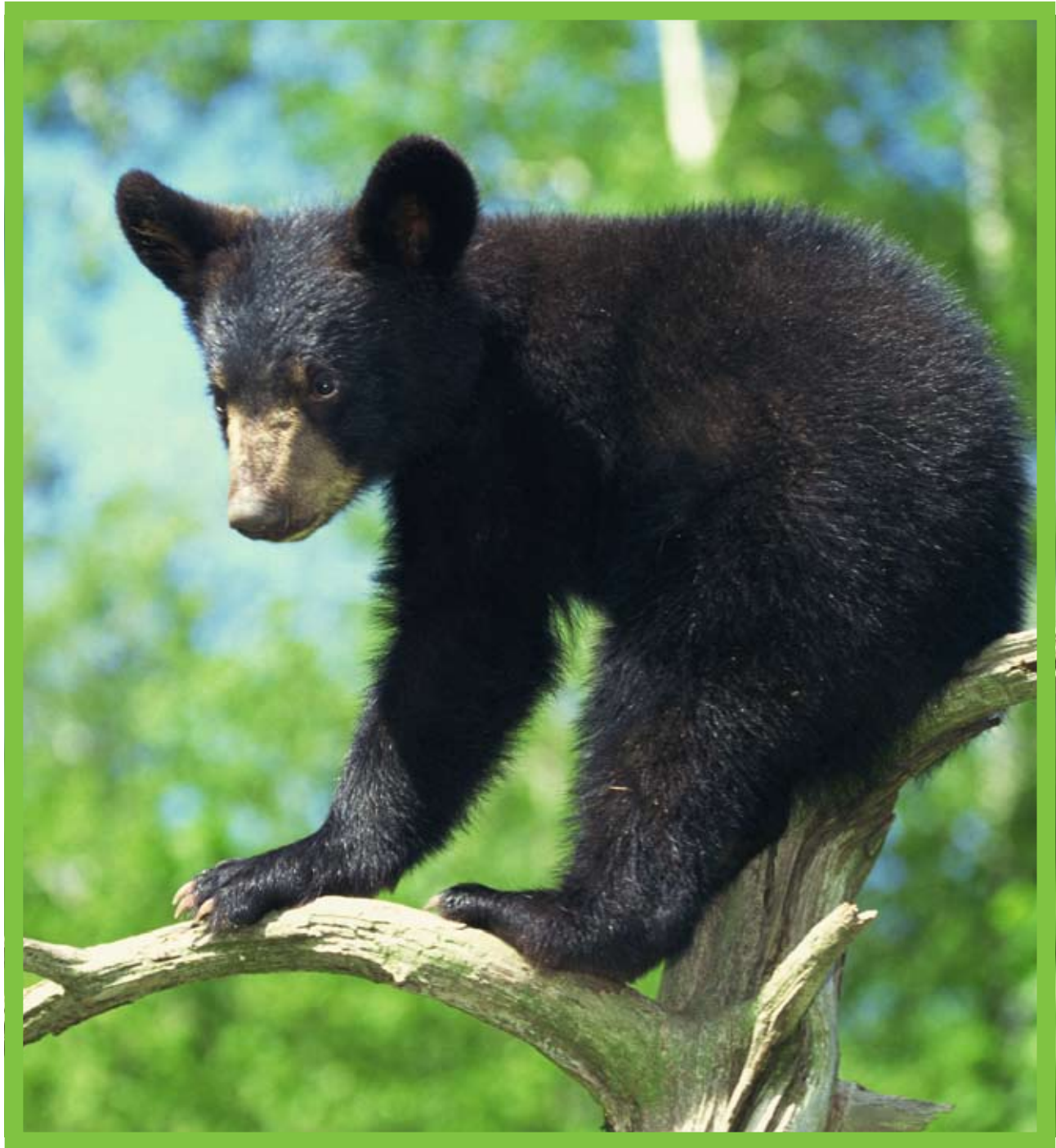


BEARS

Black bear cub up a tree

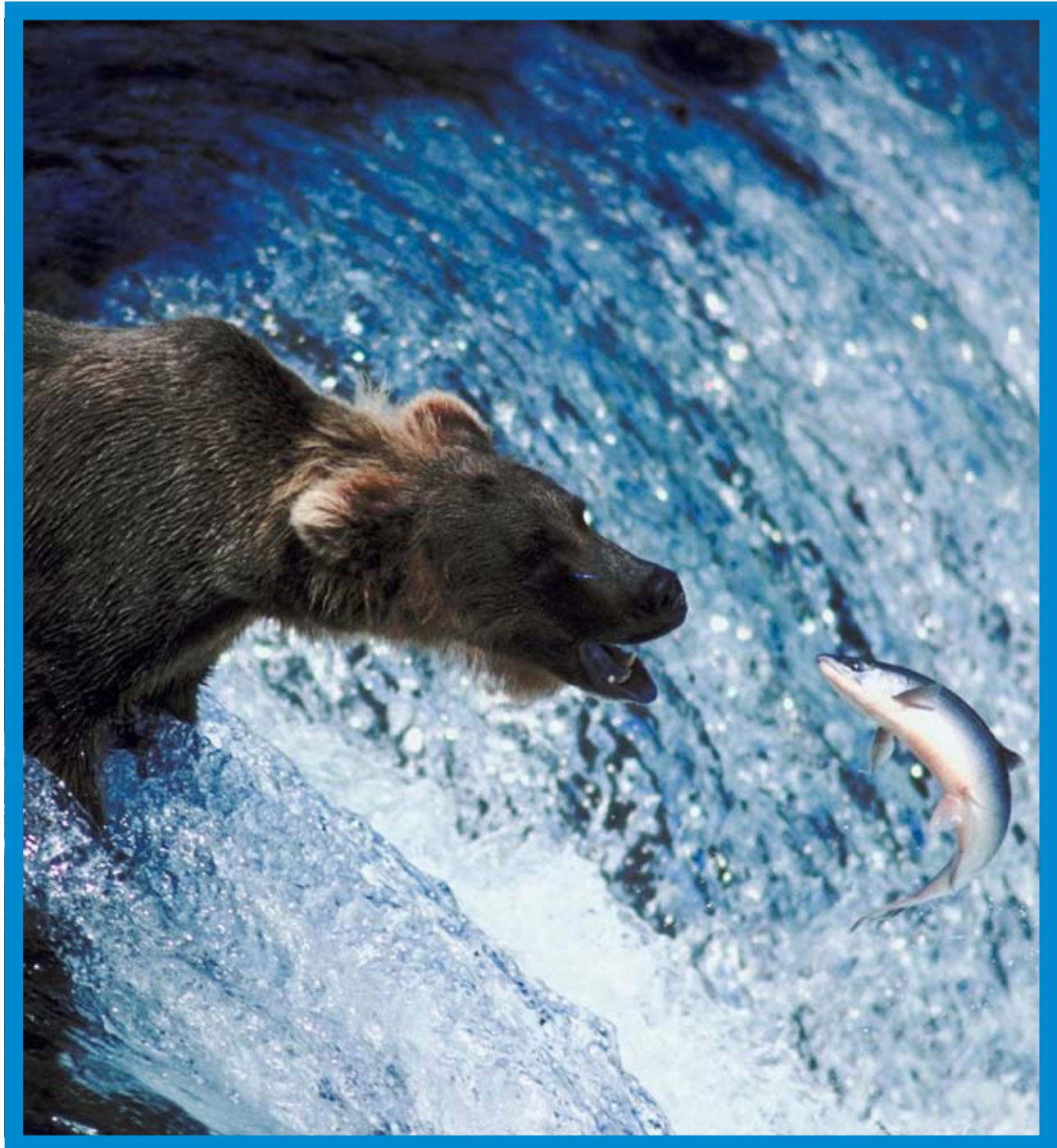
Black bears live in America and Asia in dense forests. They have thick black fur, lighter brown snouts and a white crescent shaped chest marking. They have strong claws for climbing trees, opening termite mounds and peeling bark. They eat insects, honey, fruit, berries, fish and small animals. They sleep in dens in hollow logs and caves in the winter and wake up on milder days to search for food. They are good swimmers and can run fast.



BEARS

Brown bear catching fish

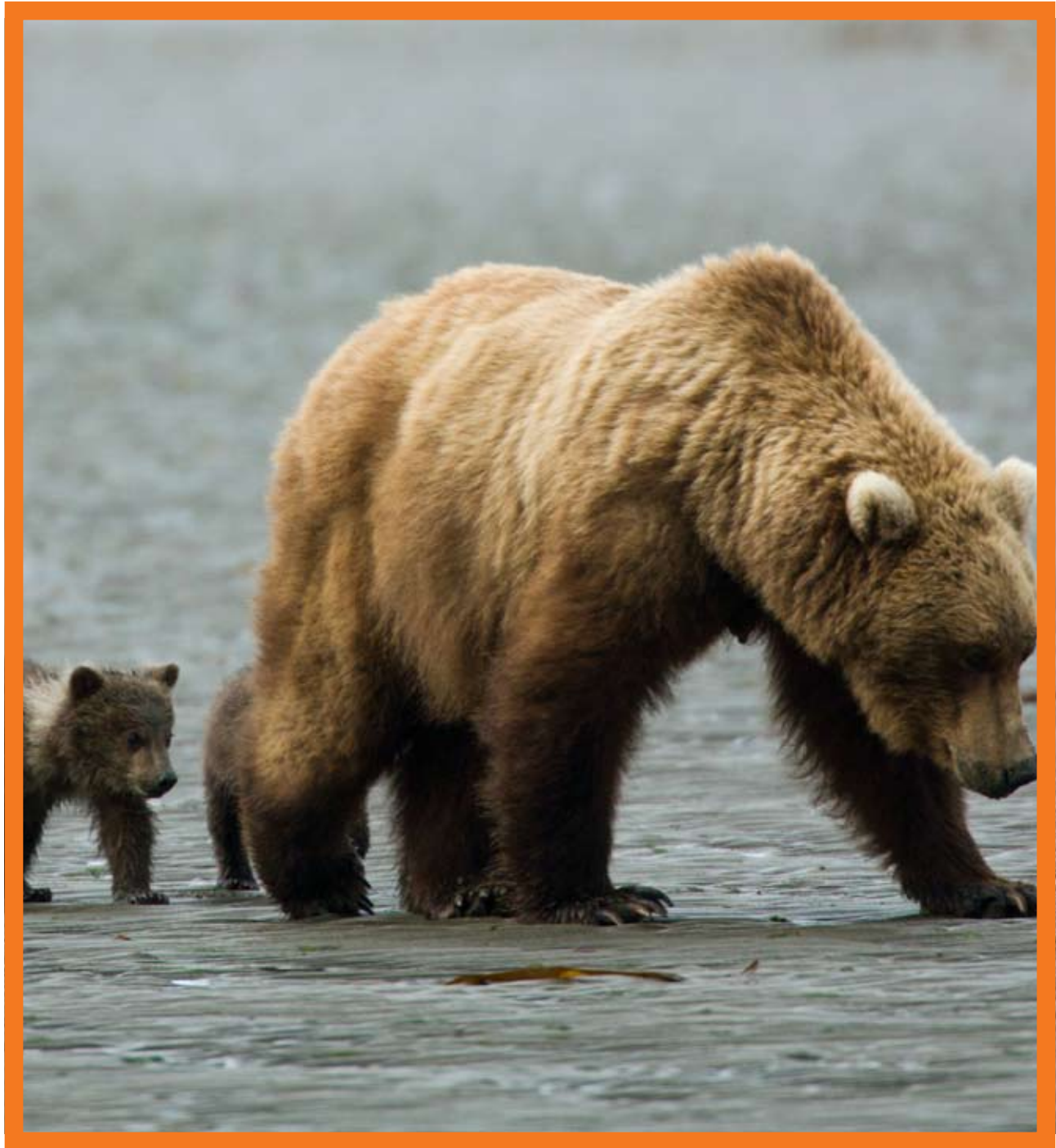
Brown bears in Coastal Alaska spend long hours patiently waiting at the mouth of streams ready to catch returning salmon. Young salmon hatch from eggs in streams and swim into the ocean where they grow into adults. After several years they return to the same streams to lay their eggs. As the salmon leap in the air to get higher up the stream, the Brown bears are waiting, ready to catch them in mid-air.



BEARS

Brown bear and cub

Brown bear mothers become pregnant before winter and their cubs are born while they hibernate in their dens. The cubs drink milk from their mothers and grow strong. When their mothers wake up, the cubs are ready to explore the dangerous outside world. They stay close to their mothers who protect them fiercely. When they are two to three years old, the cubs are ready to leave their mothers and live on their own.



BEARS

Giant panda

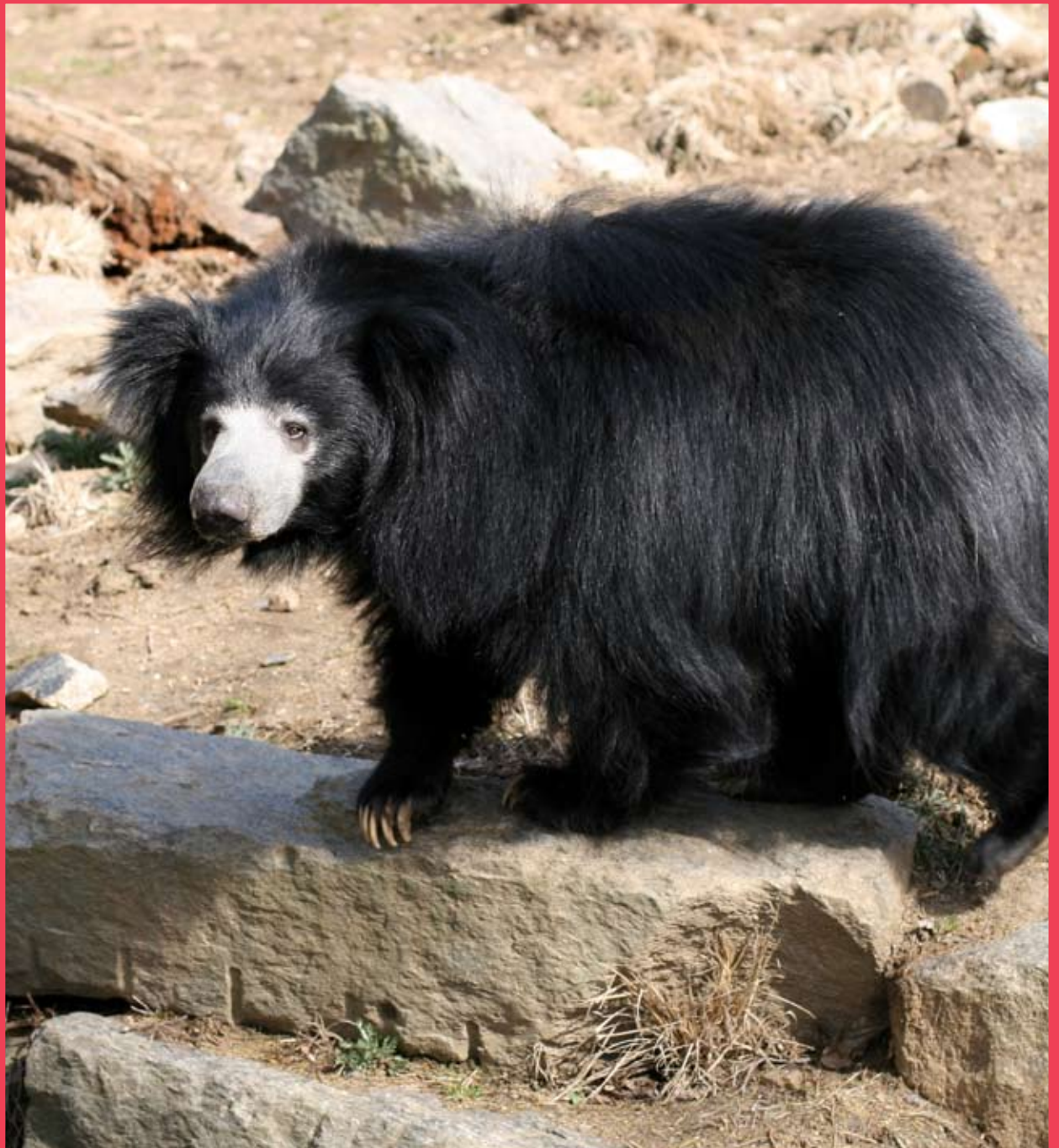
Pandas are very rare and live in mountain forests in China. They eat mainly bamboo branches and leaves. They are white with distinctive black ears, eye patches, legs, feet, chest and shoulders. They have six digits on their front paws. Pandas spend most of their time eating because bamboo is not very nourishing and so they need to eat a lot of it. To help them they have very strong jaws and teeth.



BEARS

Sloth bear

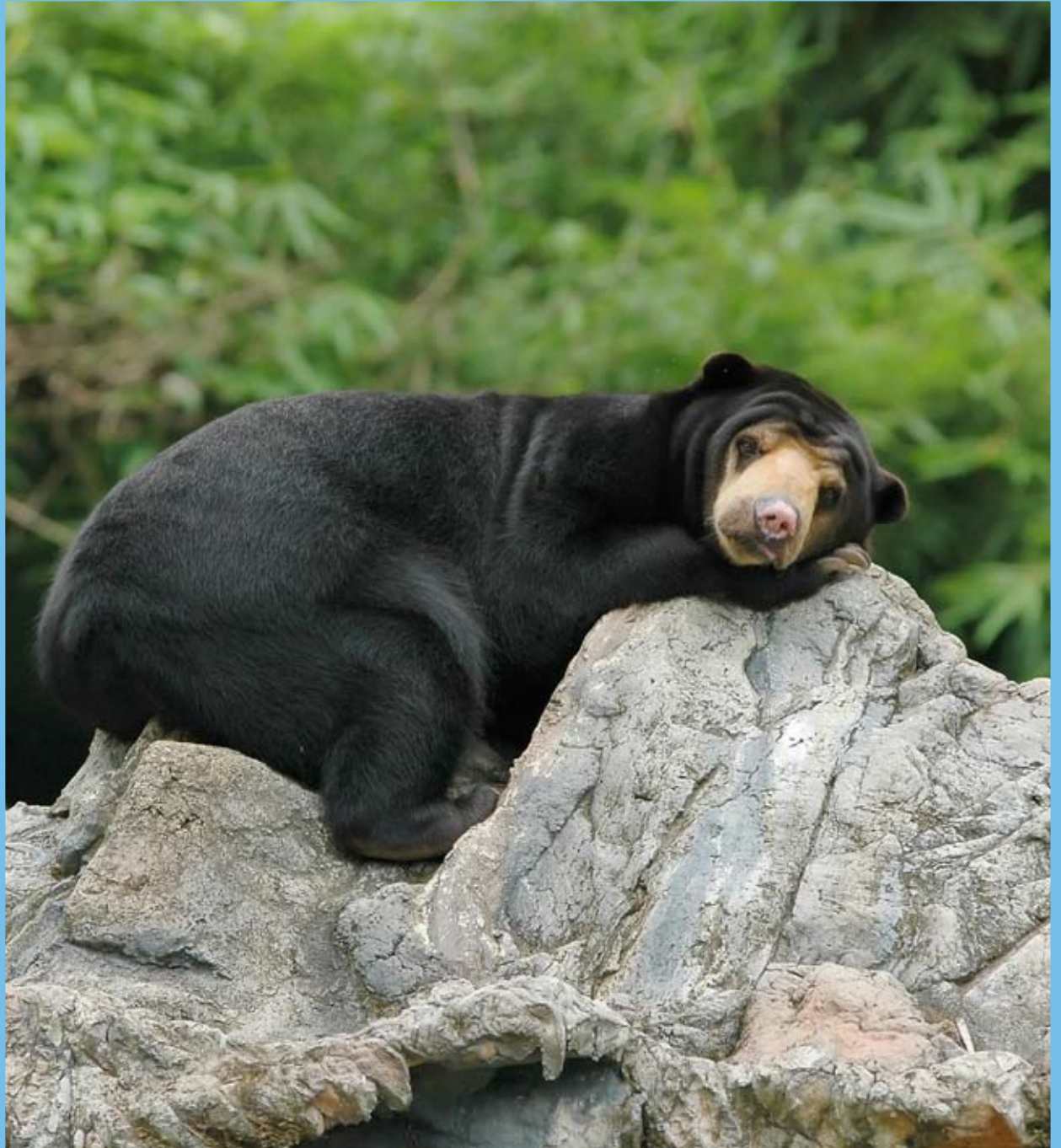
Sloth bears live mainly in India and Sri Lanka. They resemble sloths in that they hang upside down from branches and carry their babies on their backs. They have black shaggy coats with a white 'Y'-shaped chest marking. They love eating termites and have hairless lips with gaps in their teeth and long tongues for sucking them out of their mounds. They also climb trees in search of fruit. Sloth bears do not hibernate.



BEARS

Sun bear

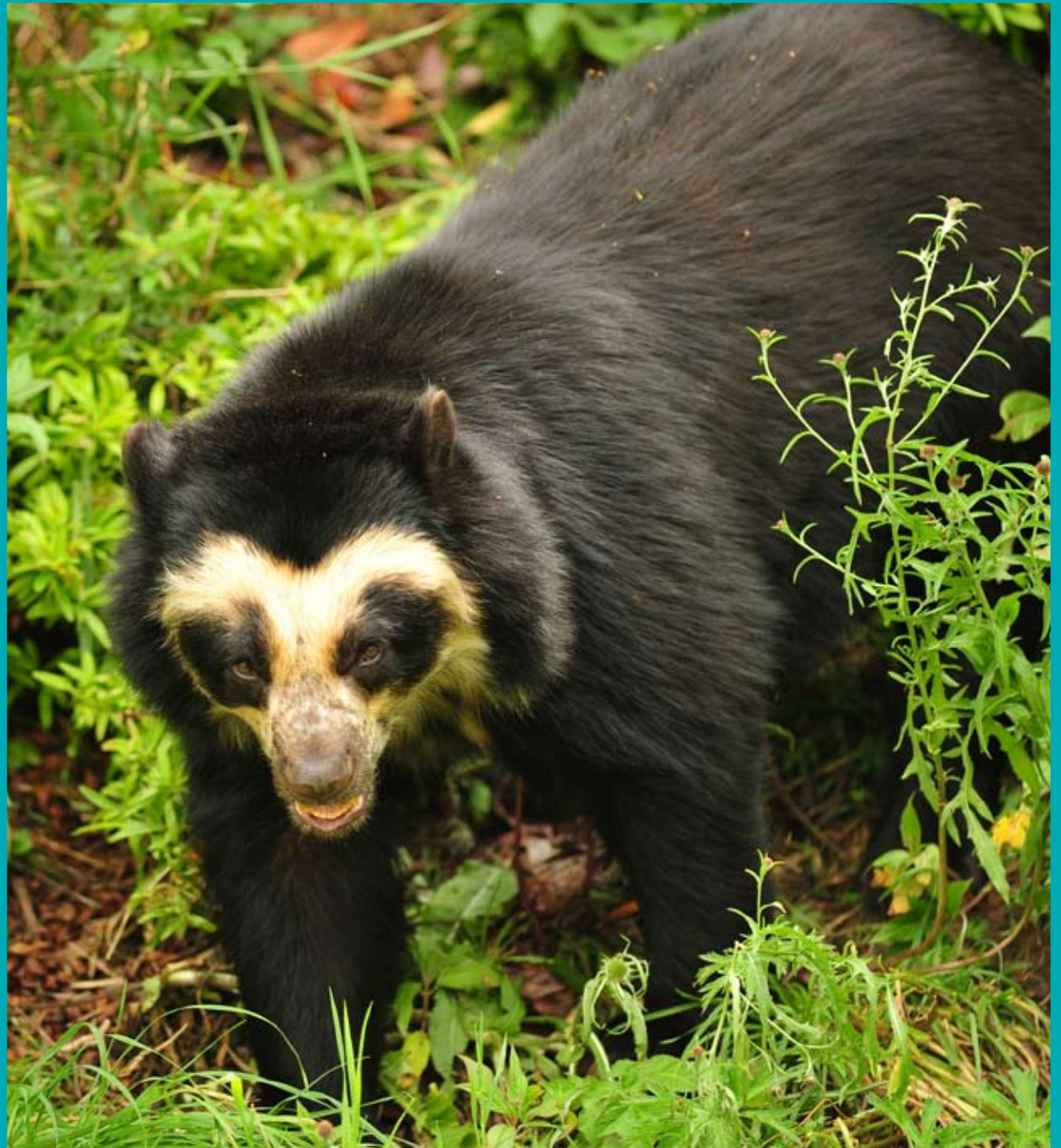
Sun bears are the smallest bears. They live in tropical rainforests in South East Asia and spend their time in trees, sleeping in nests or searching for fruit, berries, insects and small animals to eat. They have short thick black waterproof fur and long tongues which they use to reach honey in beehives. Each bear has a yellow crescent mark on its chest that looks like a rising and setting sun.



BEARS

Spectacled bear

Spectacled bears are rare, shy creatures who live in South America. They prefer being high in the tropical rainforest amongst warm, damp, foggy clouds. Their long claws help them to climb trees where they build big platform nests. They have black to brown shaggy fur and the light coloured rings around their eyes make them look as if they are wearing spectacles. They like eating fruit, plants, flowers and bulbs.



BEARS

Brown bear

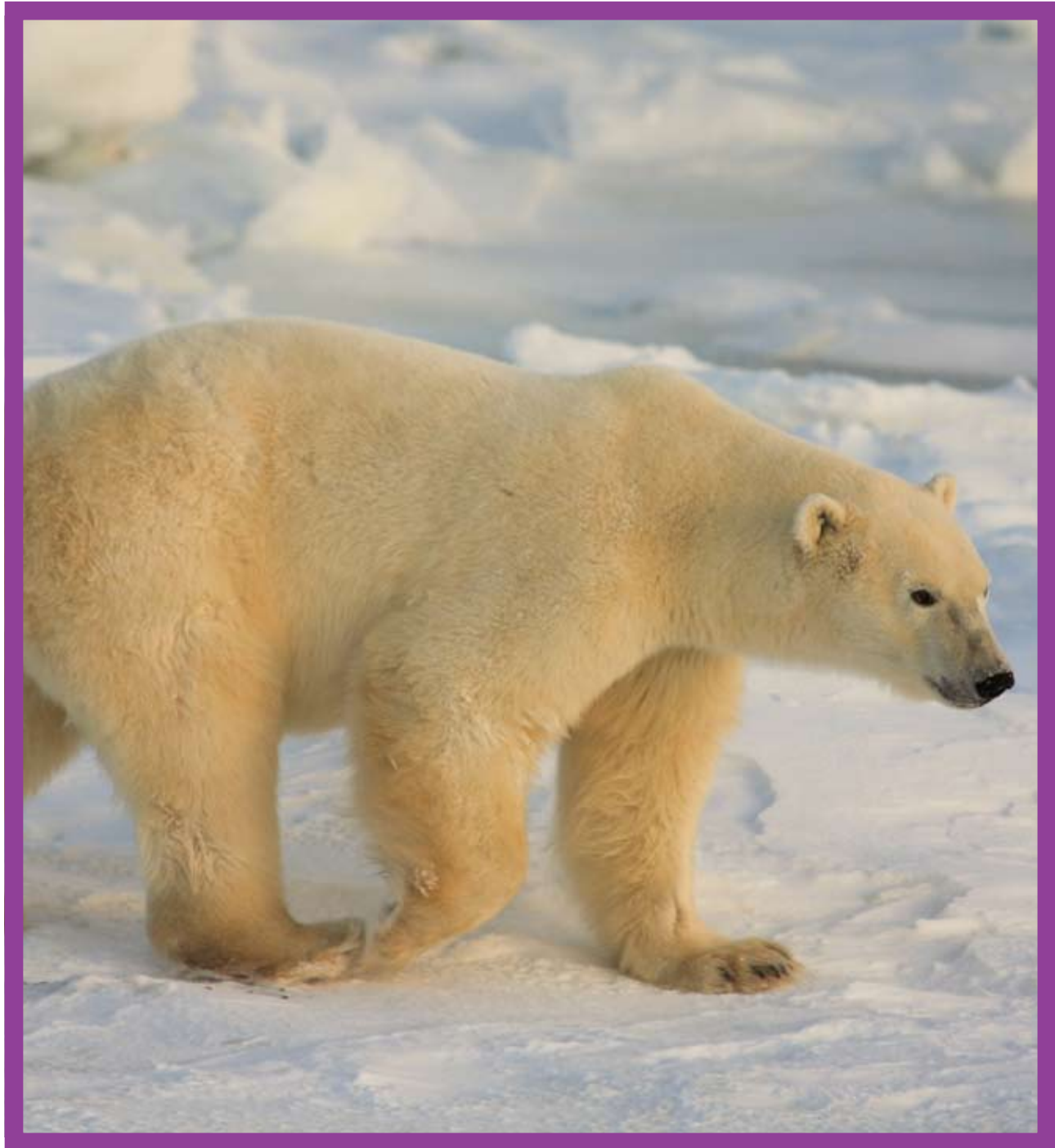
Brown bears are large with distinctive shoulder humps. They live mainly in the wilderness regions of Columbia and Alaska but are also found in Europe, Asia, Japan and Canada. They have under-fur to keep them warm and this fur is shed in summer so that they look quite shaggy and are known as 'Grizzly bears'. They eat plants and animals and their diet varies with the seasons. They have powerful claws to dig for food and make winter dens.



BEARS

Polar bear

Polar bears are one of the largest bears in the world. They live in the Arctic Circle where they kill and eat seals. They also enjoy seaweed, berries and grass in the summer. They have huge webbed front paws and strong muscular hind legs for swimming. Their two layers of hair and under-fur, and the layer of fat under their skin, helps to keep them warm and dry – even in icy water.



BEARS

Teddy bear

Teddy bears first appeared over 100 years ago. They were named after an important American man, President Theodore Roosevelt, whose nickname was 'Teddy'. A shop owner saw a cartoon of the president in a newspaper showing him being kind to a bear. The shop owner made a stuffed bear and put it in his shop window with a sign saying 'Teddy's bear'. Since then teddies have become popular toys with both children and collectors.

