

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# BEAR WISE

# ACTIVITY BOOK



## Bear Wise - What You Should Know About Black Bears

Black bears are not normally dangerous animals. They are, however, opportunistic omnivores. In other words, they will eat practically anything that is easy to get at. Admire them. Respect them. But please, don't feed them.

- Black bears are large, powerful animals. Adult males can weigh between 120-280 kg (250-600 lbs). Adult females can weigh between 45-180 kg (100-400 lbs)
- Black bears are actively feeding from mid-April to late fall in most parts of the province
- Black bears feed mainly on summer berry crops such as raspberries and blueberries, as well as mountain ash acorns and beech nuts in the fall
- In late summer and early fall some bears actively feed for 20 hours a day, ingesting as much as 20,000 calories
- During the summer bears typically double their body weight while preparing for winter hibernation
- If natural foods are not readily available, black bears will travel up to 100 km to find other food - primarily your garbage
- Once they know where to find a non-natural food source they will return again and again
- In northern Ontario, most black bears move into their winter dens by mid-October. In central Ontario, bears usually enter their dens by early November

**IN AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY: contact your local police force or dial 911**

**TO REPORT BEAR PROBLEMS: contact the Bear Reporting Line at  
1-866-514-BEAR (2327) (TTY) 705 945-7641**

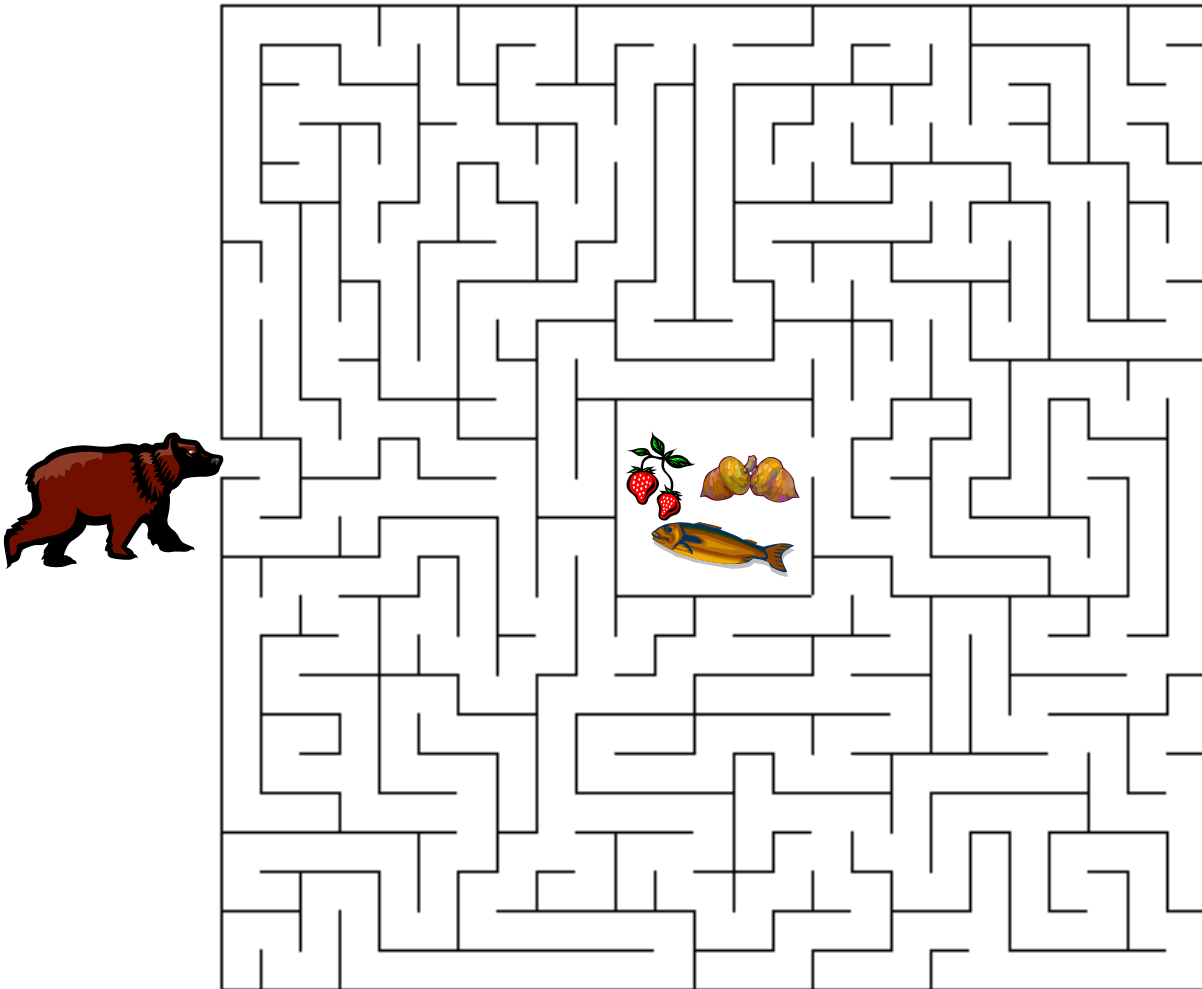
**Put this checklist on your fridge. In time, these bear-proofing habits will be second nature to you.**

**Share a copy of this list with your neighbours!**

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Garbage is properly bagged, and recyclables are cleaned						
Garbage and recyclables are put out on the day of pickup – not the night before						
Bird feeders are only filled during the winter						
BBQ is clean, put away after use, and kept behind closed doors						
Pets should be fed indoors or at least food is brought inside at night						
Compost piles or bins are free of meat, fish, sweet food (including fruit), fat and oil						
All ripe fruit is picked from trees, and vegetables and fruit are removed from the ground						

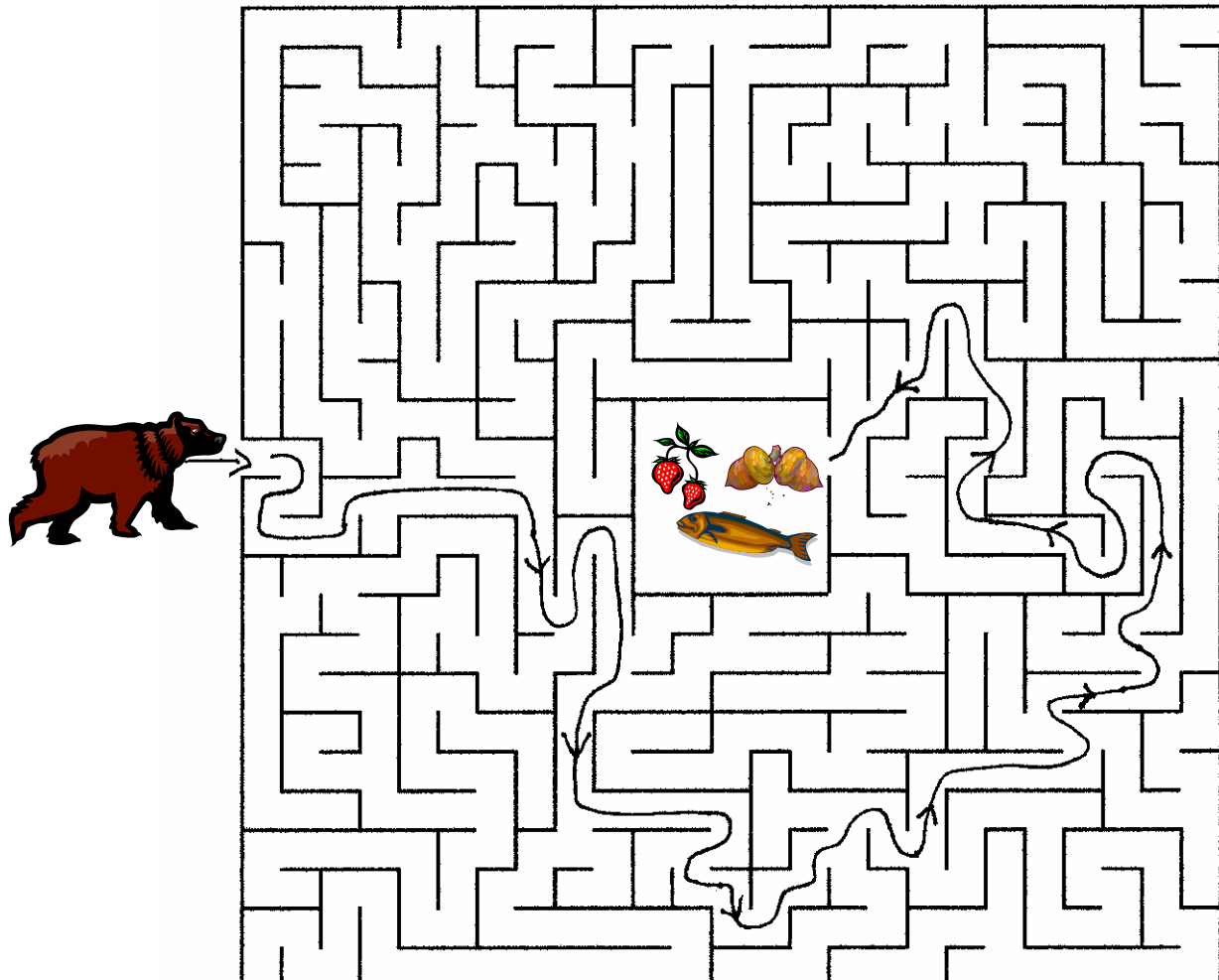


# Help the bear find his lunch



Black bears are not normally dangerous animals.  
They will eat practically anything that is easy to get at.  
**Admire them. Respect them. But please, don't feed them.**

# MAZE SOLUTION



Black bears are not normally dangerous animals.  
They will eat practically anything that is easy to get at.  
**Admire them. Respect them. But please, don't feed them.**









# **BEAR WISE Crossword Answer**

(from BEAR WISE eBook)

# BEAR WISE Word Scramble

(from BEAR WISE eBook)

## TBIAATH

Forested areas where bears live

## BUSC

Baby bears

## ROBWN

A small number of Ontario black bears are this colour

## YONHE

A sweet food that bears like - and they find protein in the same place

## NADDELINOS

A bear food more nutritious than spinach

## SGURB

Bears dig for this living protein often found in or under logs

## URF

A bear's hair isn't hair

## HAIRBENTE

Bears go into dens in winter

## WASCL

On a bear, these are sharp and curved, and don't retract

## BUSIEBERREL

A patch of these offers a main meal in mid-late summer

## RAYJUAN

The month cubs are usually born in Ontario

## RLOVEC

A plant that bears like to eat for the protein and the sweet flowers

## ELMSL

A keen sense helps bears find food - up to 1.6 kilometres away!

## SNAT

Bears get protein from eating these insects

## SCLEEBMITR

Cubs can do this very well - at up to 10 feet per second! (2

## SNUT

A black bear's favourite fall food

## MOOVINERS

They eat plant material and also eat meat

# BEAR WISE Word Scramble Answer

(from BEAR WISE eBook)

## HABITAT

Forested areas where bears live

## BROWN

A small number of Ontario black bears are this colour

## HONEY

A sweet food that bears like - and they find protein in the same place

## CUBS

Baby bears

## GRUBS

Bears dig for this living protein often found in or under logs

## FUR

A bear's hair isn't hair

## DANDELIONS

A bear food more nutritious than spinach

## CLAWS

On a bear, these are sharp and curved, and don't retract

## BLUEBERRIES

A patch of these offers a main meal in mid-late summer

## HIBERNATE

Bears go into dens in winter

## JANUARY

The month cubs are usually born in Ontario

## CLOVER

A plant that bears like to eat for the protein and the sweet flowers

## SMELL

A keen sense helps bears find food - up to 1.6 kilometres away!

## ANTS

Bears get protein from eating these insects

## CLIMB TREES

Cubs can do this very well - at up to 10 feet per second! (2 words)

## NUTS

A black bear's favourite fall food

## OMNIVORES

They eat plant material and also eat meat

# Colouring Pages



Bears have a keen sense of smell - more than seven times better than a bloodhound!  
They can smell food up to 1.6 kilometres away.  
Beehives, bird feeders, pet food, farmer's crops and garbage  
are some things that will attract bears.

# Colouring Pages



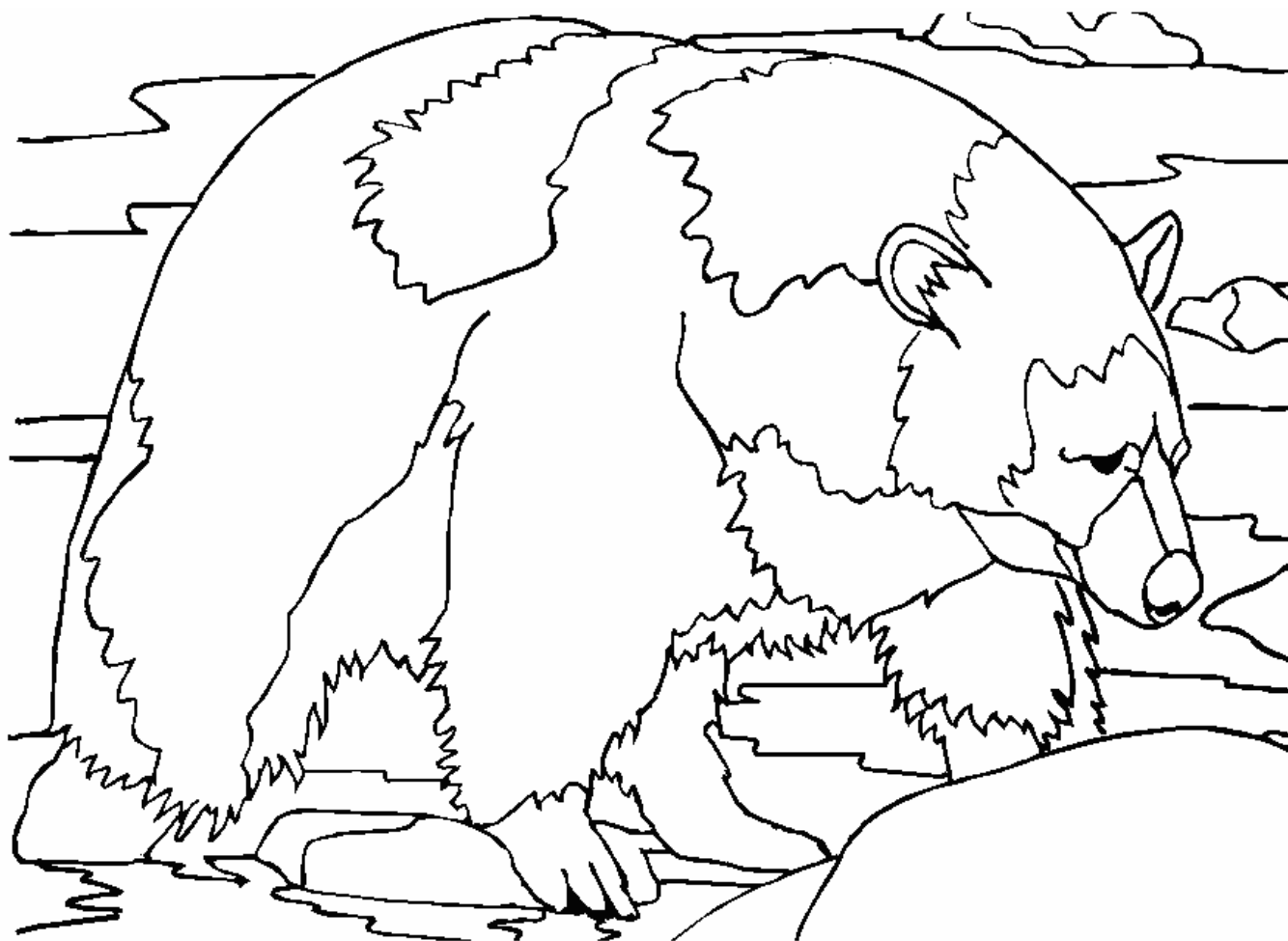
Black bears are “opportunistic” meaning they will eat anything that is easy to get. They are “omnivores” which means they eat both plants and animals, including fish.

# Colouring Pages



Bears may climb trees to eat fruit and berries or because they have been frightened by people or dogs. If they are left alone, they will eventually come down from trees on their own.

## Colouring Pages



Bears will travel more than 100 kilometres to a known food source and will keep returning until the food source is gone.



# BEAR WISE Word Search



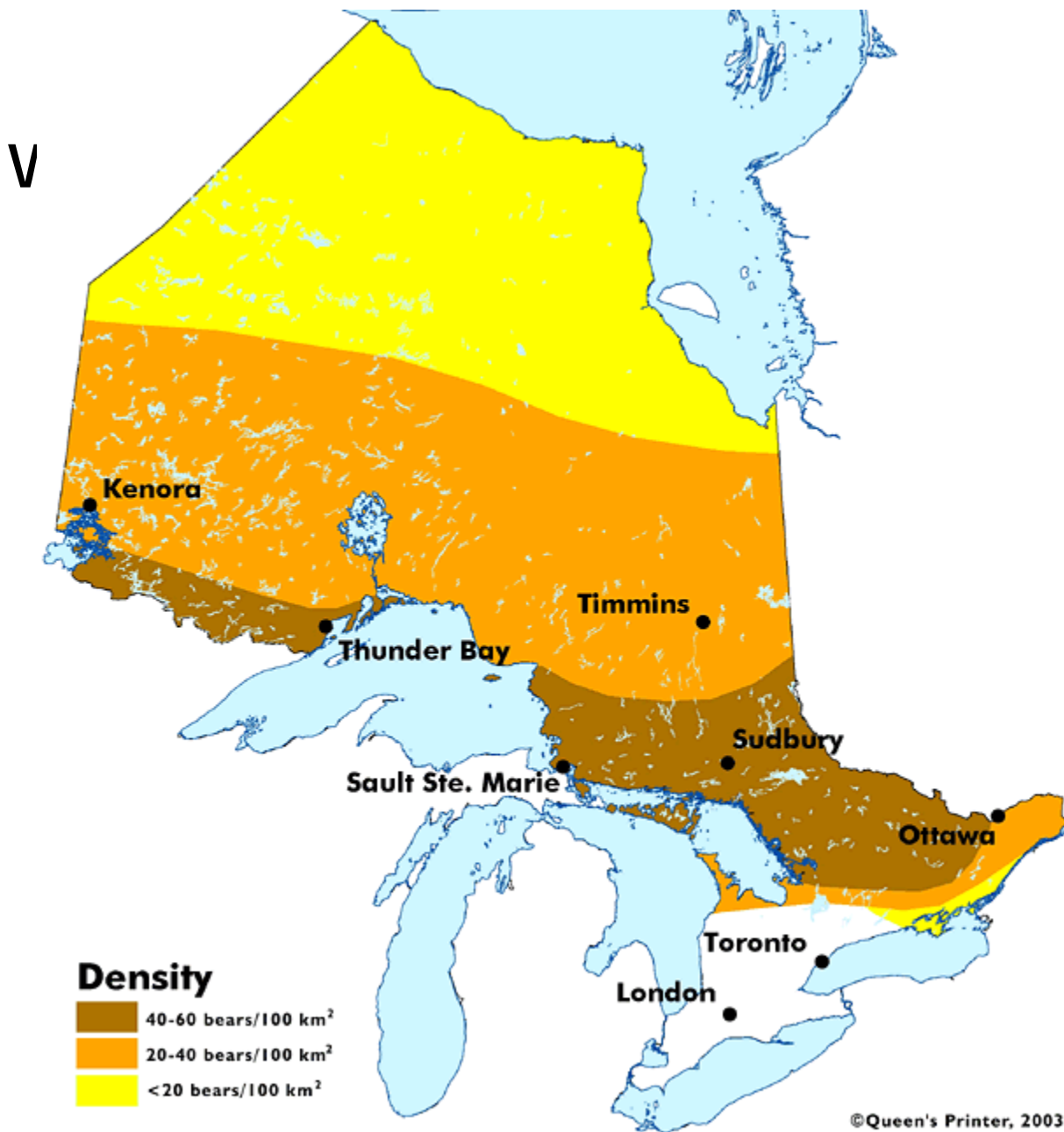
ACORNS  
BEAR  
BERRIES  
CUB  
DEN  
FISH  
FOREST

FRUIT  
FUR  
GARBAGE  
HIBERNATE  
OMNIVORE  
PAW  
TEETH

## Word Search Solution

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

# Ontario's "bear country"



## **Bear Wise - Bears in your schoolyard. What you can do.**

### **1) If you see a bear on or around school property:**

- GO INSIDE the school right away
- TELL the first adult you see

### **2) If the bear sees YOU:**

- DON'T APPROACH the bear
- SLOWLY BACK AWAY toward the school
- TELL the first adult you see

### **3) If the bear MOVES TOWARD you:**

- SLOWLY BACK AWAY toward the school while MAKING NOISE
- Remove and drop your backpack if it contains food
- YELL at the bear to GO AWAY!
- DO NOT "play dead"
- DO NOT turn and run
- GET INSIDE the school as soon as you can, without running
- TELL the first adult you see

### **4) Help keep bears away:**

- Keep your lunch inside the school
- Do not leave food, wrappings or lunch bags in the schoolyard. Take them inside the school to throw away
- Tell your teacher if you see food or garbage left in open bins or in the schoolyard

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