

## FACT OR FIB?

Grizzly bears enter a deep hibernation state during the winter.

### Evidence

Grizzly bears have traits to help them through the cold winter months when there is not much food to eat. They go into a very deep sleep. Their heartbeat slows to eight beats per minute. They do not drink or pass waste. Their bodies use their own stored fat for **nourishment**. They even turn their own urine into protein! Does this qualify as hibernation?

### IT'S TRUE!



The largest bear ever recorded lived 12,000 years ago and was called the short-faced bear. It was twice the size of bears today. It was about 12 feet (3.7 m) tall while standing.



Grizzly bears eat a lot of salmon to build up their fat for the winter.

### Answer: FIB

Grizzly bears are not true hibernators. True hibernators, such as ground squirrels and wood frogs, stay asleep for the entire winter. This is not true for any species of bear, including grizzlies.

Instead, grizzlies enter a state of deep sleep called **torpor**. They get ready for torpor by eating a lot of food in the fall. They can live off stored body fat during the winter. When they enter their dens, they stay there for most of the winter. Their heart rates and body temperatures drop. Even though they are asleep while in torpor, they will wake up if they hear a loud noise or sense danger.

Grizzly bears will also leave their dens in winter on warm days, but they will go back in quickly. Bears also take care of their new cubs while they are in their dens. This means they are in a light sleep and are aware enough to take care of their young.

**nourishment**—food and other things that are needed to live and be healthy  
**torpor**—inactivity resulting from lack of energy

How much of your brain do you use? Some people believe that they could do extraordinary things if only they could use all of their brain power.

**FACT  
OR  
FIB?**

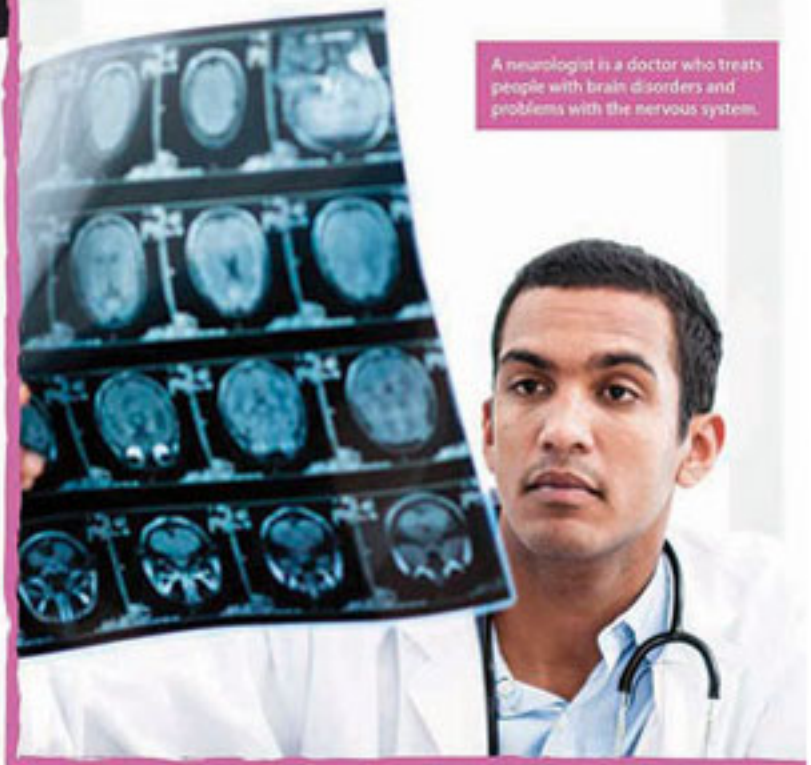
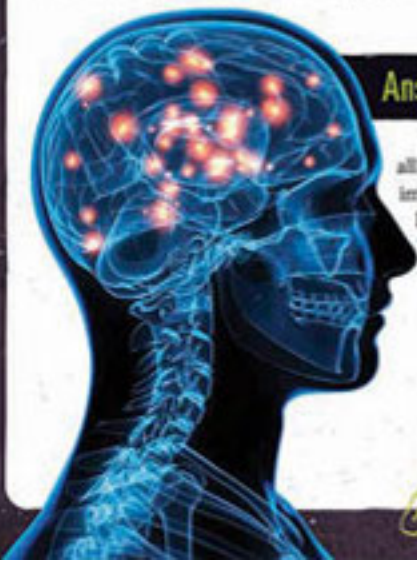
**Humans use only 10 percent of their brain power.**

### Evidence

It is fun to think humans could be smarter if only we could use our entire brains. Many people believe that not using all our brain power explains the genius of people like Einstein. He must have used way more than 10 percent of his brain.

### Answer: FIB

We use all of our brains almost all of the time. Scientists have used imaging technology to show that human brains are active 24 hours a day. Many different regions of the brain work at the same time.



A neurologist is a doctor who treats people with brain disorders and problems with the nervous system.

### IT'S TRUE!

The average human brain weighs about 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms). There is no relationship between brain size and intelligence. People with small brains and large brains have the same amount of intelligence.

Wildfires are also called bushfires or forest fires. They move quickly. With strong winds and dry ground, wildfires generally spread between 9 and 12.5 miles (14.5 and 20 km) per hour. Usually places near a wildfire are evacuated in time for people to get out safely. But this isn't always the case.

**FACT  
OR  
FIB?**

To escape a wildfire, dig a trench that the fire cannot cross.

### Evidence

If people are caught by a wildfire there are ways to survive. One mother and her children found shelter in an animal's burrow. Other people found a large drainage pipe for refuge. They rolled in water for protection. Another man survived by jumping into his swimming pool. Fire spread around him and destroyed his neighbor's home. These people were lucky.

### IT'S TRUE!



According to the U.S. Forest Service, unattended campfires are one of the most common causes of wildfires. Other causes include fireworks, sparks from equipment or vehicles, burning leaves or debris, and cigarettes.

**evacuate**—to leave a dangerous place and go somewhere safer

### Answer: FIB

Wildfires can jump trenches, streams, and even rivers. Hiding in a trench will not necessarily provide safety. There are ways to escape a wildfire. Evacuating immediately upwind, or against the wind, will give the best chance at survival. It is always advised to evacuate ahead of the fire, rather than try to hide.

About 10 percent of wildfires are caused by lightning strikes. Humans cause 90 percent of wildfires.

