

Just for Kids

Be Bear Aware!



Did you know that black bears live in Connecticut? When people think of "bears," they often think of big, scary, wild animals that would attack for no reason. This is certainly not true when it comes to black bears. In fact, these bears tend to be shy and afraid of people.

What would you do if you saw a black bear?

First, stay calm and think, "WOW! This is really neat!" Not many people get the chance to see a wild bear. Don't try to get close to the bear.

Then, depending on the situation, a few things may happen:

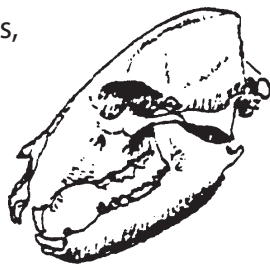
- (1) the bear will see you and take off (this is most likely);
- (2) the bear will see you and continue doing what it is doing;

Unless....the bear feels threatened! If the bear looks like it's going to charge at you, it may just be a bluff. Talk softly, while backing away from the bear. Do not climb up a tree (black bears can climb trees).

Most bears can be scared away by making loud noises.

Look at those teeth!

Bears are omnivores, meaning they eat a wide variety of food, including plants, fruits, nuts and berries, insects, carrion and occasionally small mammals.



Black bear skull

How much do you know about bears?

Fill in the blanks.

1. Adult black bears usually weigh from 110 to _____ pounds.
2. They are _____ to _____ feet long.
3. Black bears are usually black but can be _____ or cinnamon in color.
4. They live in _____ habitats.

Answers:

1. 300; 2. five to six; 3. brown; 4. forested

Black Bear

Black bears are found in woodland habitats throughout much of North America. They are the smallest North American bear but can weigh several hundred pounds.

Body: Black, occasionally brown
Muzzle: Tan



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