

The American Black Bear, Brinton's mascot, is the most common bear species native to North America. From Alaska to Mexico, the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic, this bear lives throughout much of the continent; it lives in 41 of the 50 U.S. states.

The American Black Bear ranges in length from 5 to 6 feet and is about 2.5 to 3 feet tall. When standing up on its hind legs a Black Bear can reach up to 7 feet tall. Some bears can weigh as much as 660 pounds and the largest ever recorded was from North Carolina weighing 881 pounds.

These bears have small eyes, rounded ears, a long snout, large body, and a short tail. They have an excellent sense of smell. The American Black Bear comes in many different colors depending on where it lives. They usually have shaggy black hair but some are chocolate-brown, cinnamon-brown, and blonde. They occasionally have a slight V-shaped white chest blaze.

You can not out run a Black Bear because they can run at speeds up to 30 miles per hour and they are also very good swimmers.