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Today's Date

Prompt: Do black and brown bears resent polar bears for being named for their geographical location rather than their skin tone? Discuss.

Wikipedia tells me (in that oh so quiet voice) that there are all kinds of bears. About 19 types just under the Ursinae subfamily alone. Some by region, some by color, some by region and color, some by characteristic, some by who knows what. Florida cave bears, Brazilian short-faced bear (maybe he's got some reason for resentment), Himalayan blue bear, Gobi bear, to name a few. Heck, even the proper common name for black bears is split between American black bear and Asian black bear. Polar bears can hardly be singled out. Of course, given the fact that a mostly normal person would only think of brown, black, grizzly, panda, polar, care, and maybe koala bears (though they'd be thinking wrong), it's easy to reason that black and brown bears aren't aware of all the varieties either. It's not like they have these annual interspecies family reunions to meet their distant cousins (although if they did, they might resent it).

shhh

gummi

they should totally have bear reunions!

To be a polar bear specifically means to live in the freezing cold all year round. Ever hear of the Polar Bear Club? It's where people swim in near frozen water. It's doubtful black or brown bears would hold any resentment associated to the name polar. They're probably laughing about it, those shadenfreuden animals. Furthermore, black and brown bears already hibernate. American black bears have one of the longest hibernation periods of the any bear in North America. If they lived in the poles, they'd probably be in a coma year round. So they're probably glad to not associate with polar bears.

Polish

Is there even a reason to resent not being named after a location? I can see it being a bad and good thing to be a grizzly. A name that strikes fear, but also sounds a bit appalling. The name panda sounds so unique, other than sharing it's name with an express. You could pull the color card and say being called brown or black bears is racist, but those name were made in an older generation. (Resent old people, not polar bears). But a location doesn't sound all that impressive either, although I've heard of people named Florence, Dakota, and Madrid, and those names do have a nice flow to them. It's really a subjective matter, so let's look into how each breed of bear might react.

orange chicken!

good advice

Are brown or black bears resentful creatures? Wikipedia says this about brown bears (and in way too many words), "Adult male bears are particularly aggressive and are avoided by adolescent and subadult males. Female bears with cubs rival adult males in aggression and more intolerant of other bears than single females. Young adolescent males tend to be least aggressive and have been observed making non-agonistic interactions with each other." Yada, yada, yada. So in one word, brown bears are aggressive (I stand corrected, four words). Even the least aggressive brown bears, young adolescent males, "have been observed" being non-agonistic at

agnostic?
antagonistic?
agonizing?
angora-ic?

times; doesn't that mean they are not aggressive only a minority of the time? Brown bears must be very resentful creatures to be so aggressive, finding fault in everything and everyone and lashing out at it. It's not a stretch to say that if a brown bear and a polar bear walked into a bar and met face to face, they wouldn't be singing Irish jigs (If you were thinking that, then I'm afraid you probably shouldn't be a professor). Surely some windows and tables would need to be replaced the next day (and I'll call you Surely if I want to). Heck, all that wikipedia talk about brown bear aggression was brown bear versus brown bear. Imagine how much a brown bear would hate a different kind of bear.

What about black bears, You ask? "American black bears tend to be territorial and non-gregarious in nature." Well they're saints in comparison with brown bears, but still, to be such a territorial creature, so attached to your land, and yet have the focus of your name be on the color of your fur, that might fester some resentment. But really the wiki-data on the subject is too thin to draw conclusions. Hold on, let me correct that...Yup, now it says "black bears are not resentful of their name, and hold no grudge against polar bears in any way." Well, can't argue with that. *you wikipedia*

And let's not forget Asian *bad drivers* black bears. "They may live in family groups consisting of two adults and two successive litters of young. They will walk in a procession of largest to smallest. They are good climbers of rocks and trees." Well wikipedia doesn't have much to say about how Asian black bears behave with each other or other bears, but I must say that description sure sounds a bit like the Von Trapp family from the Sound of Music. Those kids were hardly resentful, and they were fleeing the Nazis. By correlation, we can't really call Asian black bears resentful creatures. If anything they are musical "Asian black bears have a wide range of vocalisations, including grunts, whines, roars, slurping sounds (sometimes made when feeding) and 'an appalling row'." Well, maybe not musical, but they like to try to sing.

they would be terrible at crew then
Some might argue the reverse argument about resentment for polar bears; that polar bears resent black or brown bears (or both) for being named after what they are, and not after where they're from. *huh!* They might say things such as polar bears are easy to anger (have you seen Lost?), or making a remark about polar bears being bi-polar bears. Those things just aren't true. Polar bears wouldn't hurt a baby seal (unless it was for the good of their stomachs); I've seen those Coca-Cola commercials with the polar bears happily chilling with the seal cub, sharing in the christmas spirits. As for being bi-polar, they're uni-polar because polar bears are only found in North Pole (and some islands). *cider, rum, egg nog*

Well all 4 of those bears seem to be on different gradients of resentment (and brown bears are on the slippery slope). What does it all mean? Nothing. I could go and describe every kind of bear's inclination towards resentment, but it comes down to the simple matter of, would a black bear or brown bear ever know a polar bear exists. Note there's no confusion over which bear is a polar bear, because there's only one kind of bear in the poles (and it's only one of the poles at that). Wikipedia also says (in a more condescending tone), "Bears are overwhelmingly solitary." Well besides playing single player card games, bears tend to live their lives alone, separate from others. They'd be way more resentful of another bear being on their turf than they would be by *I skipped to the end, did I miss anything?*

a name (Follow up question: if bears are rubber, who's glue?). And polar bears never encroach on black bear or brown bears. It stands to reason, black and brown bears resent polar bears the least. Furthermore, while I have heard of circus bears performing dances and tricks, I have yet to find an example of a bear using wikipedia, so bears are likely only gonna find out about other bears on the other side of the mountain, those of which they can see. If bears were using wikipedia, one might to expect to find "BEARZ RULE!" in their artical a little more often.

And for bonus points, why aren't they just called white bears? Ever wonder when you are filling out a questionnaire why it says caucasion instead of white? So have I. I don't live in Caucasus. Polar bears is at least a more correct name than that, so it's barely in the right direction (nudge nudge). *arctic-al?*
say no more

My Expression Given, And -- Argumented With Extreme Scrupulousness Or Maybe Eccentric Braininess Over New, Unusual Speculative Points, Ought Indeed Nearly Totally Suffice.

This crasticle = MET

Bibliography:

1) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear>

2) Sound of Music

2) Because I said so. I'm a trust worthy guy. (Proof: Because I said so. **QED**)

*That was a beary nice essay
(nyuck-nyuck-nyuck)*

--J.W.D.