



Lake Clark National Park and Preserve: **Where There Are Bears!**





This Junior Ranger booklet was made possible through the National Park Foundation and a contribution from Unilever, a Proud Partner of America's National Parks and a National Corporate Partner of the Junior Ranger Program.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

It's a BIG Job

Congress made Lake Clark a National Park and Preserve in 1980 to protect habitats for red salmon, bears and other kinds of fish and animals.

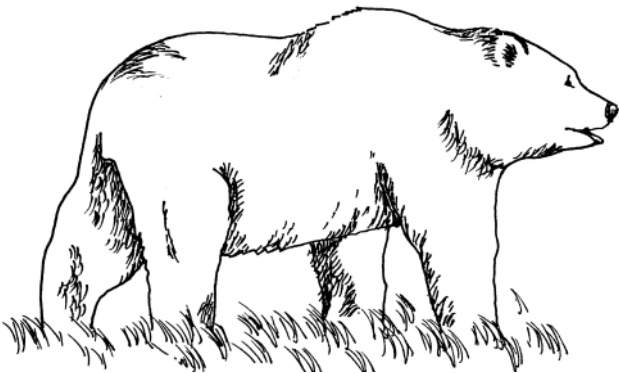
If you have a chance to meet a park ranger, ask them how their job protects habitats and animals in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

A Place of Wild Wonders

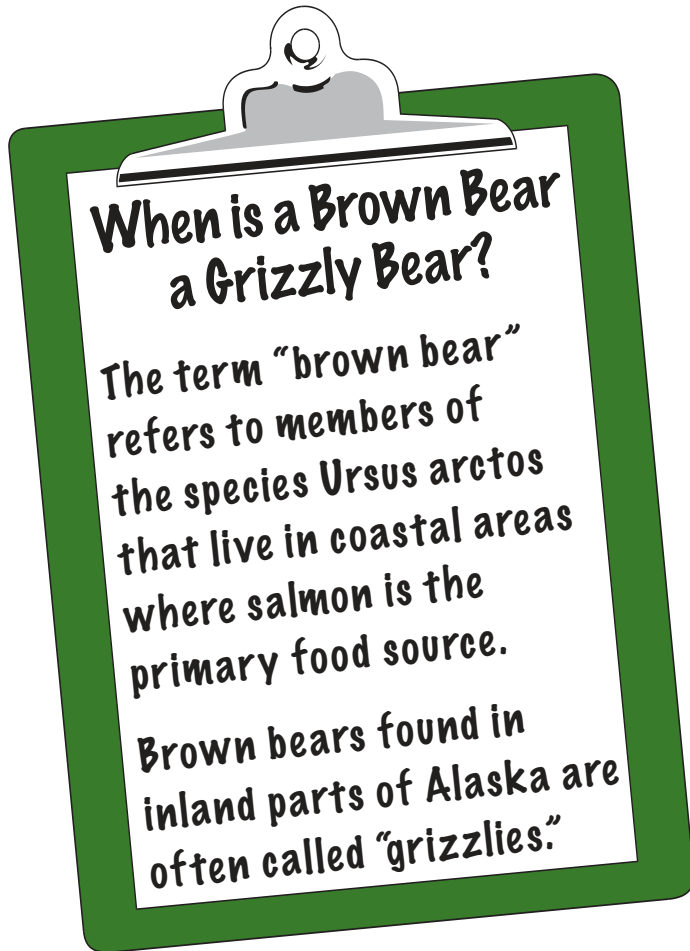
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is a very special place that not many people get to visit. There aren't any roads or railways that go to Lake Clark, so the only ways to get there are by airplane or boat.

If you do get a chance to visit, you will see amazing things. There are two active volcanoes on the coast of Cook Inlet. One is Redoubt Volcano and the other is Iliamna Volcano. There are massive rivers of ice called glaciers that flow out of the mountains. Then there's Lake Clark, the sixth largest lake in Alaska. It's over 40 miles long and more than 1000 feet deep.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is also a place where you can find bears. There are places in the park like Silver Salmon Creek and Chinitna Bay where you can go and watch bears in the wild.



Welcome to Bear Country!



Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is bear country and home to two kinds of bears: black bears and brown or “grizzly” bears.

Black bears are common in Alaska and can be found all over Canada and in 32 of the 50 United States.

The scientific name for black bears is *Ursus americanus*. *Ursus* is Latin for “bear” and *americanus* refers to North America. So, the scientific name means, North American bear.

Brown or grizzly bears used to be found in many parts of North America. Today, most North American brown bears are in Alaska. That’s why places like Lake Clark National Park and Preserve have a special responsibility to protect brown bears and the places where they live.

The scientific name for brown bears is *Ursus arctos*. *Arctos* is a Latin word borrowed from Greek that means “the north.” So, *Ursus arctos* roughly means, northern bear.

Do You Live Near Bears?

 Look at the map.

 Circle the state or province where you live.

 According to the map, do bears live in the same area as you?

☐ YES.

If yes, what kinds of bears live near you?

☐ NO.

If no, circle the closest place you could go where bears live.



Brown bear range

Black bear range

Can You Tell The Difference?



Don't Count on Color

You can't always tell a brown bear from a black bear by looking at the color of their fur.

Some brown bears have tan colored fur and others have fur that's so dark it's almost black.

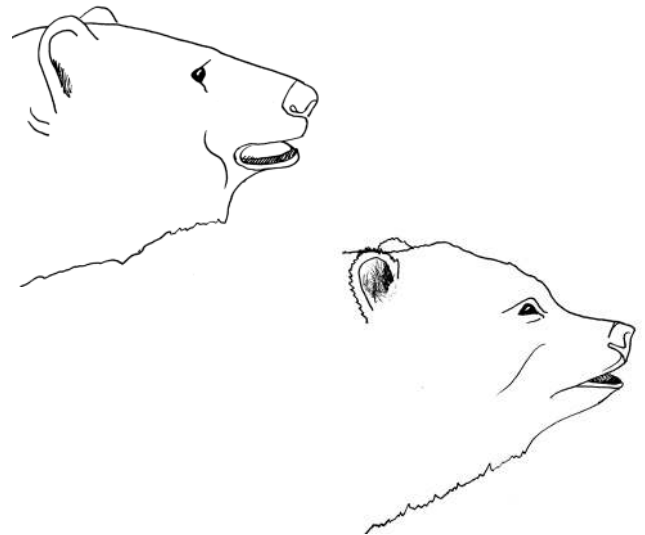
If that's not confusing enough, black bears come in different colors, too. Some are chocolate brown, reddish brown and even blond!

 Read the following descriptions.

 Circle the example that belongs to the brown bear in each pair of pictures.

Look at the Shape of the Face

If you look at a brown bear from the side, its face will have a curved profile shaped like the bottom of a dish. Black bears usually have long, fairly straight profiles.



Look at the Tracks

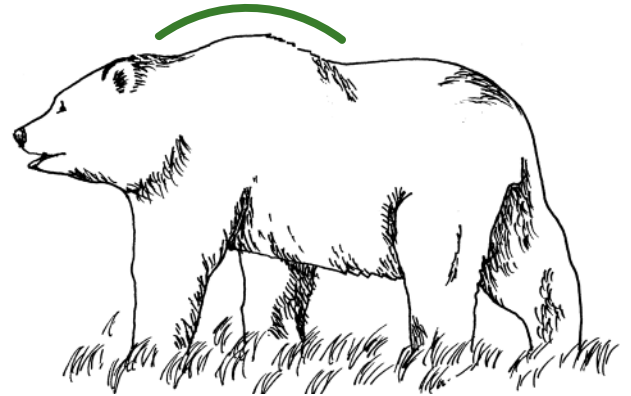
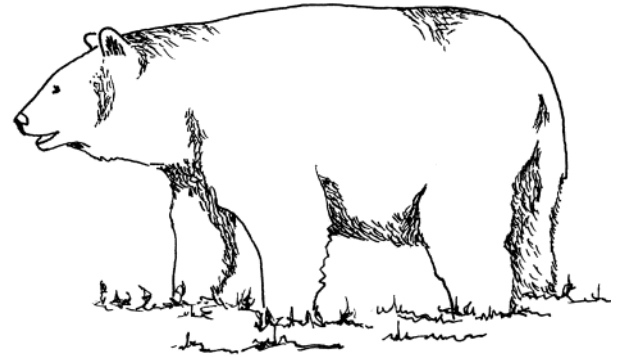
The toes of a brown bear track are close together or appear to touch. The toes of a black bear are farther apart. The claw marks on a brown bear track will also be farther from the ends of the toes than a black bear track.



Black Bear? Brown Bear?

Look for the Shoulder Hump

Brown bears have very strong shoulder muscles for digging and turning over rocks. These muscles look like a big hump between the bear's shoulders. Black bears don't have a shoulder hump.



Look at the Ears

Brown bears have smaller, more rounded ears than a black bear. The ears on a black bear look bigger. They also look longer and more pointed than those on a brown bear.

The Bears of Lake Clark

Hey! Did You Know?

Bears see in color and have good close-up vision.

They also have a very good sense of smell. In fact, bears may be able to pick up a scent from many miles away.

As far as their hearing goes, bears can probably hear about as well as humans.

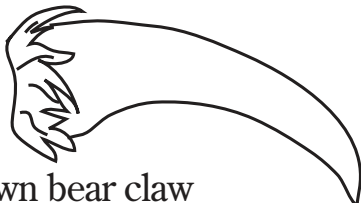
You can find black bears in many parts of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. They especially like areas where there are forests.

Black bears are adapted to live where there are trees. If you look at a black bear paw, you'll see that it has long, curved claws. The claws help black bears climb trees and pull apart rotten logs to reach insects and other tasty things to eat.

Brown bears, on the other hand, can be found in all sorts of habitats around Lake Clark. A habitat is a place where an animal can find the food and shelter it needs to survive. Brown bears live in forests, tundra, alpine areas, grassy meadows and salt marshes.



Black bear claw



Brown bear claw

Picture This!

 Now that you know what to look for, use the space below to draw a bear. It can be a black bear, a brown bear, or one of each.

What It's Like to be a Bear

Who's Who in the Bear World

Adult female bears are called **SOWS**. Adult male bears are called **BOARS**. Young bears are called **CUBS**.

Can you think of another animal that has sows and boars?

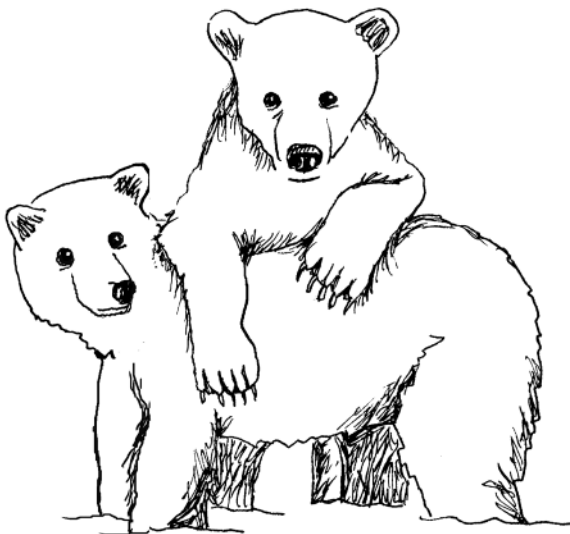
How about cubs?

Bear cubs are born in January and February in their mother's winter den. Bear cubs grow fast. By April or May, they are big enough to leave the den with their mother.

Bears only have five or six months to fatten up for the next winter, so they're always looking for food. Bears are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. In fact, they will eat just about anything—insects, berries, plants, ground squirrels and other animals, sedges (grass-like plants), roots and salmon.

By late fall, food starts to get scarce. This is when bears dig their winter den and prepare to hibernate.

Hibernation is a sleep-like state. It allows bears to survive the long winter when there's no food around. Bears use their stored body fat to hibernate so they don't have to eat or drink.



Word-4-Word

 Okay, you know what to do!

 Find the hidden words.

 You'll find them all over the place—
backward, forward, diagonally and up-and-down.

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

Answers are in the back of the book.

Alaska

Americanus

Arctos

Beach

Bear

Berries

Black

Boar

Brown

Caribou

Clams

Claw

Cub

Den

Grizzly

Habitat

Hibernation

Lake Clark

Meadow

Moose

Protective

Salmon

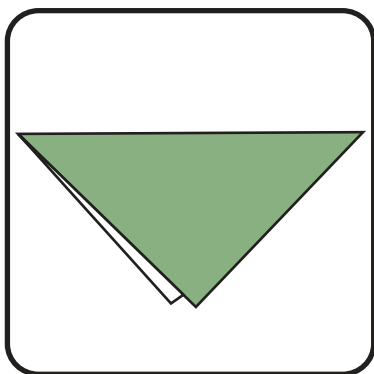
Sedge

Ursus

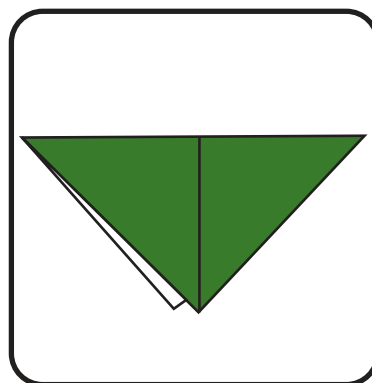
Build Your Own Bear Cub

 Use the sheets of origami paper you received with this booklet.

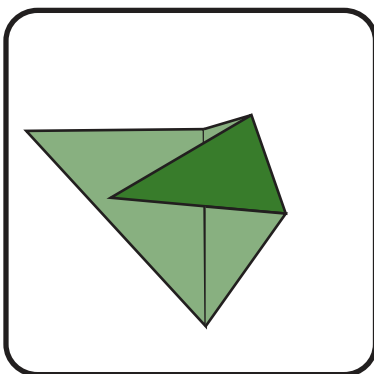
 Follow the step-by-step directions to make your own cub.



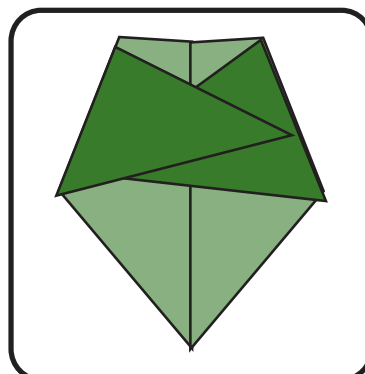
1. With the colored side down, fold and crease your square in half on the diagonal.



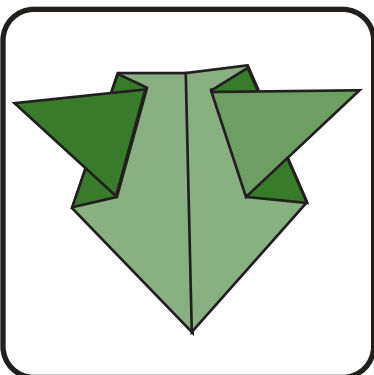
2. Fold in half again, this time on the other diagonal. You will have a triangle with a crease in the middle.



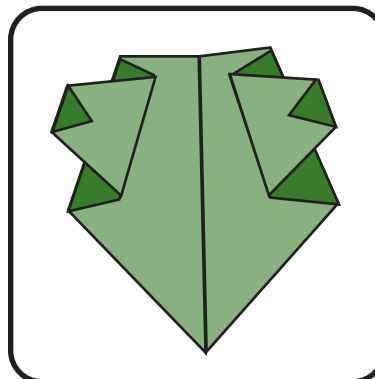
3. Bring the top corner in and across the fold line in the middle of your triangle.



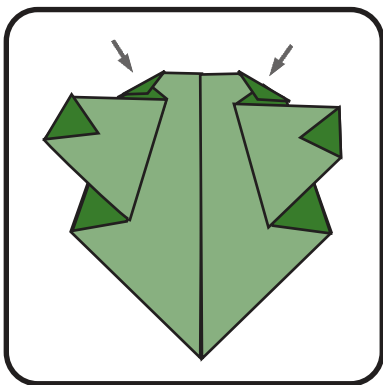
4. Do the same to the other top corner.



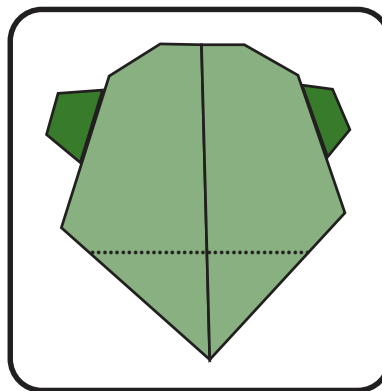
5. Now, fold both flaps back on themselves to form the ears. Crease well.



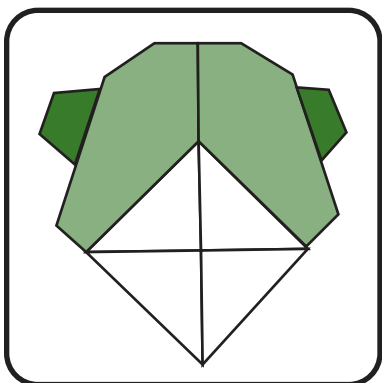
6. Fold the very ends of the ears in again.



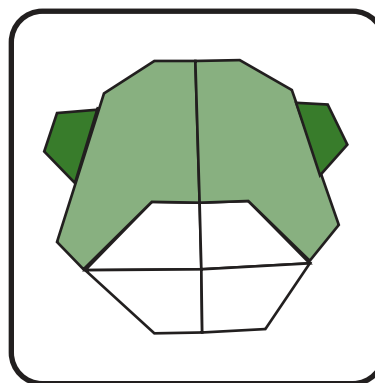
7. Shape the head by folding in the little triangles on the top corners.



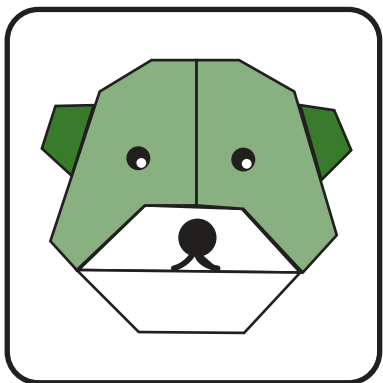
8. Flip over. Now make the bear's snout by folding up the top layer of the bottom corner.



9. The bear will look like this.



10. Finish the snout by folding back the top and bottom points.



11. You're almost done! Now all you need to do is add eyes and a mouth with a marker or a pencil.

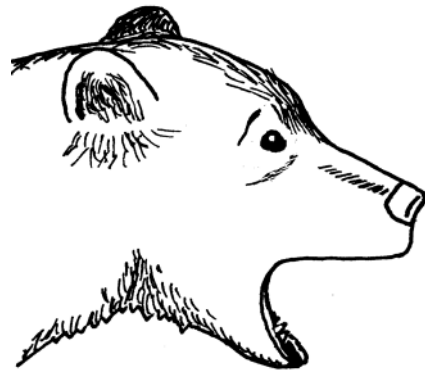


How to Communicate if You're a Bear



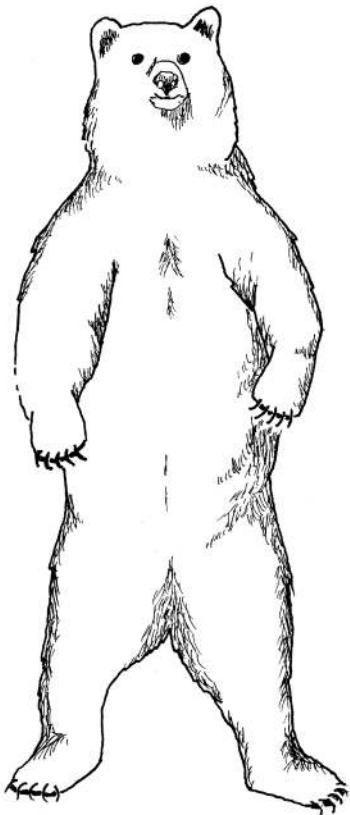
Bears have their own kind of language based on sight, sound, touch and smell.

Here are a few signals bears use to communicate with each other.



Yawning:

When a bear yawns, it's not because it's bored or tired. It means they are nervous about another bear getting too close.

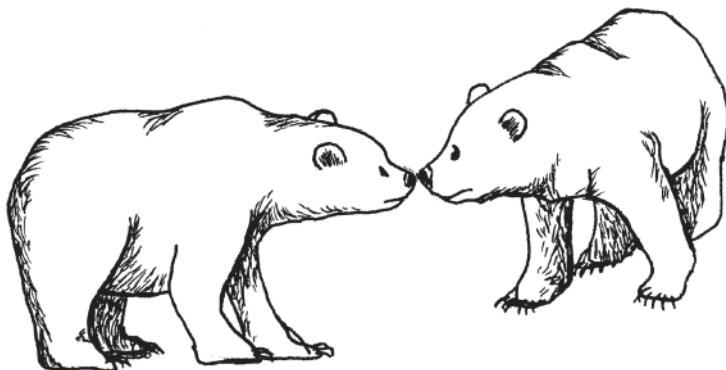


Standing on Its Hind Feet:

This is what a bear does when it needs more information. A bear will stand up when it's not sure about something. Standing up lets them get a better look at something or sniff the air to catch a scent.

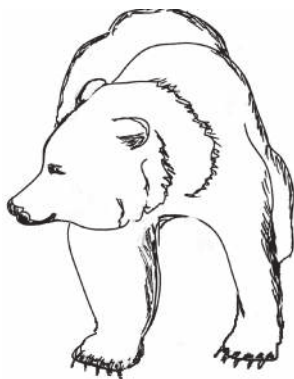
Sniffing or Touching Noses:

This is how some bears greet each



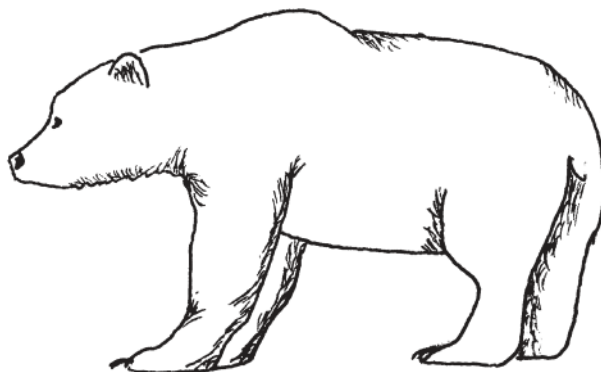
Turning Sideways:

A bear that turns sideways to another bear is signaling that it does not want to fight.



Staring:

A bear that stares at another bear is warning it not to come too close.



Charging:

A bear that is running toward another bear is charging. If it is a bluff charge, the bear will stop short of the other bear to scare it away. If it is a real charge, the bear will attack.

The Power of Observation

Seeing is Believing

Observation, or watching, is one of the best ways to learn about animals.

In fact, most of what we know about bears comes from people who watch them and record what they see.

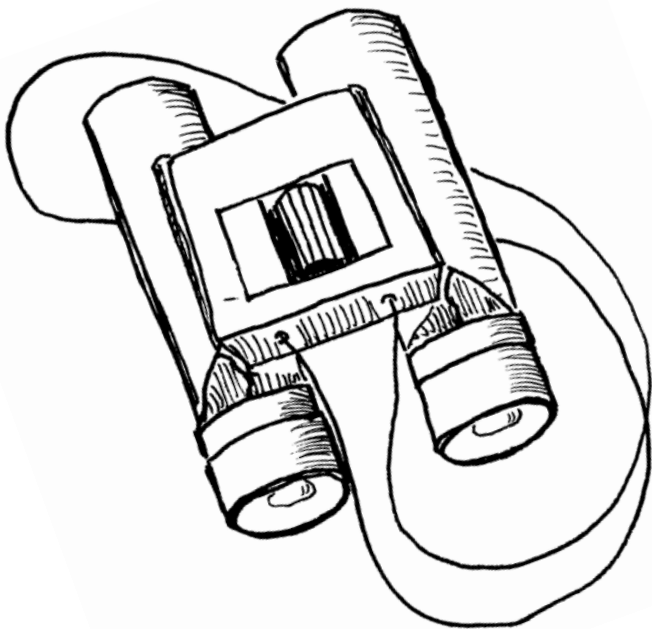
Scientists studying bears will quietly watch them from a safe distance and record what they see. They write down what the bears are doing, how many there are, whether they're old or young, or male or female.

You can do the same thing to learn about other kinds of animals, too.

Kind of Animal: _____

Describe how the animal looks. How big is color? Is it male or female? Is it a baby or

Describe what the animal is doing: _____



Seeing for Yourself

 Pick an animal you can easily observe for at least five minutes.

 It can be anything, including a pet, a bird at your backyard feeder or an insect.

 Quietly watch the animal for five or ten minutes without disturbing it.

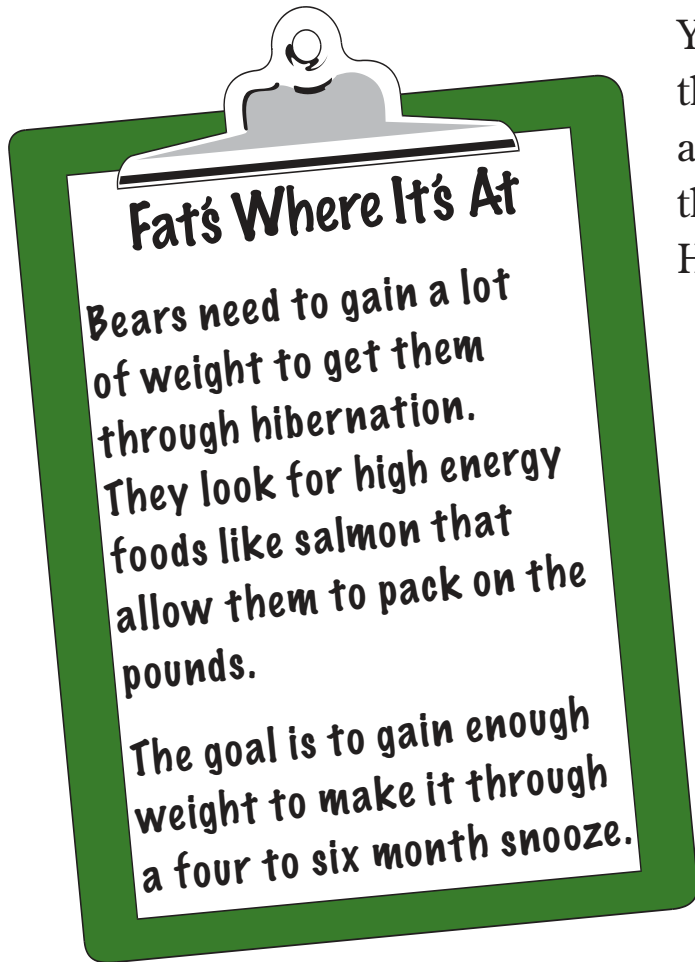
 Observe what it is doing and write down what you see.

Your Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

it and what _____
an adult?

Finding Bear Signs



You don't have to see bears to know that they're around. Bears leave all sorts of clues about who they are, what they eat, where they travel and how they spend their time. Here are some things you can look for.

Tracks or Paw Prints:

A bear track is full of information. It can tell you whether it was made by a black bear or a brown bear. It can tell you if it was made by a big bear or a little bear and which direction it was going.

Scat:

Scat is just another word for poop. You can often see bits of undigested plants, berries, hair and bones in bear scat. This can tell you what the bear was eating.

Bear Trees:

These are trees found along trails and other places where bears travel. You can tell a bear tree by the claw and bite marks on the trunk. Bears will also scratch their backs on trees and leave behind bits of hair that get stuck in the bark or sap.

Bear Trails:

Bears often follow well-established trails to travel between areas where they feed, sleep and den. You can often find scat, tracks and bear trees along bear trails. These signs provide clues about how often a trail is used.

Be a Bear Detective

(Answers are in the back of the book)



What can a bear track tell you about the bear that made it?

Is this a black bear or brown bear track? _____



Draw a bear tree.



List three things that make it a bear tree.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Can scat show you what a bear was eating?

YES ☐ NO ☐

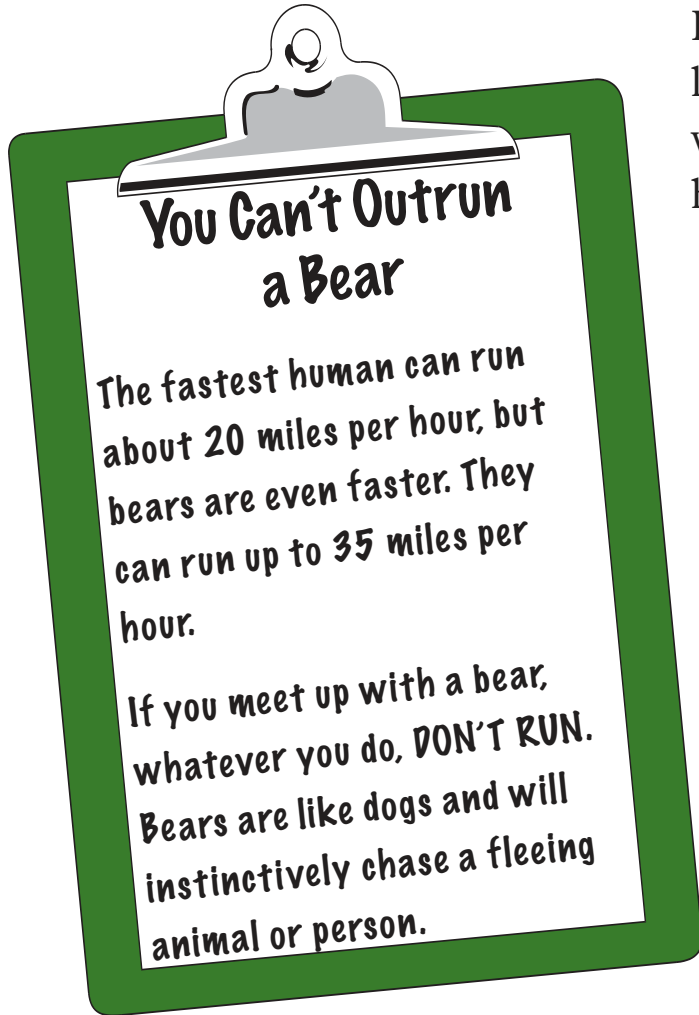
Can bear scat provide clues about the time of year?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Can you tell the color of a bear's fur from its scat?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Take Care and Be Bear-Aware



Do you live in bear country or visit places like Lake Clark National Park and Preserve where bears live? If the answer is yes, then here are some tips on staying safe.

Be Noisy & Hike With a Friend

Bears don't like a lot of company and they don't like to be surprised. Make noise to let them know you're around. Try singing, talking, or clapping your hands.

Give Bears Space

Never try to get close to a bear. Watch and photograph them from a distance.

Never Feed Bears

Bears are always looking for their next meal. Bears that get a taste for human food or garbage can become dangerous.

Be Alert

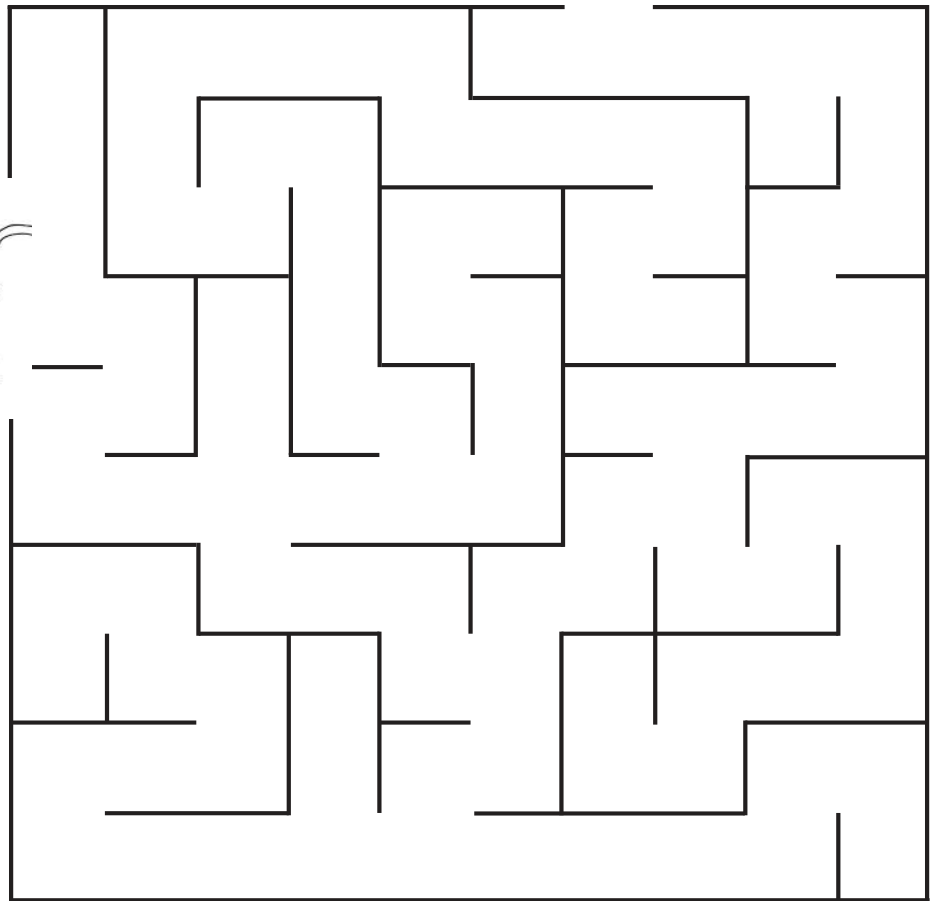
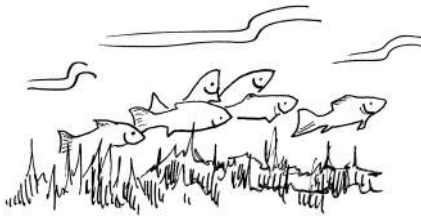
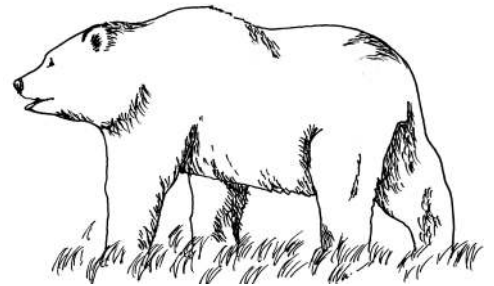
Watch for fresh signs like tracks or scat that tell you bears may be around.



Bears Are A-Mazing

 Brown bears will sometimes travel long distances to find their favorite foods, especially salmon.

 Help this brown bear find its way through the maze to the salmon stream.

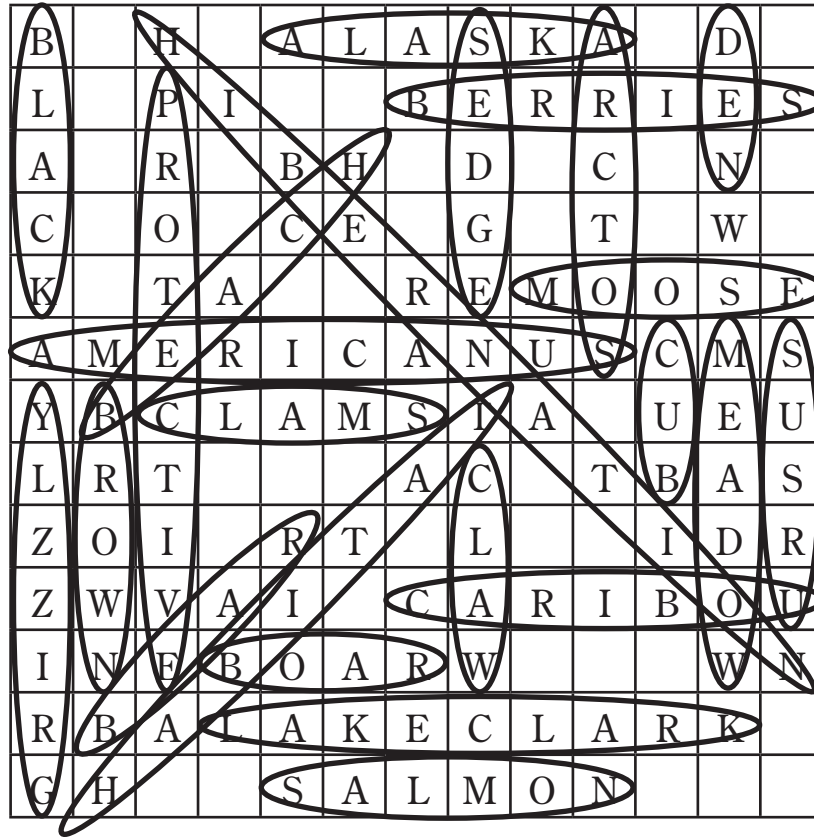


You can find the solution on the back page.

The Answer Pages

Word 4 Word:

Page 9



Be A Bear Detective

Page 17

What can a bear track tell you about the bear that made it?

1. It can tell you whether it was a large or small bear.
2. It can tell you which direction it was going.
3. It can also tell you whether it passed by recently or a while ago.

If the track looks fresh, the bear was there recently. If it looks old, the bear was there a while ago.

Is this a black bear or brown bear track? BROWN BEAR

Be A Bear Detective

Page 17

Can scat show you what a bear was eating?

YES

You can often find things the bear couldn't completely digest like grass, berry seeds and skins, and bits of hair and bone that are clues about what a bear has eaten.

Can bear scat provide clues about the time of year?

YES

Bears eat different things depending on the season. In the spring bears eat lots of plants because that's the first food that's available. So if you see scat with lots of grass in it, it was probably left by a bear in the spring. If it has berries in it, it was left in the summer.

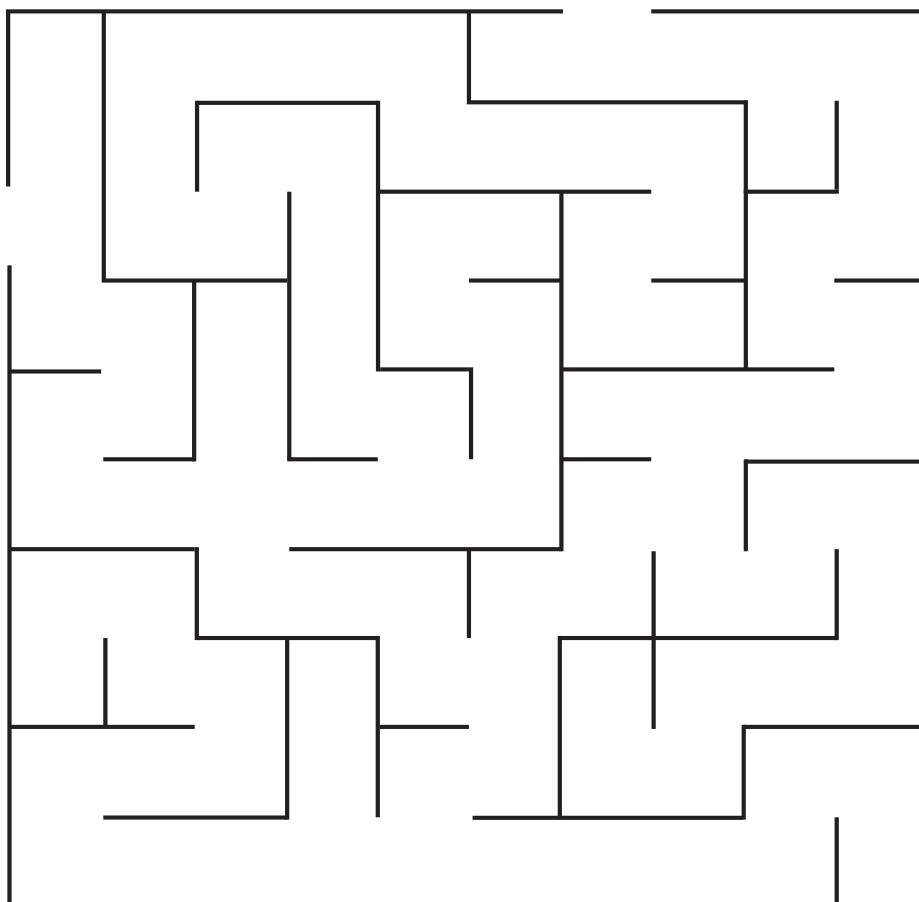
Can you tell the color of a bear's fur from its scat?

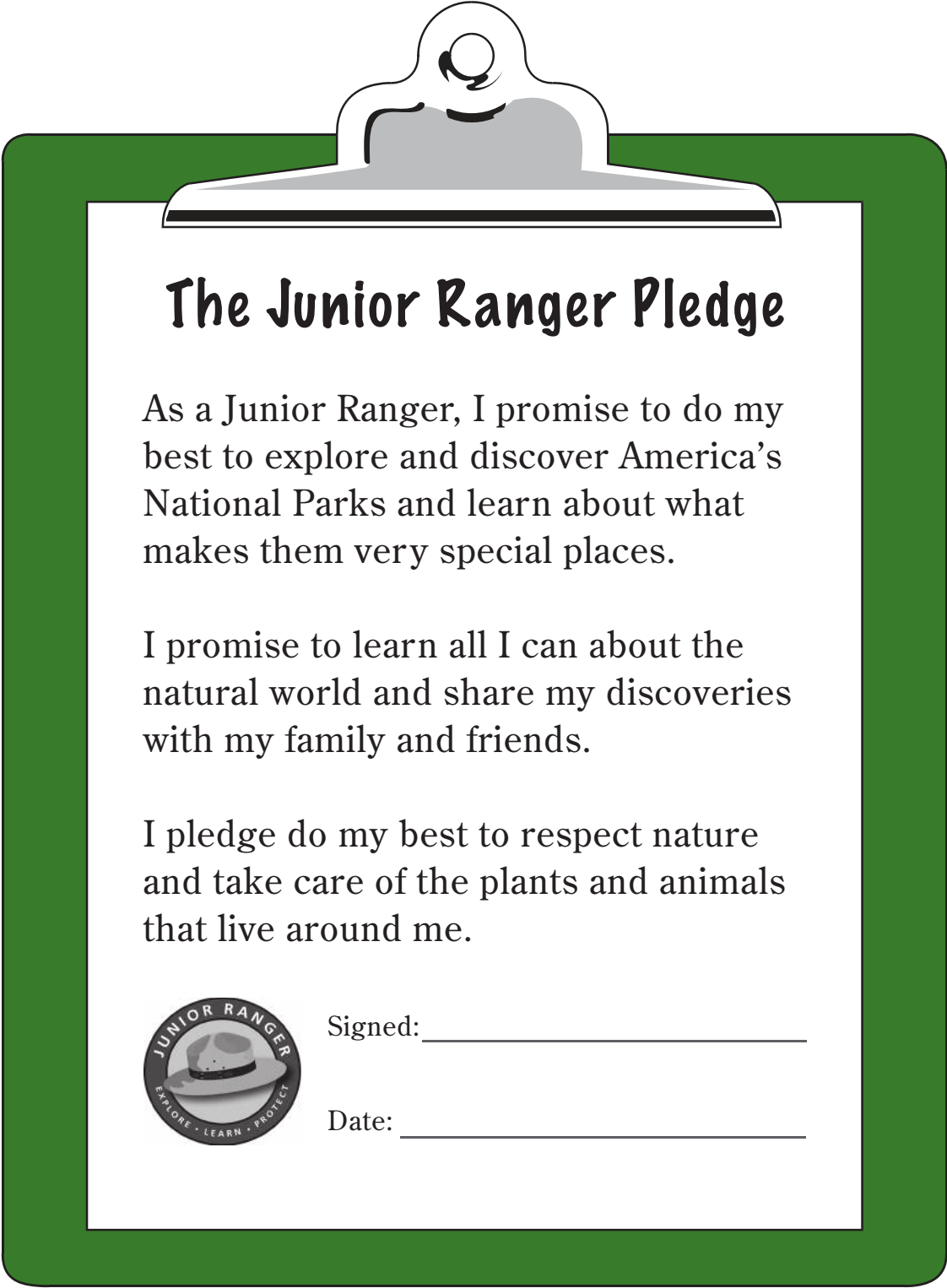
NO

Bear scat can tell us many things, but it can't give us any hints about what color a bear might be (unless, of course, it ate some of its own fur).

Bears Are A-Mazing

Page 19





The Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to do my best to explore and discover America's National Parks and learn about what makes them very special places.

I promise to learn all I can about the natural world and share my discoveries with my family and friends.

I pledge to do my best to respect nature and take care of the plants and animals that live around me.



Signed: _____

Date: _____