

Andean Bear Quiz Answers



Andean Bear Quiz



Bubu, an orphaned Andean bear cub in rehabilitation in Ecuador, getting ready to be liberated, has his own profile on Facebook.

In October 2010 Bubu held his “Big Event” to raise awareness of the Andean bear. This quiz was developed for the Big Event.

The quiz questions (without answers) can be found at www.andeanbear.org/bear-quiz-questions.pdf

Learn more about Bubu at www.andeanbear.org/bear-cub-bubu.html or by friending him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bubu.bear.ecuador



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Quiz Questions & Answers – Part 1

1. **Where do Andean bears live?** In a range along the Andes Mountains, from northwest Venezuela through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and into northwest Argentina.
2. **What is the difference between a spectacled bear and an Andean bear?** None, they are the same species.
3. **Can Andean bears swim?** Yes, they are good swimmers.
4. **Are Andean bears aggressive towards humans?** No, they are timid and shy and avoid contact with humans.
5. **Are Andean bears bigger or smaller than polar bears?** Smaller
6. **What are the main threats to the survival of the Andean bear?** Deforestation, habitat loss, human-bear conflict, low genetic diversity.
7. **Do Andean bears eat worms?** Yes.
8. **Are Andean bears nocturnal?** No, they are active from dawn until dusk. (You may find that some sources state that they are nocturnal, this is not correct. It is based on the assumption that because you don't see them during the day, they are not awake. This is not true. The reason you don't see them during the day is because they are avoiding you!)



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Quiz Questions & Answers – Part 2

9. **What predator is the biggest threat to an Andean bear?** Man. Pumas may attack small bear cubs, but adult bears have no natural predators. Humans kill Andean bears to stop them eating crops or attacking livestock, for sport, for meat or for bear parts for “medicine”. Killing Andean bears is illegal.
10. **Do Andean bear cubs make good pets?** Certainly not. They are wild animals, and it is illegal to keep them in captivity without special permits.
11. **Is Paddington Bear an Andean bear?** Yes, he must be because he comes from deepest darkest Peru, and the Andean bear is the only bear species anywhere in South America.
12. **Can Andean bears climb rock faces?** Yes, they are excellent climbers.
13. **Do all Andean bears have spectacles?** No, the face markings are different on each bear and some only have partial “spectacles”, or even no face markings at all.
14. **When do Andean bears hibernate?** They don’t, they are active all year round. The areas where they live have food available all year round.
15. **Can orphaned Andean bear cubs be safely released back into the wild without rehabilitation?** No. They could be attacked by predators such as pumas, they won’t know what to eat, they need their mother’s milk while they are tiny, and if they have lost their fear of humans they are at risk of being killed by a startled person who doesn’t realize that they’re not aggressive.
16. **Are Andean bears bigger or smaller than sun bears?** Bigger



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Quiz Questions & Answers – Part 3

17. **Are Andean bears vegetarian?** No. Although their diet includes a lot of vegetable matter, they are omnivorous and also eat insects, small animals and any carrion (dead meat) that they find. They are capable of catching and killing animals such as rabbits or even larger animals. They are classed in the order carnivora, i.e. they are carnivores.
18. **Is the Andean bear an endangered species?** Yes. It is listed as “Vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List across its range, and “Endangered” in Ecuador.
19. **Do Andean bears live in groups?** No, they are mostly solitary. The cubs stay with their mothers while they are young, but adult bears don’t usually spend time together.
20. **Is it legal to trade Andean bears or bear parts?** No. The Andean bear is listed in Appendix I of CITES, which means it is illegal to trade specimens or parts.
21. **Do Andean bears kill cows?** A very few of the larger males have been known to do so. Most Andean bears don’t.
22. **How long can an Andean bear live?** Up to 35 or 40 years in captivity, though most wild Andean bears probably don’t live longer than about 20 years.
23. **Which Andean bear in Ecuador has his own webpage, Facebook profile and Zazzle store?** Bubu! www.andeanbear.org/bear-cub-bubu.html, www.facebook.com/bubu.bear.ecuador , www.zazzle.com/Andean_Bear_Bubu*
24. **Do Andean bears poo in the woods?** Of course!



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Why are we doing all this?

The Andean bear, *Tremarctos ornatus*, also known as the spectacled bear, is shy and elusive and found only in South America. Andean bears are endangered, but are one of the lesser-known of the 8 bear species. Nobody even knows how many Andean bears there are left. Habitat destruction and illegal hunting are the major threats to the Andean bear. Small bear populations become isolated when their forest home is fragmented by expansion of agriculture and cattle farming. They have low genetic diversity and can become inbred, which makes them more vulnerable to extinction.

The Andean Bear Foundation is researching spectacled bears in Ecuador, to try to understand enough about their ecological needs to produce a management plan to prevent them from becoming extinct.

The Foundation also rescues orphaned cubs like Bubu, rehabilitates them and returns them to the wild. This helps to improve genetic diversity of the Andean bear population in the area, as well as giving captive bears a second chance of freedom.

The Foundation receives no funding from the Ecuadorian government, so we rely on donations and volunteers to continue this important work.



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How can you help?

- Friend Bubu on Facebook
www.facebook.com/bubu.bear.ecuador
- Volunteer in Ecuador
www.andeanbear.org/volunteer.html
- Shop at Bubu's Zazzle Store
www.zazzle.com/Andean_Bear_Bubu*
- Donate to the Andean Bear Foundation
www.andeanbear.org/donate.html



Thank you!



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