

WILDLIFE SMART ABOUT BLACK BEARS

This activity book is meant to be fun and educational for the whole family. Please provide whatever assistance you feel your children need to become Wildlife Smart about black bears.



Activity Book

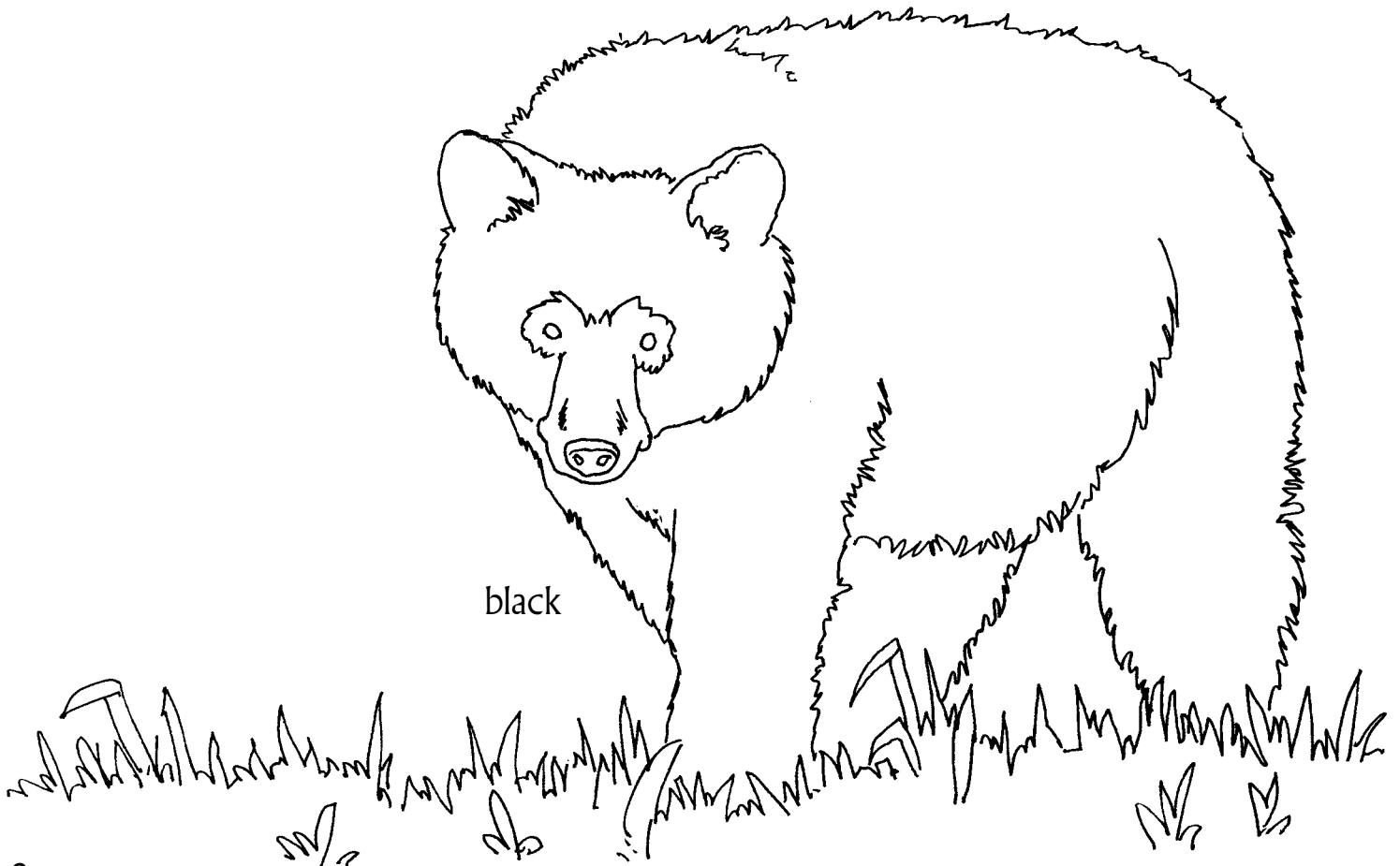
Hi, my name is _____ ,
I am _____ years old,
and I want to be **Wildlife Smart** about black bears.

Identity

Tricky tracks

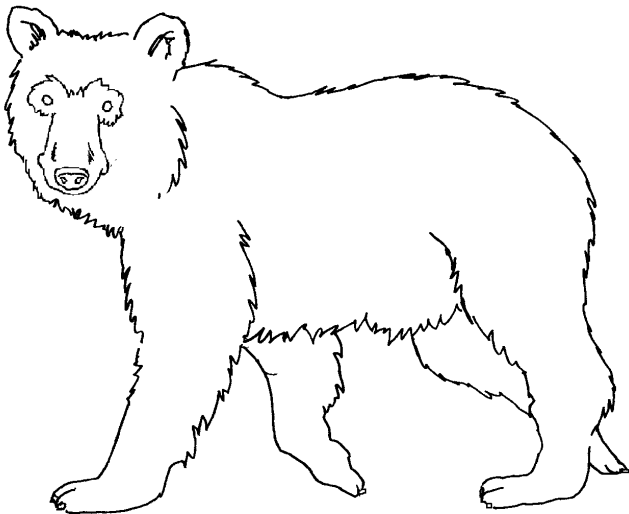
Black bears are shy creatures but may be around even if you don't see them! Common signs that a bear has been in the area are bear scat (poop), flattened ant hills, scratches on trees, flipped over logs and tracks. We have hidden bear tracks throughout this book. Count the tracks and then fill in the blank below.

There are _____
sets of tracks like this
in this book.

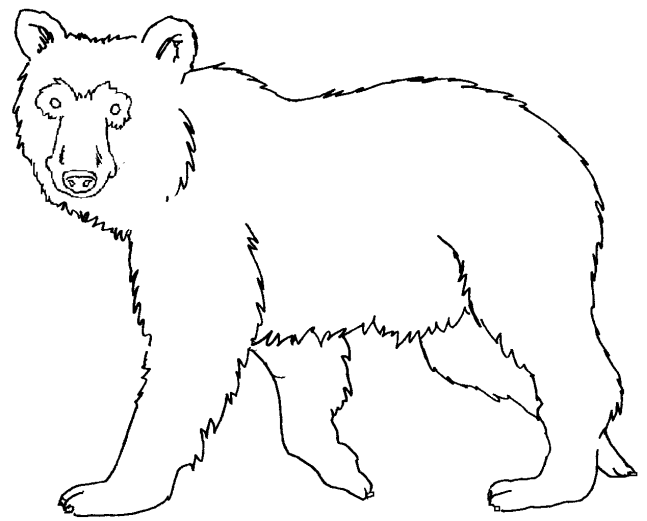


Bears of a different colour

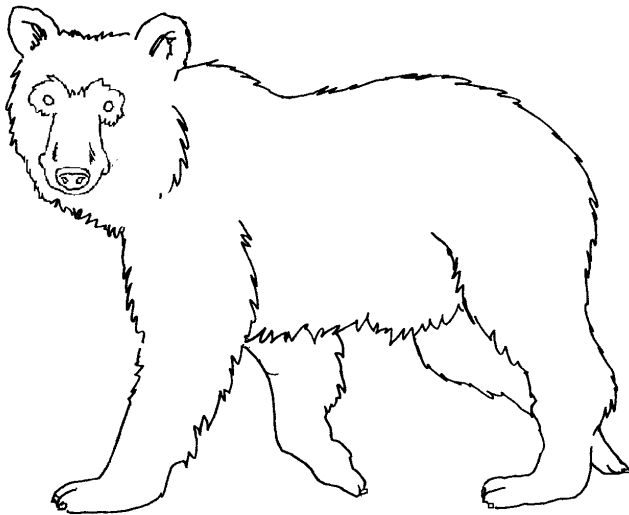
Southern Manitoba has only one kind of bear - black bears! Black bears don't live up to their name, because they are not always black. Follow the labels below to colour the black bears different colours.



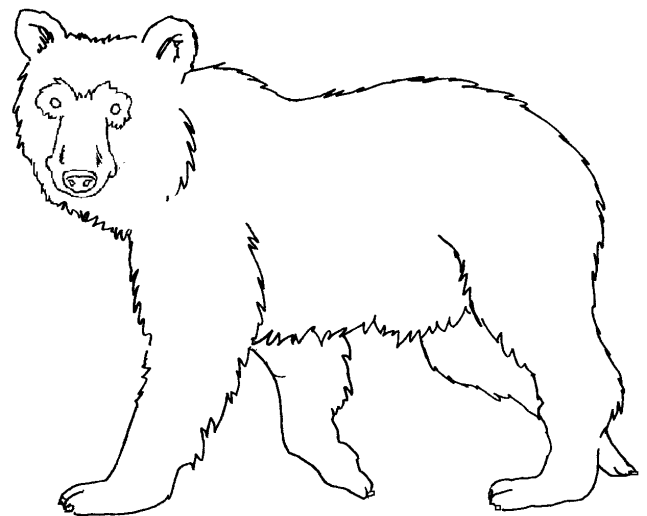
blonde



cinnamon (red)



brown



dark brown

Bear Facts

Adult males:

- can weigh between 120-280 kg
- measure from 130-190 cm from tip of the nose to tip of the tail
- average 100 cm in height at the shoulders
- reach full growth at about 8 years of age

Adult females:

- can weigh between 45-182 kg
- measure from 110-170 cm from tip of the nose to tip of the tail
- average 80 cm in height at the shoulders
- reach full growth at about 5 years of age, and can first give birth at 4 years of age

How much do you weigh? _____

How tall are you? _____

Cubs:

- are born in the den in mid-January to early February
- are the size of a squirrel when born
- reach 30 kg by the fall



Be a Wildlife Smart Decoder

Oh no! Someone has replaced all the vowels with shapes...
try to figure out the important messages below.



● = a ▲ = i ◆ = u
■ = e ★ = o

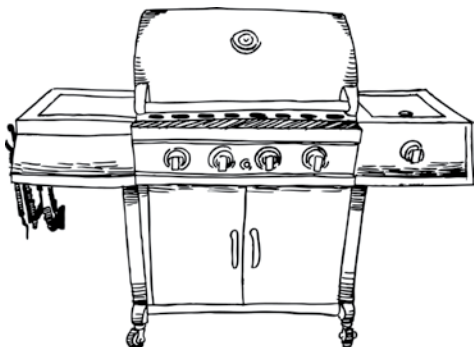
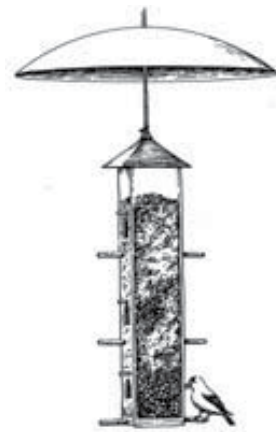
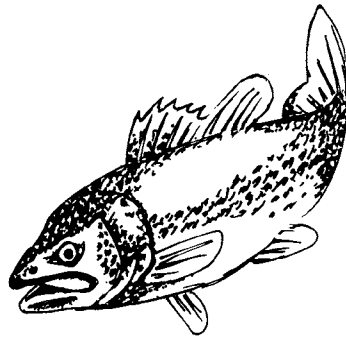
1. M★st block b■ors ▲n Mon▲t★b● hov■ ● block c★ot.
2. Block b■ors moy l▲v■ f★r ◆p t★ 30 t★ 35 y■ors.
3. Stond▲ng ★n hand l■gs wath th■▲r n★s■ ▲n
th■ ●▲r, block b■ors con sm■ll f★★d, d■od
●n▲m●ls ★r gorbog■ fr★m m★r■ thon
1.6 km ●woy.

DON'T EVER get between a
mother bear and her cubs!



Food Sources

Black bears spend most of their time during the summer eating. Black bears eat what opportunity presents, so the easier a meal is to find, the better! They have natural foods in their environment that they should eat, and other food sources people introduce that they should not eat. Circle the NATURAL foods that bears should eat. Put an X through the UNNATURAL foods they should not eat.



Word Search

In the word search below, look for the natural and unnatural foods that may attract bears to your campsite, or your house or yard where you live and play!



Natural Foods: Unnatural Foods:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| acorns | bacon fat |
| ants | bird seed |
| bird eggs | compost |
| blueberries | cooking odours |
| carrion | crab-apples |
| clover | dirty barbeque |
| cranberries | dirty dishes |
| fish | food scraps |
| honey bees | garbage |
| hazelnuts | pet food |
| slugs | vegetable gardens |

A	P	D	E	G	A	B	R	A	G	Z	F	R	O	N	Q
S	E	E	B	Y	E	N	O	H	D	O	O	F	T	E	P
G	N	S	B	I	R	D	S	E	E	D	S	L	S	G	S
R	B	L	U	E	B	E	R	R	I	E	S	T	X	E	U
S	A	U	M	S	E	I	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C	M
V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	G	A	R	D	E	N	S
B	P	S	D	I	R	T	Y	D	I	S	H	E	S	N	A
A	S	E	L	P	P	A	B	A	R	C	P	S	T	N	F
C	C	V	F	G	F	O	O	D	S	C	R	A	P	S	I
O	S	G	G	E	D	R	I	B	S	N	R	O	C	A	S
N	O	I	R	R	A	C	S	T	U	N	L	E	Z	A	H
F	G	N	S	R	U	O	D	O	G	N	I	K	O	O	C
A	R	E	V	O	L	C	C	O	M	P	O	S	T	V	M
T	F	Z	E	U	Q	E	B	R	A	B	Y	T	R	I	D

Bears and Hibernation

Black bears can hibernate from late October to early April. They can move around in their dens and can be woken up fairly easily.

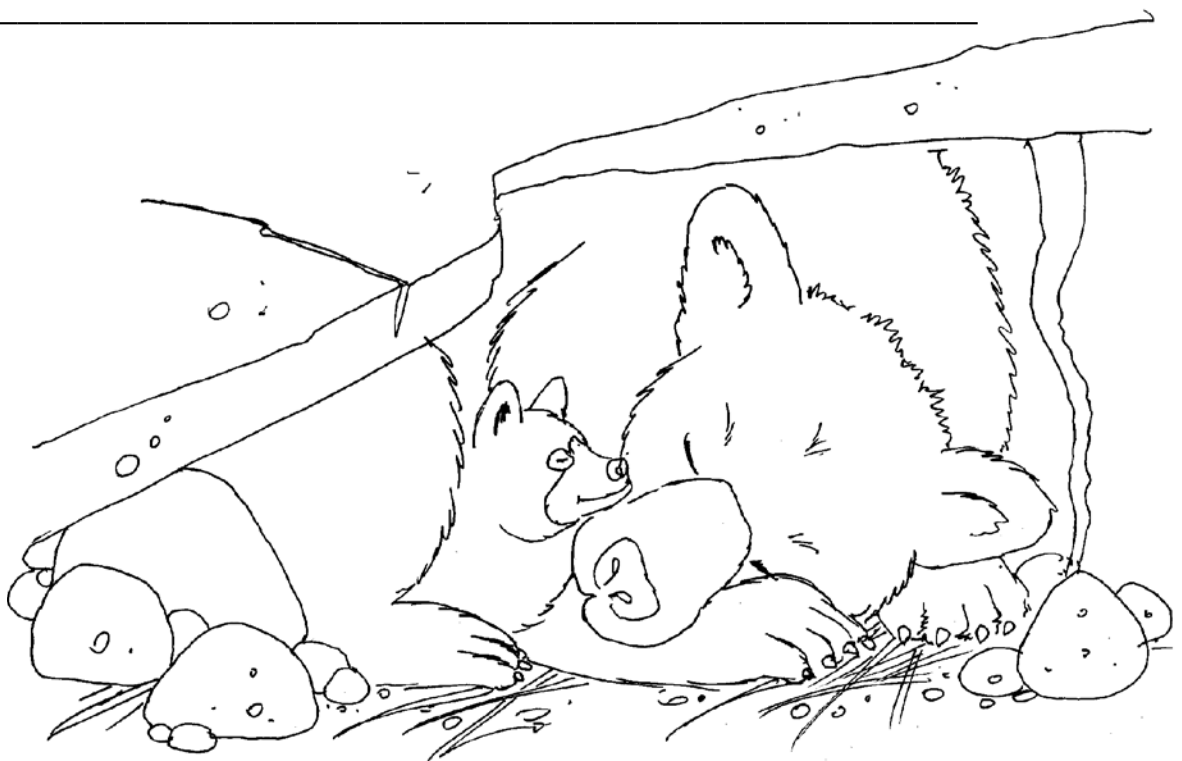
When not hibernating, black bears spend most of their time searching for food. From mid-August to late September, they must find a lot of food wherever and whenever it is available. In this short time, they must put on enough fat to hibernate.

By late October, most black bears have moved into their winter dens to hibernate.

Ask Us!

Do you have any questions about the bears or other animals you have seen? Send us your questions and we will answer them and send it back to you with your activity booklet.

My Question: _____

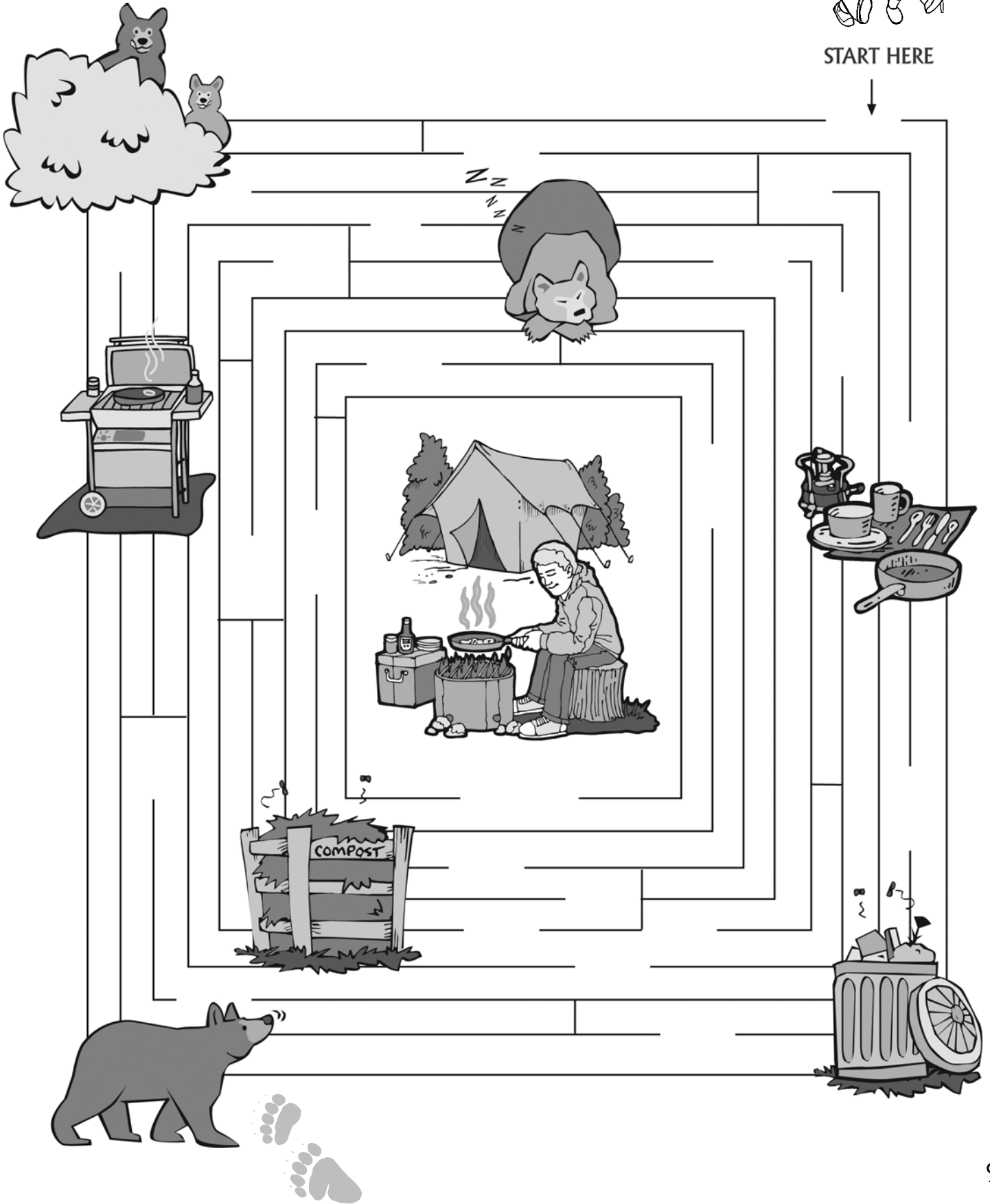


Bear Maze

Find a safe trail back to the campground without bumping into anything along the way.



START HERE



Humans and Bears

Unscramble the word:

1. The most common reason for bears becoming a problem near homes is household _____.
(raggbae)



2. Once _____ find food, they return to that food source again.
(sraeb)

3. From early spring to late fall, keep garbage in _____ containers.
(areb-oforp)

4. Only _____ and _____ clippings should be placed in
(srag) (gedeh)
compost bins in bear country.



5. _____ can attract bears to your home and campsites.
(breeuqbsa)

6. Remember to _____ your barbeque immediately after every use.
(nacle)



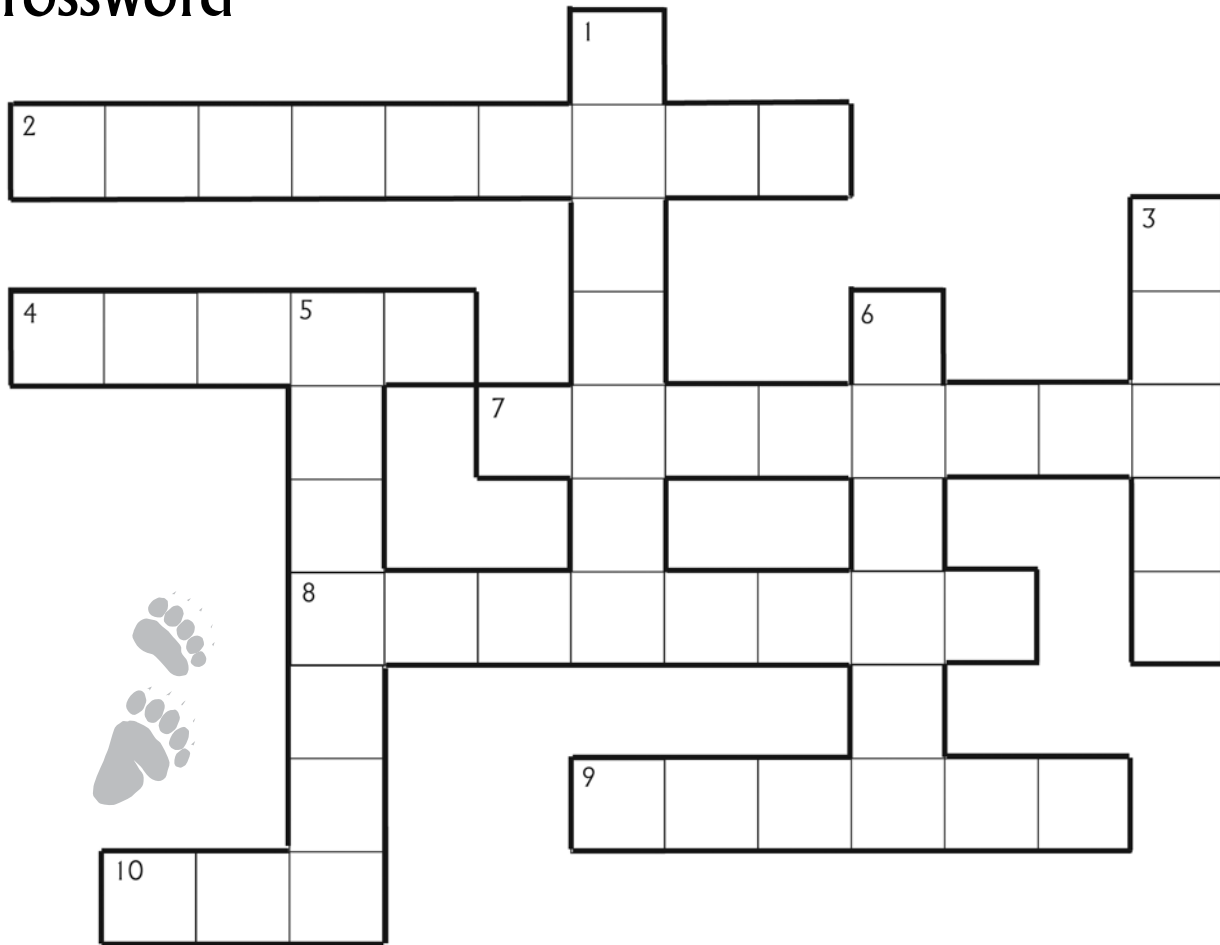
7. _____ can easily be turned into bearfeeders.
(reesbfidred)

8. Hang birdfeeders only during the _____ season.
(twenir)

9. Never try to approach or _____ a bear.
(edef)



Crossword



ACROSS

2. By November, bears have moved into their dens to _____.
4. Most of the bears in Manitoba have a _____ coat.
7. You cook meat outdoors on your _____ (left unclean, it attracts bears).
8. Bears are large, _____ animals .
9. Bears are omnivores, so they eat both meat and _____ for food.
10. Mother bear's milk is high in _____ and protein.

DOWN

1. _____ is the most common cause of human-bear conflicts.
3. Bears find food using their sense of _____ .
5. Be sure your _____ has no meat or dairy products in it as it can attract bears.
6. If bears find food, they will _____ to that food source again.

WORDS TO USE: barbeque, black, compost, fat, hibernate, garbage, plants, powerful, return, smell

Check off the boxes of each activity you have completed. Return the complete book to receive your official pin and certificate. (Your book will be returned to you).

Checklist of Activities

- Identity - Tricky Tracks
- Bears of a Different Colour
- Connect the Dots
- Bear Decoder
- Food Sources
- Word Search
- Bears and Hibernation / Ask Us!
- Bear Maze
- Unscramble the Word
- Crossword

See more Wildlife Smart information about black bears at www.manitoba.ca/blackbear

You are almost officially Wildlife Smart about black bears! Please print your information below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal code: _____

Did you enjoy doing this activity book? If so, you can do other Junior Naturalist / Park Explorer books at the following locations:

Whiteshell Provincial Park
Spruce Woods Provincial Park
Birds Hill Provincial Park
Hecla Provincial Park
Grand Beach Provincial Park

Completed books can be returned to campground offices, park interpreters or mailed to the address below:

Head of Interpretation
Sustainable Development
Box 52-200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3