

Name: _____
Date: _____
Period: _____

Black Bears and Acorns Writing Prompt

Read the paragraph below and then write its ending sentence(s) by summarizing the important points mentioned.

In the fall of the year, wildlife biologists spend a large portion of their time sampling oak trees. Why you might ask? Well, it seems that bear populations are directly tied to acorn crops. Before going into their winter dens, bears need to put on enough fat to see them through four to six months without eating. To make sure they get enough fat, bears love acorns which are 23% fat. During years with small acorn crops bears will travel hundreds of miles to find food. This often means that bears cause conflicts with humans or get hit by cars as they cross numerous roads. The fat in acorns also helps female bears, sows, as they get ready to have their babies, cubs. Bears mate in the summer, but sows delay the implantation of the embryos in the uterus until after the fall acorn season. If she eats a lot of acorns, she can implant 2, 3, or more embryos and have that many cubs. But in bad years, a sow might re-absorb the embryos and give birth to no young. Since she will keep her young with her for two years, when she is underfed, it is better to not have babies that year, mate again the next year, and then hope for a better acorn crop that fall.
