



Fat Bear Week 2025

1

Introduce the Article and Key Vocabulary

Talk with students about what they will learn from the article.
Introduce vocabulary to them using the descriptive teaching method.

Example: We will be talking about Fat Bear Week. This event is held every year at the Katmai National Park in Alaska. Alaska is the biggest and coldest state in the US. More than 2,000 brown bears live at Katmai. The competition is to see which bear in the park will be the fattest bear. Many brown bears will weigh over 1,000 pounds. They eat a lot of food like fruit, nuts, plants, and salmon in order to hibernate all winter long. Salmon are a kind of fish that live in the oceans and rivers. People eat salmon too. People can view the bears at Katmai or watch them online where they can vote to see which bear will weigh the most. Last year the bear that was the fattest was named Grazer. This bear won two times in a row! Who do you think will win the Fat Bear Competition of 2025?

2

Read the Article While you TAAP

As you read the article with students, remember to TAAP: **T**alk about it, **A**sk a question, **A**cknowledge via response, and **P**ropel the conversation or Predict!
(View the TAAP resource on the AAC Language Lab to learn more about the TAAP strategy!)

Sample TAAP words/phrases:

Talk About It	Ask Questions	Acknowledge via Response	Propel the Conversation or Predict
eat heavy big cold watch	What happens during Fat Bear Week? How do bears win? What do bears eat to gain weight? Why do people watch and vote for these bears? How cold does it get in Alaska?	Very nice I think so... You win! Great answer You bear-ly ever get it wrong!	I think... I wonder... Tell me more What else? Let's see What happens



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3

Talk About What you Learned

Summarize the article with students and talk about what they learned. Ask open-ended questions to discuss what everyone thought, and to get them thinking about and reflecting about what they read.

Sample questions for discussion:

What did you learn about Fat Bear Week? How do we know which bears are the contestants? Why do people vote for the bears? Where is Fat Bear Week? Where is Katmai National Park and why do you think all these bears live there? Why do bears need to get so big for the winter? What happens to bears when they hibernate? Why is salmon so important to the bears at Katmai? How do park rangers identify different bears? What can we learn from bears by watching the bears on live cams?

Discussion for Comprehension

4

After reading and summarizing the article with students, use descriptive testing to further discuss the students' understanding of the article. Pose questions in a way that allows the student to answer the question using any word on their device.

Sample Descriptive Testing Questions and responses:

Tell me about Fat Bear Week?	What is it like to be at the Katmai National Park?	How do they determine who wins the competition?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• see big ones eat and catch fish• watch bears eat• outside big park• far away and cold• one who is heavy wins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• outdoors and cold• many different animals• see big bears in water• brown bears want to eat so be careful in outdoors• get lost in big park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• watch and see• weigh each one• see who is the biggest• brown bear eat a lot• get big and slow