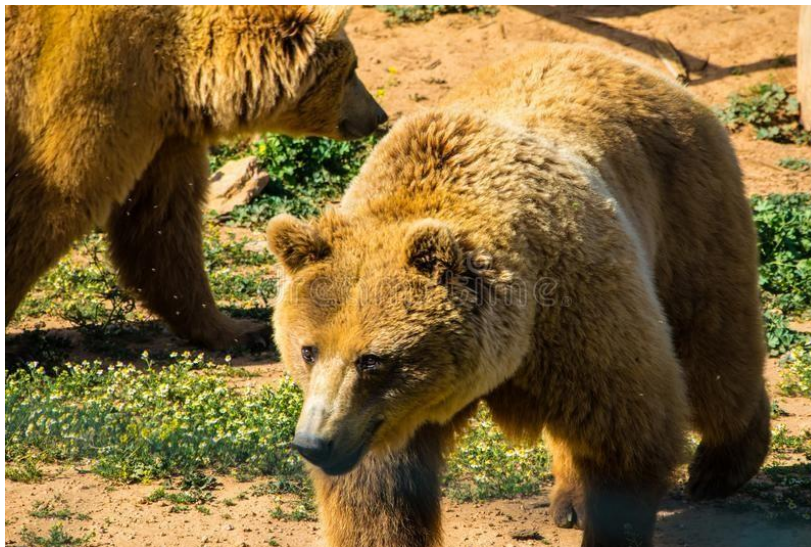
- Yes.

- Am I in, too?

- Yes, says the bear.

- Can you delete me?

- Of course!





## 2. Two bear hunters discuss:

- "How do you manage to catch so many bears?" one asks.
- "Ah...it's so simple", says the other, "Bears are stupid. All you have to do is find their cave, go inside and shout: "Wow...."

Then you hear her shouting "Wow", too.

You are waiting for it to come close to see its eyes shine, pick up the gun, mark between them and shoot! This is it! The bear is killed "

- "Indeed", says the other and directly, goes out hunting and suddenly wakes up in the hospital crumpled!
- "What happened to you?" his friend asked.
- "Well," he answered, "I found, as you told me, the cave, I went in and shouted, "Wow" and I heard "Wow" ..I went ahead and as you told me, I saw the eyes shining ..excited, I shouted again "Wow" and I heard "Wow" again. I waited... and as soon as I saw her eyes got very close, I picked up the gun, marked, shouted and then ...the train comes out!!!! "







## Proverbs with bears

- ❖ A hungry bear doesn't dance.
- ❖ It is cold like a polar bear.
- ❖ You will be beaten by a bear.
- ❖ Whatever the bear man does, it's also done by his monkey.
- ❖ Ugly bear, with fat paws.
- ❖ Instead of a rabbit, he took out a bear.
- ❖ The bear's fur cannot be silk.
- ❖ A bear that dances in your neighbor's house might soon dance in yours.
- ❖ The bear was sent to be a guard and destroyed the forest.
  
- ❖ If you remove the harness from the bear, you will find out if it is calm or wild.
- ❖ It doesn't make a difference whether you are eaten by a donkey or a bear.
- ❖ The good pear is eaten by the bear.



# ΑΚΡΟΣΤΙΧΙΔΑ

ΓΝΩΣΤΑ ΑΣΤΕΡΙΑ ΣΤΟΝ ΟΥΡΑΝΟ ....

ΣΤΑ ΒΟΥΝΑ ΤΗΣ .... ΖΕΙ Η ΑΡΚΟΥΔΑ

ΑΓΑΠΗΜΕΝΟ ΦΡΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΚΟΥΔΑ ΤΟ ...

ΖΕΙ ΨΗΛΑ ΣΤΑ ....

ΛΕΓΕΤΑΙ ΧΕΙΜΕΡΙΟΣ ....

ΚΡΥΒΕΤΑΙ ΜΕΣΑ ΣΤΟ ....

ΓΕΝΝΑΕΙ 2-3 ....

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# Κρυπτόλεξο

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Υ	Ζ	Χ	Η	Ε	Τ	Υ	Π	Ν	Ο
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## ΟΡΙΖΟΝΤΙΑ

1. ΑΡΣΕΝΙΚΟ
2. ΘΗΛΑΣΤΙΚΟ
3. ΜΕΛΙ
4. ΔΑΣΟΣ
5. ΒΟΥΝΑ
6. ΡΟΔΟΠΗ
7. ΥΠΝΟ

## ΚΑΘΕΤΑ

1. ΑΡΚΟΥΔΑ
2. ΣΠΗΛΙΑ
3. ΠΙΝΔΟΣ



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# Children' s literature

1. **«Me, the brown bear»** - Neoi Akrites Publications
2. **«The bear, Theodore, the Monk and the animals»** - Agyra Publications , George Sfikas.
3. **«A year with the bear and the animals of the forest»** - Patakis Publications, A. Bertino.
4. **«The teddy bear»** - Ikaros Publications
5. **«Teddy bear, come to the farm »** - Ianos Publications
6. **«The teddy bear goes on vacations»** - Ianos Publications, Davis Benjy
7. **«Goldilocks and the three bears»** - Dioptra Publications
8. **«Oscar, the little teddy bear»** - Giampiris Publications-Pyramid.
9. **«The angry teddy bear»** - Saitis Publications
10. **«A day with the teddy bear»** - Malliaris Publications-Anna Michidi.
11. **«The teddy bear and the Blondie»** - Metaixmio Publications-Anna Michidi
12. **«Paddington , the teddy bear»** -Psychogios Publications – Michael Bond
13. **«The teddy bear»** - Kastanioti Publications –Tasoula Tsilimeni

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## Movies with bears



1. **My brother is a bear**
2. **The polar bear and the invincibles**
3. **Paddington1-2**

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# The editorial team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Primary School of Diavata 2020-2021

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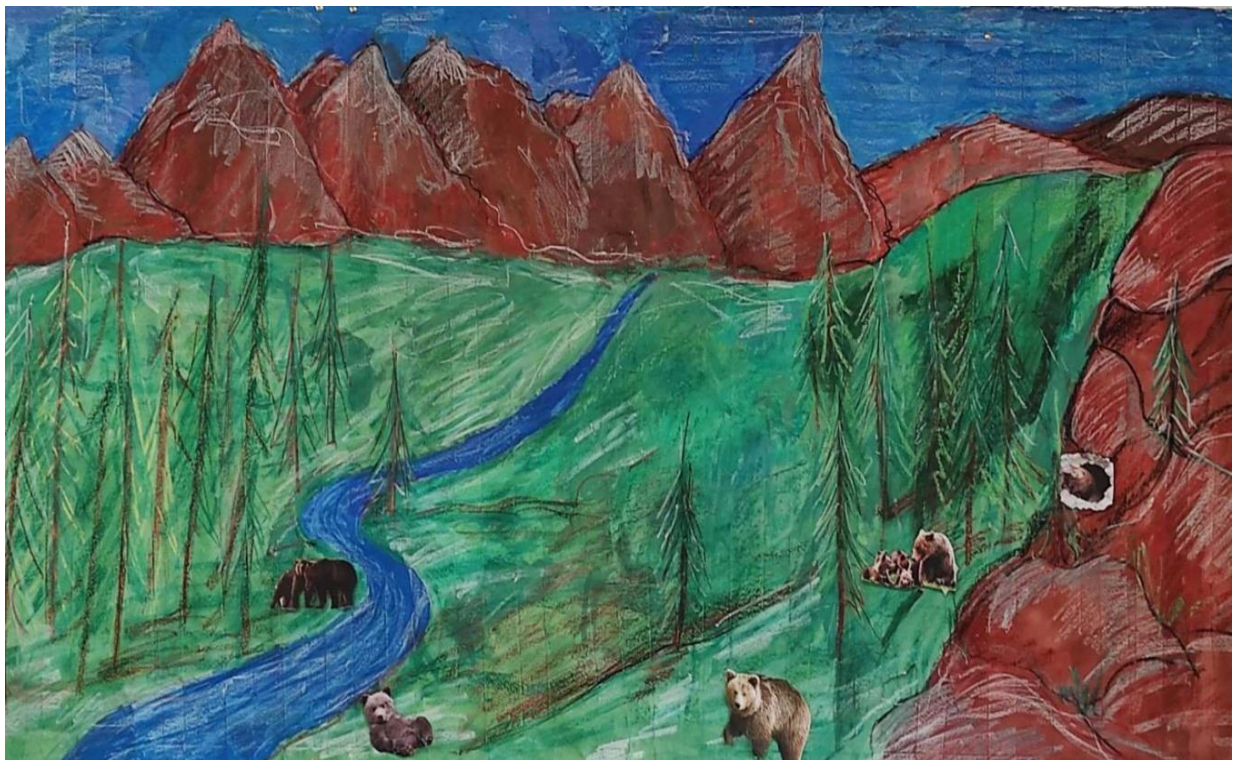


# The Editorial Teams in Action !!!





## Students' Drawings



**Many thanks to Mrs. Eleni Zeftaki for her valuable help.**



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**Thank you so much for the lovely moments we had with you!!!**

**Your teachers**

Ioannis Iliadis – Evaggelia Mparziga