

Be Bear Aware

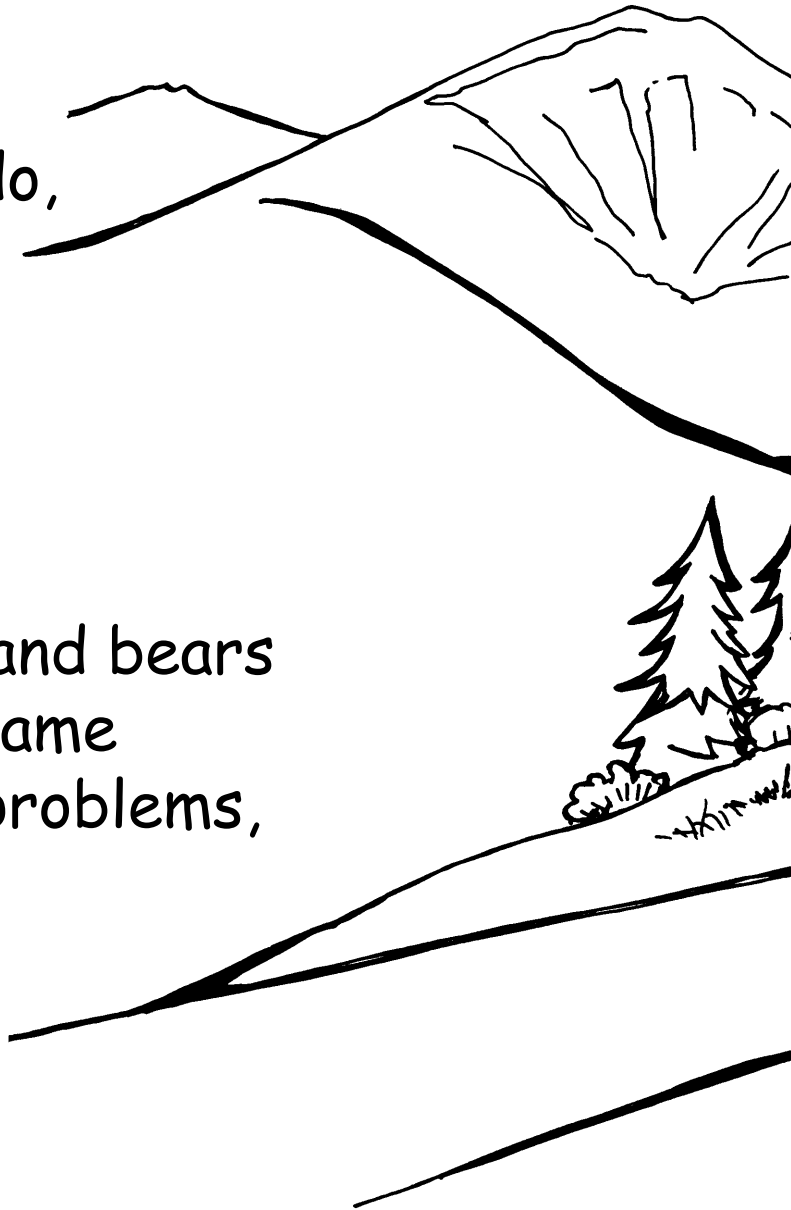


in Colorado Bear Country

If you live in the foothills and mountains of Colorado, you live in bear country!

If you hike and camp in Colorado, chances are you've visited places where bears live, too.

Usually people and bears can share the same space without problems, but not always.

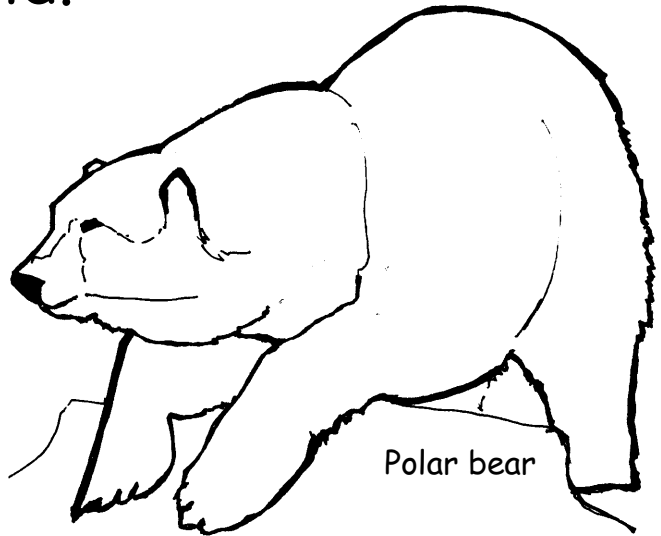


Let's learn more
about bears, and
see what we can do
to keep people and
bears safe.

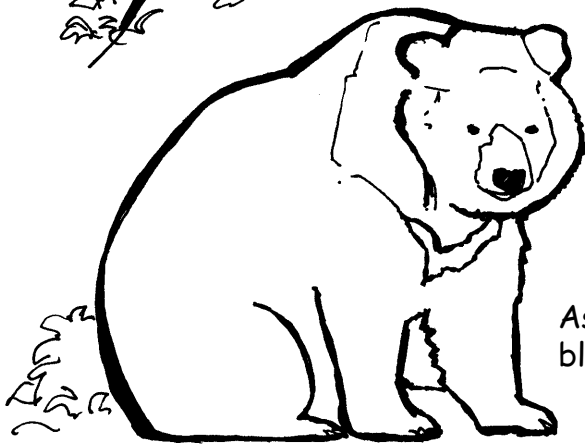


There are many different kinds of bears in the world.

Sun bear

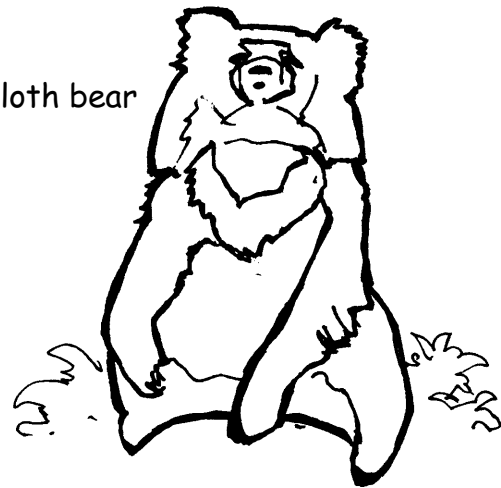


Polar bear



Asiatic black bear

Sloth bear

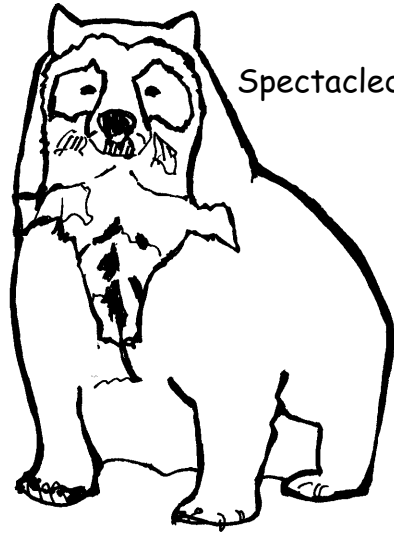


There are 3 different kinds of bears in North America: the polar bear, the brown or grizzly bear, and the American black bear.

Circle the bears you might see in North America.



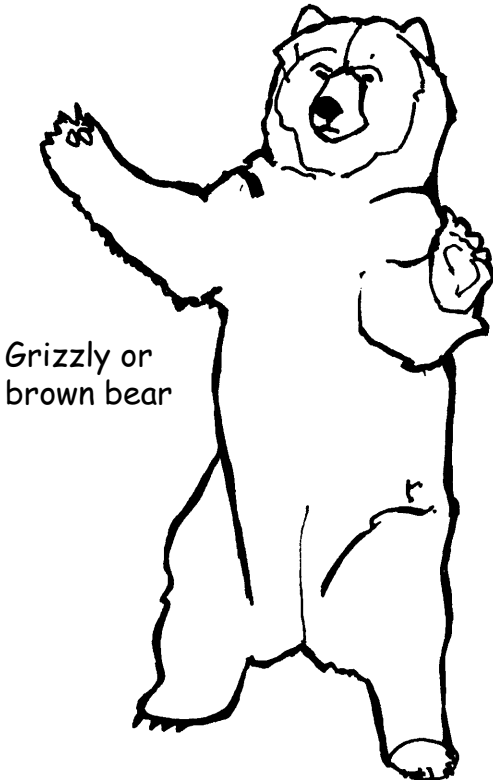
Panda



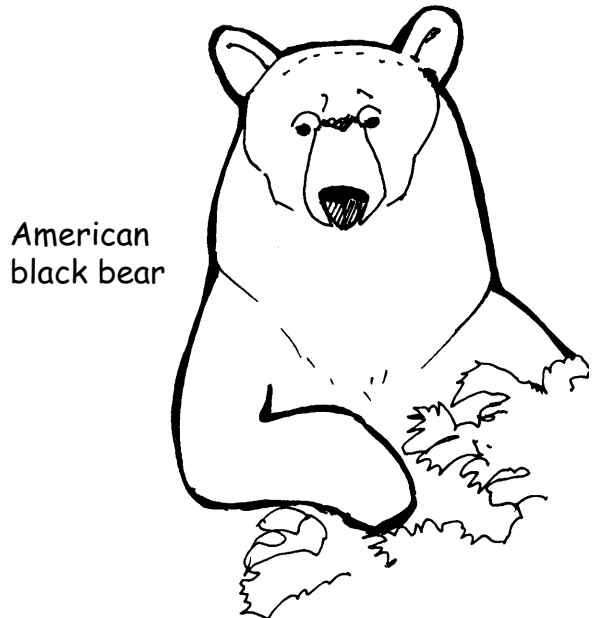
Spectacled bear

Colorado is home to the American black bear.

Put a star by the American black bear!



Grizzly or brown bear

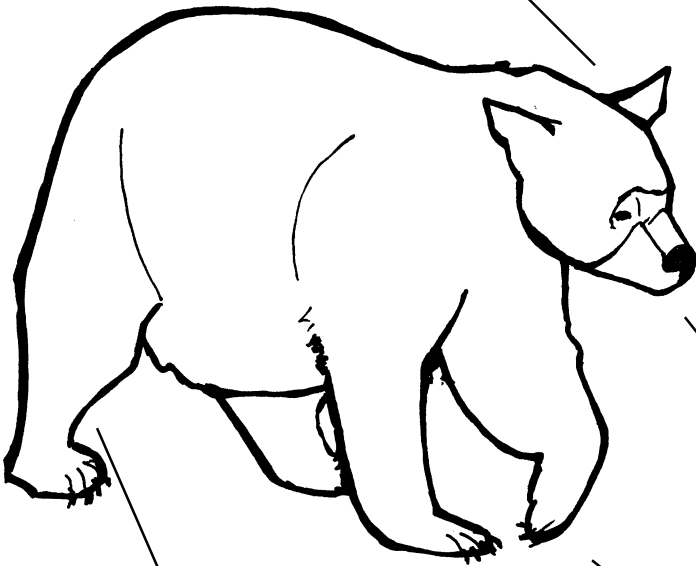


American black bear

What are black bears like?

Bears have
small _____,
but their hearing is
very good.

Bears do not see well.
They have weak
_____.



Bears have very
sensitive

and a keen sense
of smell.

Bears have strong
jaws and sharp
_____.

Bears have powerful

and some can run very
fast.

Bears have long, sharp
_____ which
are good for digging and
scratching.

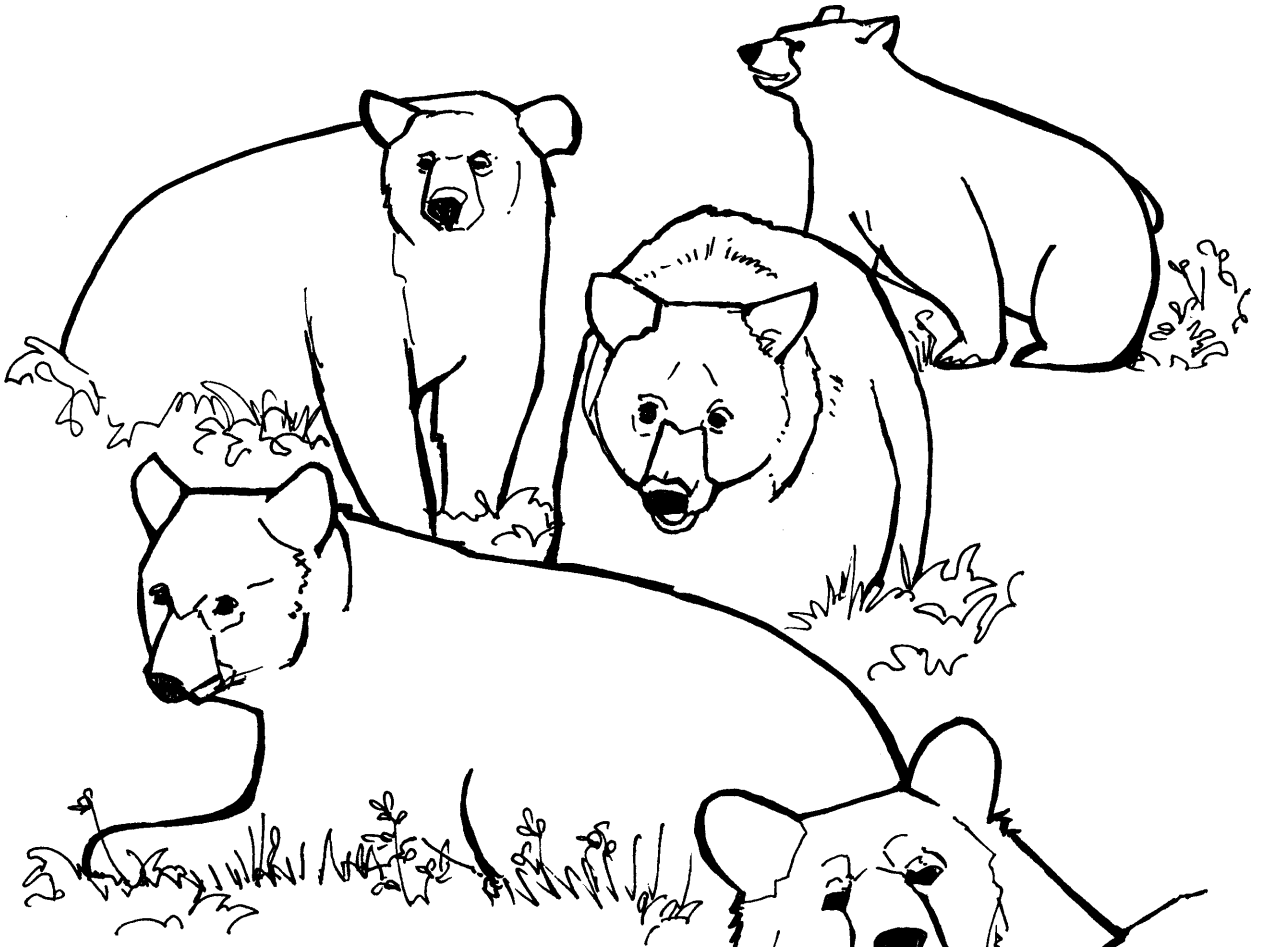
Use these words to fill in the blanks:

claws ears eyes legs noses teeth

Did you know?

Not all black bears are black!

Some are light brown, or dark brown with a light face. Some are the color of cinnamon, and some are almost white!



**Color each of these bears
a different color.**

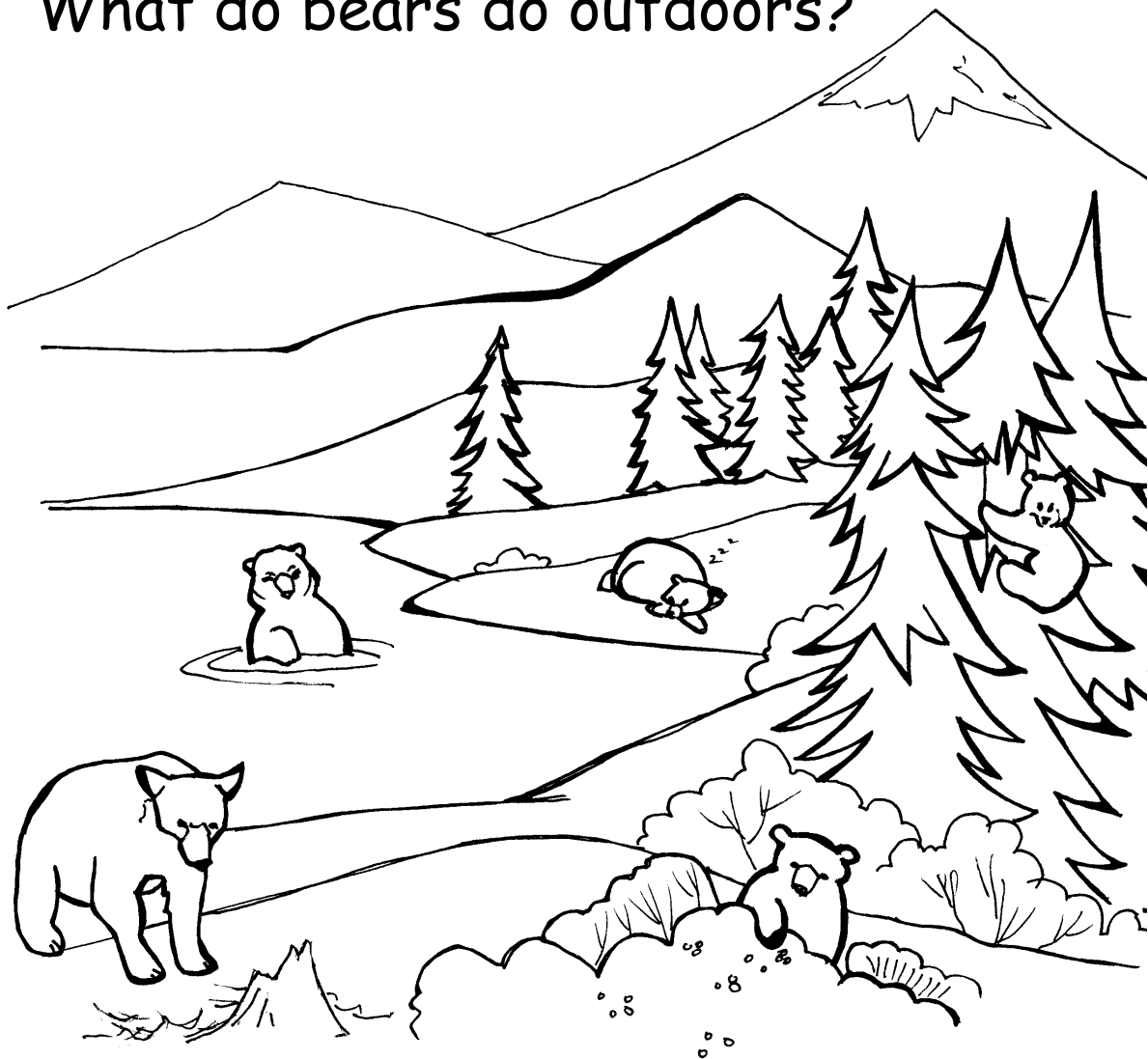
It's still a black bear!

What do people like to do outdoors?



Color your favorite activities.

What do bears do outdoors?



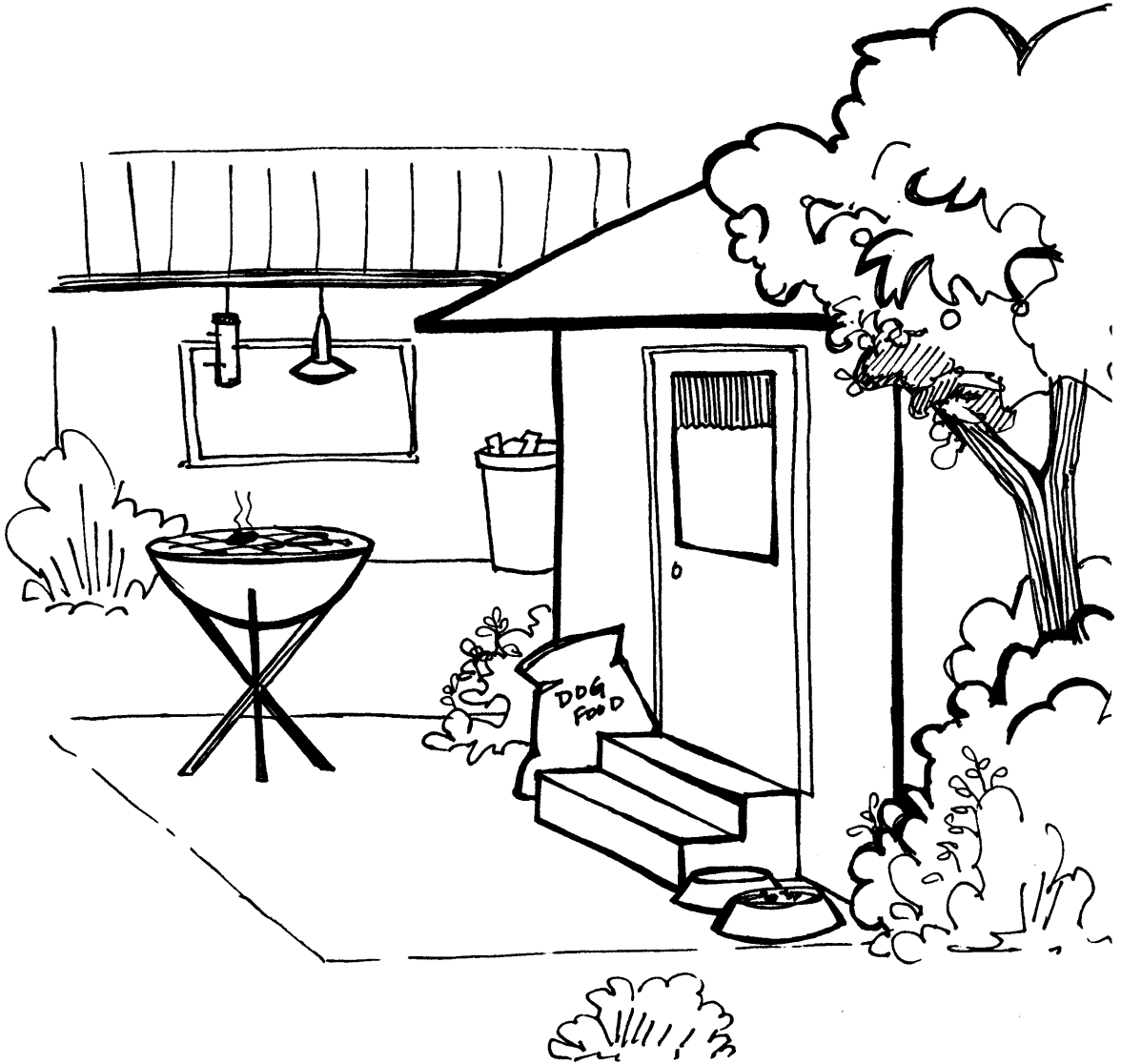
Sometimes when bears and people try to do things in the same place, there can be trouble.

Bears searching for food or shelter can cause damage to homes and property, and can even hurt people.

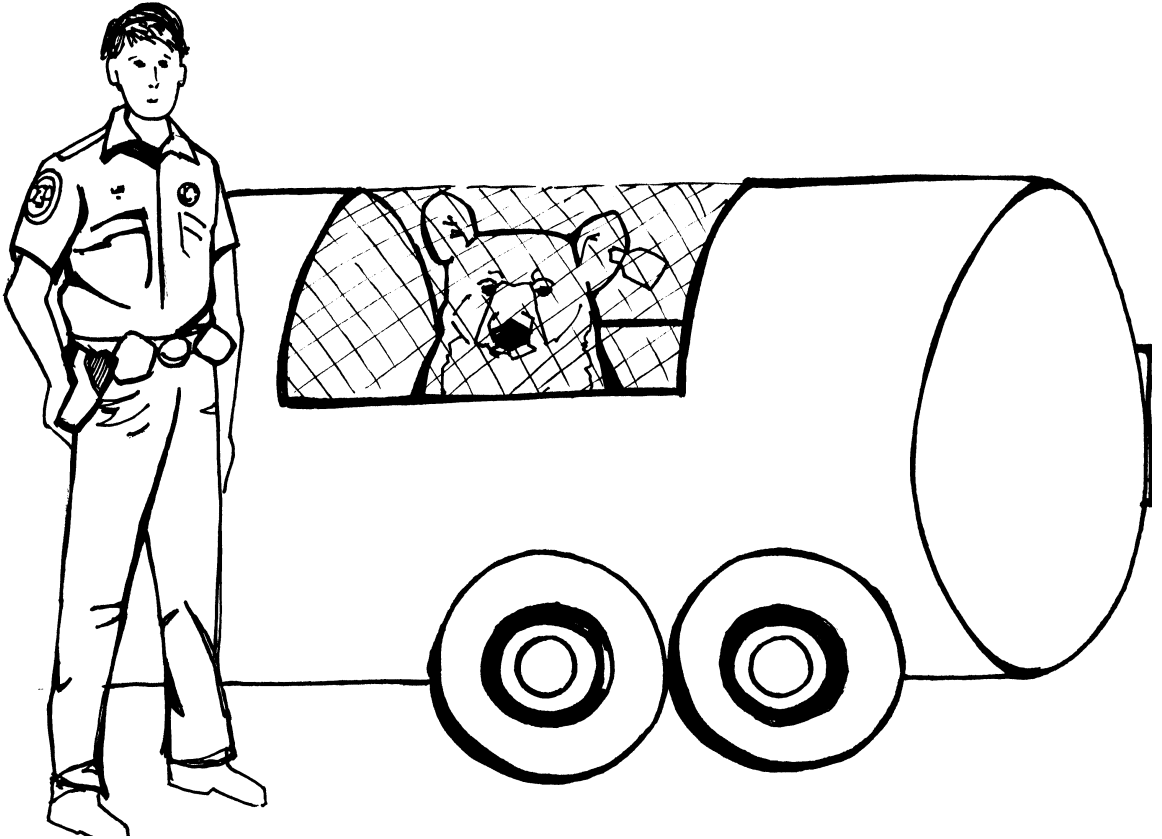
There are many things people can do to prevent problems with bears. Can you guess which things in the campsite and the yard might attract bears?



Circle the things you could change to make the campsite and the yard safer for people and bears.



If a bear damages property a wildlife officer might need to trap it and move it somewhere else.



When this happens, the officer must put a tag on the bear's ear to mark it as a bear in trouble.

But where can the bear be moved?
There are a lot of people living in
the same places bears like.



If a bear with an ear tag gets in trouble
a second time, the law says that wildlife
officers have to kill it.

It's a part of their job they don't like at all.

So what can we do to keep people and bears safe?



How can we keep a bear from getting an ear tag?



Bear Aware tips at home:

1) Store pet food and birdseed in airtight containers in your garage or a locked shed.

2) Bring your pet's food and water bowls in at night.

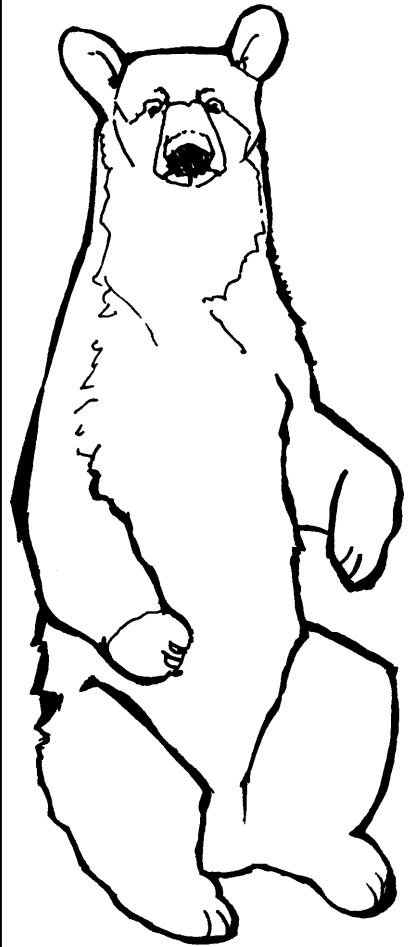
3) Keep your garbage out of sight and smell of bears. Use bearproof containers and don't put your trash out until nearly time for pickup.

4) Keep your barbecue grill clean of smells.

Remember that fruit trees and berry bushes in your yard can attract bears.

Bear Aware tips when camping or hiking:

- 1) Keep your camp clean
- 2) Store food and other scented items like shampoo in airtight containers away from your campsite.
- 3) You can hang your food in a cooler at least ten feet off the ground where bears can't reach it.
- 4) Pack out your trash when you leave, don't bury it.
- 5) Have your sleeping area away from where you cook and don't keep any food in your tent.
- 6) Do not hike alone, and make noise on the trail so you do not surprise a bear.
- 7) Do not store food in your car when you are camping. A bear can break in to a vehicle.

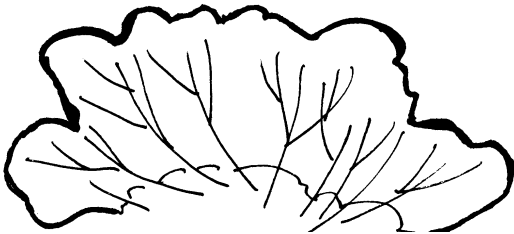


Some cool facts about black bears:

- Bears have a good sense of smell. They can smell a person as much as a mile away and detect the smell of food on clothing that has been carried in a backpack with food.
- About 90 percent of a black bear's diet is plants. Much of the meat they eat is insects and carrion (dead animals).
- Black bears mate in May and June, but the embryo does not implant in the female's uterus until she enters the hibernation den in November.
- Cubs are born in mid-January or February during hibernation. The mother bear nurses her cubs, although she does not resume eating or drinking until after leaving the den in late April or early May.
- During late summer and fall months, when bears are storing fat for the winter, a bear can eat as much as 20,000 calories a day!
- Hibernating bears may go more than 200 days without eating, drinking, urinating, or defecating.
- Even though they are inactive during hibernation, bears don't lose muscle. Astronauts who spend a long time in space without much exercise DO lose muscle and get very weak. Some scientists hope that by studying bears they can learn how to help people who travel in space.



If you do meet a bear,
what should you do?



Stay calm! Do not turn
and run. If you do, the
bear might chase you.

The bear may come closer to get a better look at you. Bears have poor eyesight. The bear may also stand up or walk around you to get your scent.



Nice bear.... easy bear....

Help the bear figure out what you are.
Talk in a normal voice
and wave your arms
SLOWLY.

Try to give the bear
room to get away.

Back away slowly if you can.



Always face the bear. Keep talking softly.

Remember!
Do not turn and run.

Leave cubs alone!

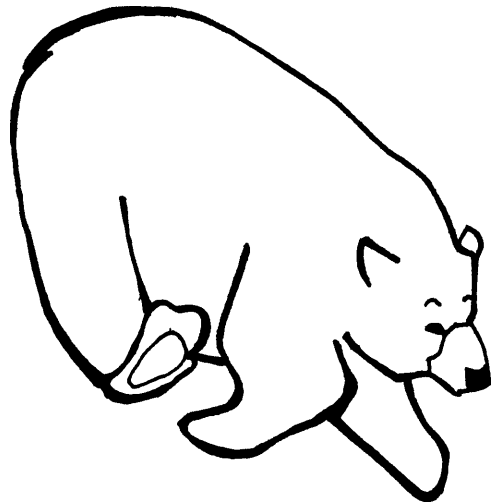
The mother bear is probably nearby and she will want to keep her cubs safe.



If you approach a cub,
you will make her angry!



If a black bear attacks you, use sticks, rocks, or other objects to fight back.



Fill in the missing words

Fill in the boxes below with the missing words. Use the numbers to guide you.

- The only species of bear in Colorado is the _____ bear.
- When you hike, talk, sing, and make _____.
- Black bears can be black, _____, cinnamon or even white.
- Bears have poor _____
- Bears have small _____, but they can hear well.
- If you meet a bear, don't _____.
- In Colorado, a bear in trouble with people has to wear an ear _____.

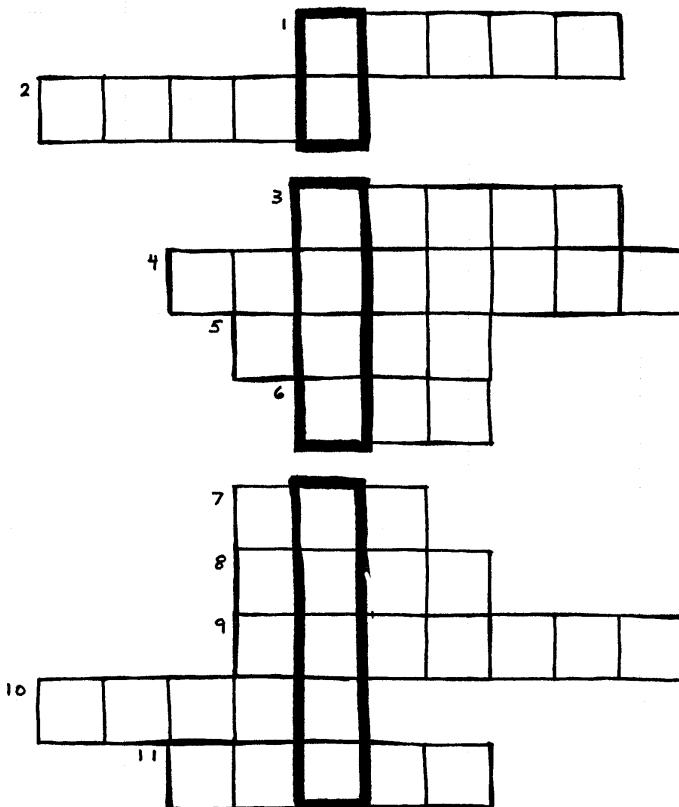
8. You should stay _____ from bear cubs.

9. To help keep bears out of trouble, put your _____ out of sight and smell of bears.

10. You can also help by bringing your pet's food and _____ bowls in at night.

11. When you are camping, you can help by keeping your camp _____.

Read down the darker boxes for a hidden message.



Bears are smart and interesting animals.

Learn more about bears, and share what you know with your friends and family.

Here are some ways to learn more about bears:



- Contact a wildlife officer at the Colorado Division of Wildlife.
- Visit these websites: bebearaware.org, wildlife.state.co.us
- Stop at visitor centers and information displays
- Visit the library in your town or school for books, CDs, and videos about bears.
- Look in bookstores for books about bears.
- Ask your parents and teachers to help you learn about bears.



Colorado Division of Wildlife Headquarters

6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado, 80216
(303)297-1192 (M-F 8am-5pm MST)

Regional Offices/Service Centers

Denver Service Center and
Northeast Region Office

6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
(303)291-7227

Southeast Region Service Center

4255 Sinton Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(719)227-5200

Fort Collins Service Center

317 W. Prospect
Fort Collins, CO 80526
(970)472-4300

Northwest Region Service Center

711 Independent
Grand Junction, CO 81505
(970)255-6100

Southwest Region Service Center

151 East 16th Street
Durango, CO 81301
(970)247-0855

For more contact information, check out
www.wildlife.state.co.us