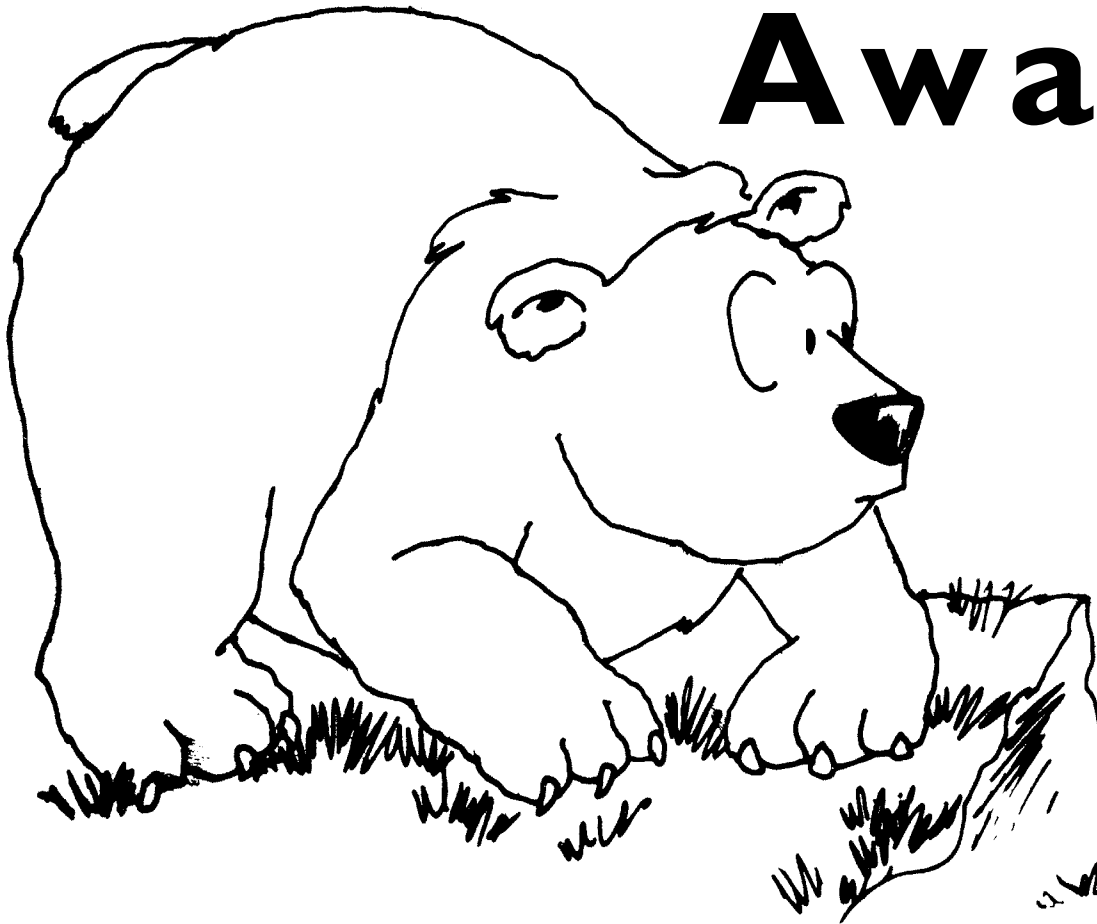


Be Bear Aware

**Getting Along
with Bears:**
Some Tips for Kids



**Presented by the Center for Wildlife Information
In Cooperation with Environment and Natural Resources**








Dear Parents, Teachers, and Guardians,

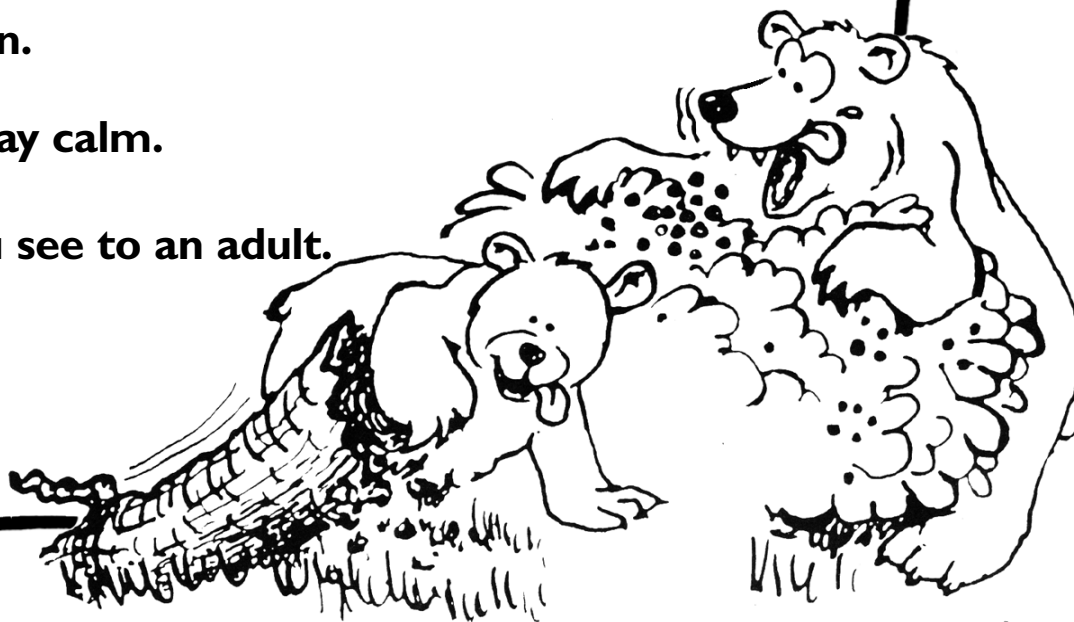
This activity book was developed for you to share with your kids. Bears, like all wildlife, are an important part of our northern ecosystems and an essential part of our cultural wellbeing. Use this activity book to help educate youth on safety around these important animals. Explain to them that bears need their personal space and that they should not approach touch or feed wild animals. Our youth are the future stewards of the Northwest Territories.

For more information on bears and bear safety contact your local ENR office.

How to Be Bear Aware

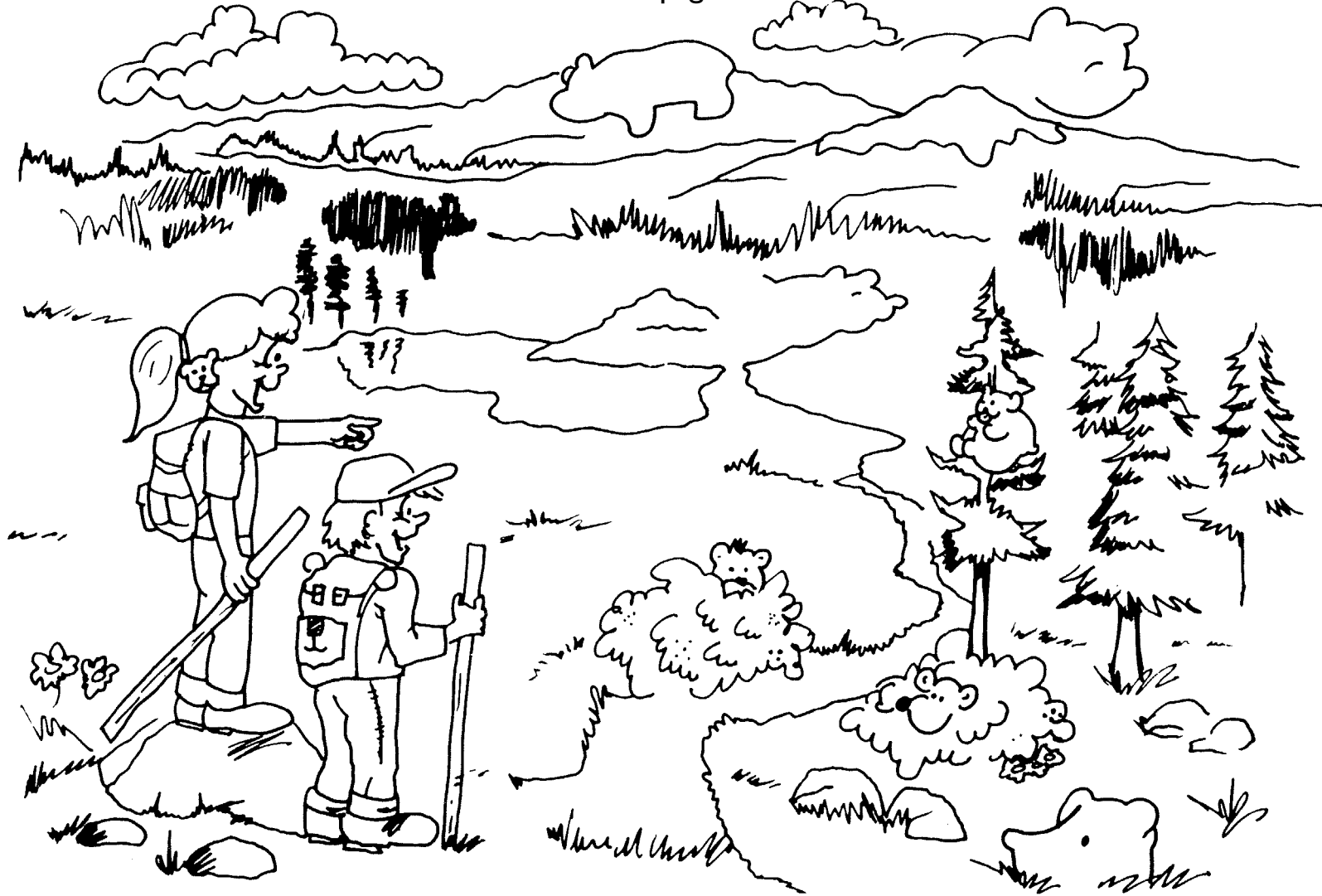
Tips to keep you safe:

-  Never get close to bears.
-  When hiking call out to let bears know you're there.
-  Hike and explore only in open areas.
-  Keep your pets on a leash.
-  Keep your camp clean.
-  If you meet a bear, stay calm.
-  Report any bears you see to an adult.



Can you find ten bears hidden in the picture?

Answers on page 22



Don't be afraid in bear country, but be careful and alert.
Bears usually try to avoid people, so it might be hard to see them.

Bear Habits and Behaviours

Bears protect
their cubs.



Bears take naps.



Bears play with
each other.



Bears fish.



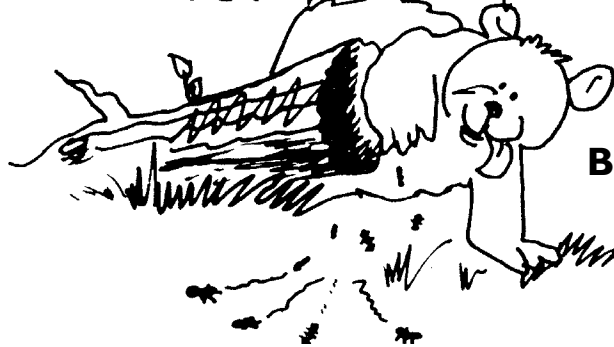
Bears eat
berries.



Bears climb
trees.

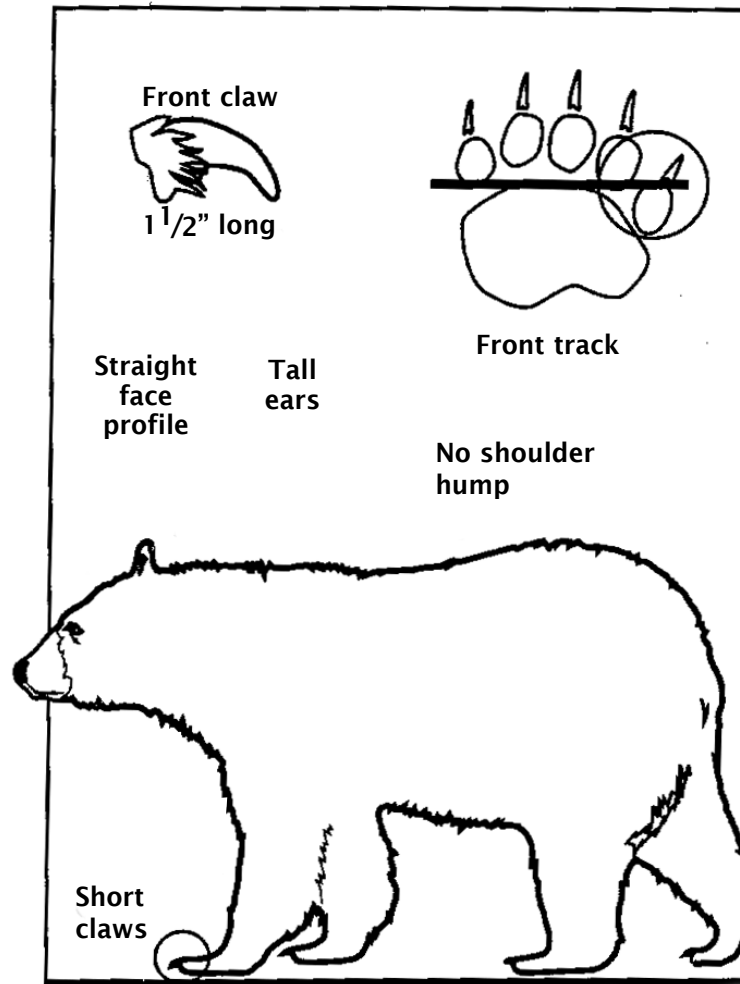


Bears eat bugs.



Black Bear

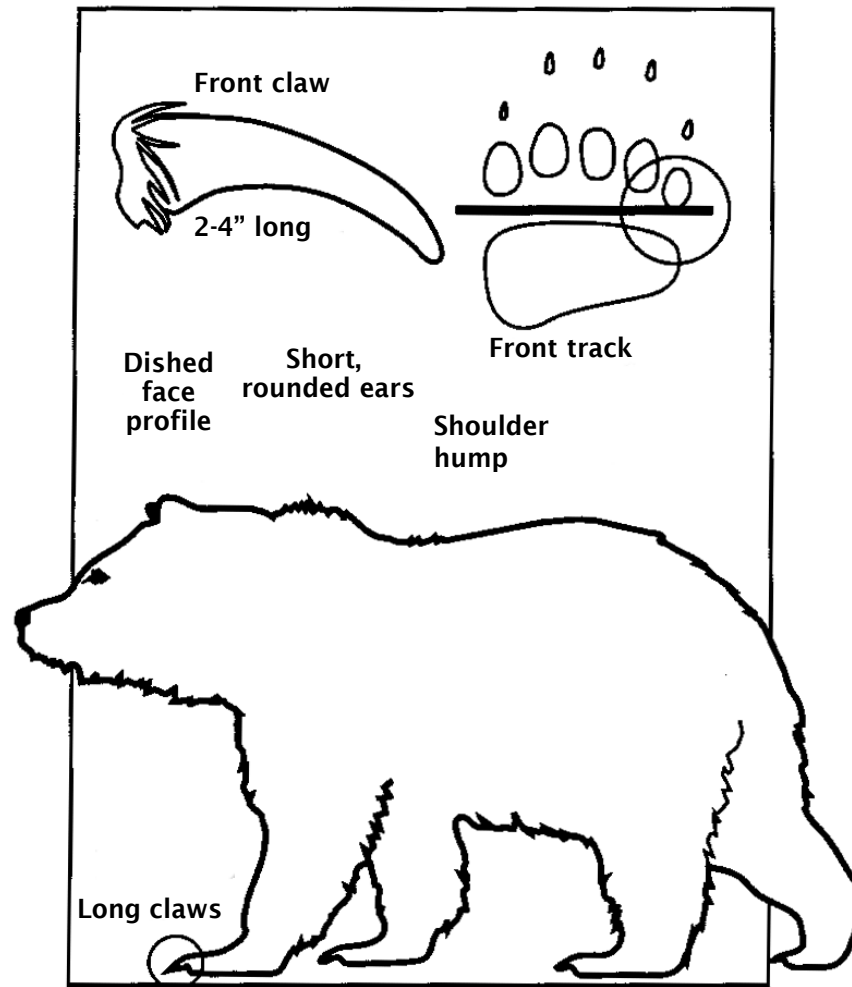
(*Ursus americanus*)



Found in the forested regions of the NWT, most commonly in the Mackenzie Valley. These bears are the most common bear found.

Grizzly Bear

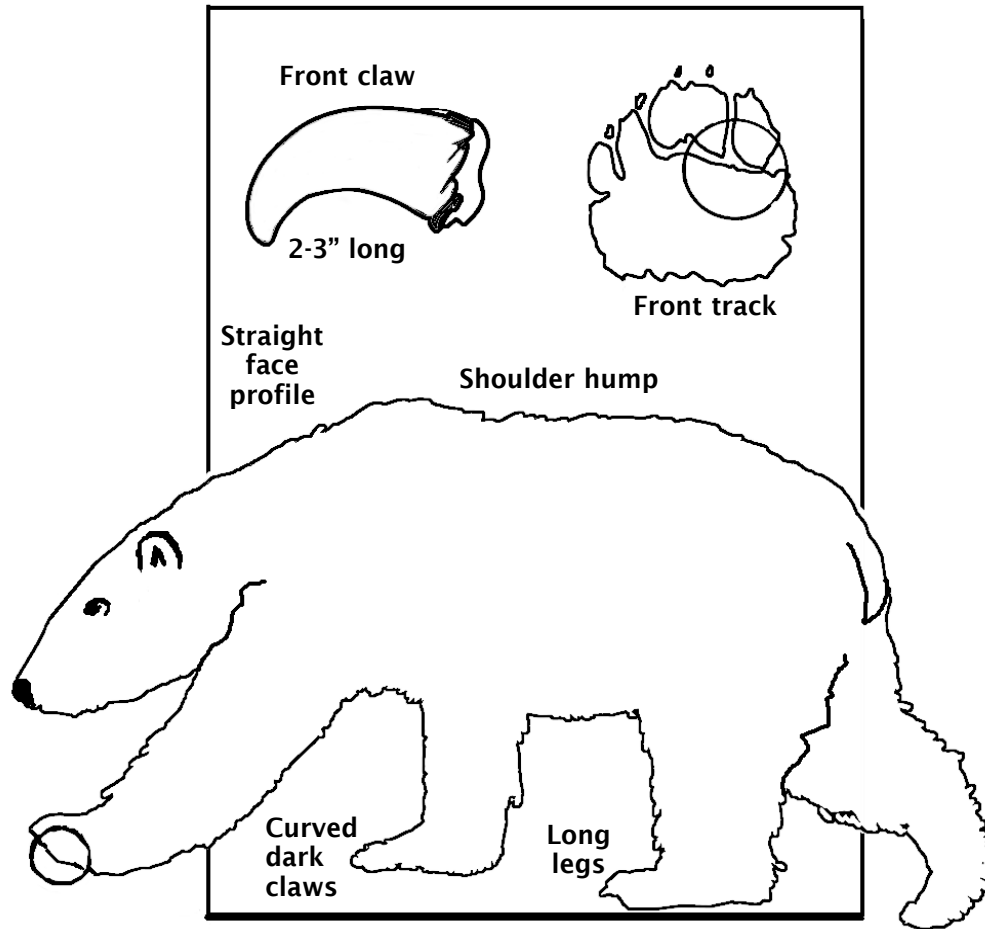
(*Ursus arctos*)



In the NWT, grizzly bears are found in the Mackenzie Mountains, the Mackenzie Delta and across the Barrens.

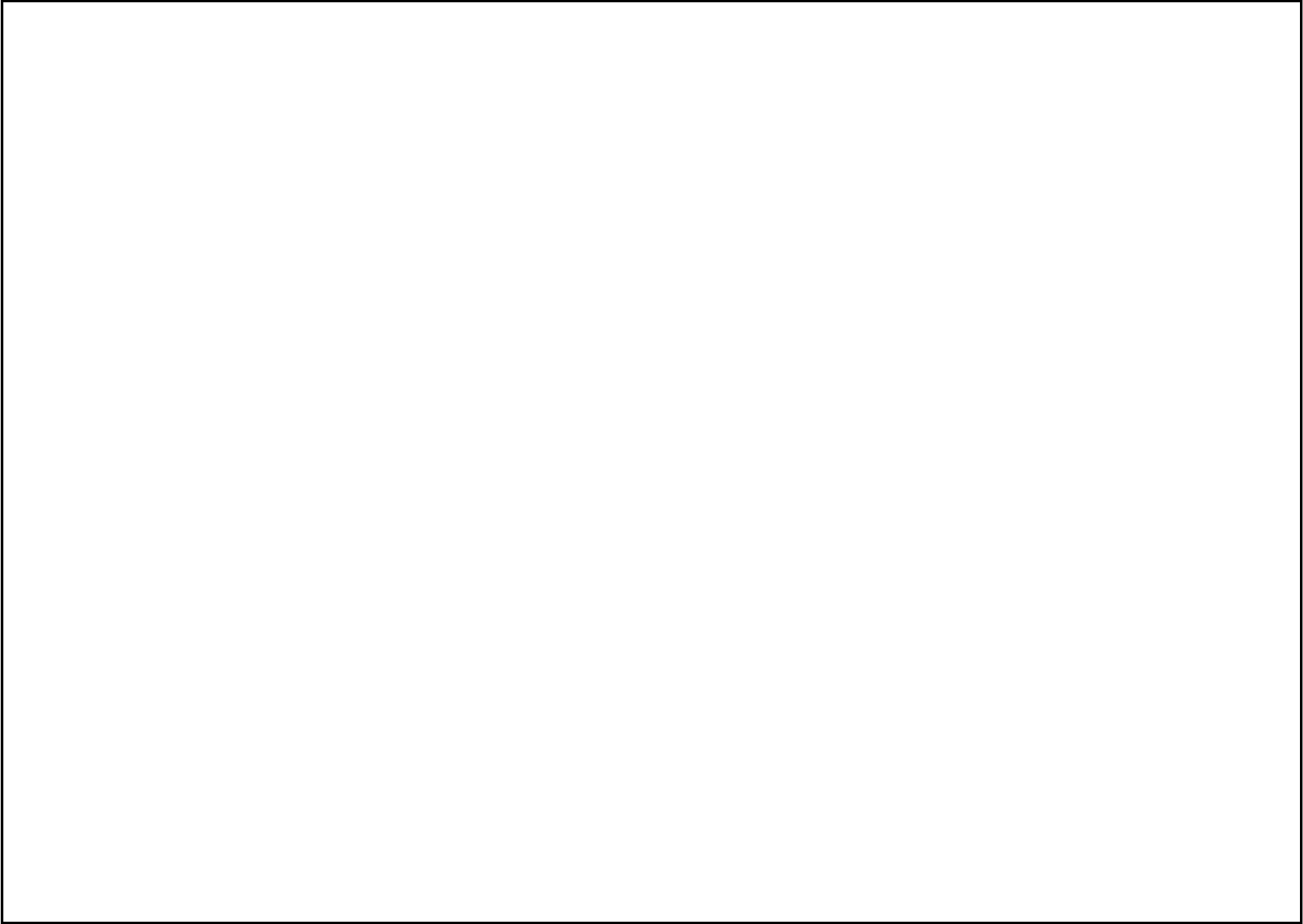
Polar Bear

(*Ursus maritimus*)



Polar bears live in a marine environment. The majority of them live on the sea ice around our Arctic Islands. They are also found in arctic and subarctic regions of the United States, Norway, Greenland, and Russia.

Draw the Bear You are Most Likely to See in Your Area.

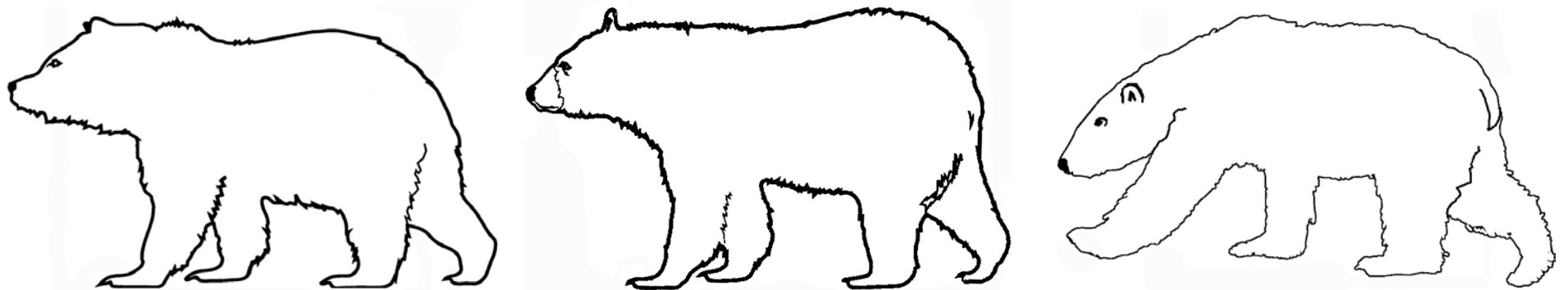


The Northwest Territories is fortunate to have healthy populations of all three types of bears and a large area of habitat for them to roam.

Grizzly bears have been pushed out of many areas in North America with human settlement. They do best in areas isolated from human activity.

Black bears adapt quite well to human activity. Bears in the NWT den earlier and remain in their dens longer than those in the south.

The Polar bear is one of the most recognized symbols of Canada's north. It is the world's largest bear. A male polar bear can reach two to three metres in length and weigh between 300-635 kilograms!



NEVER get close to bears. **NEVER FEED** bears.



FEEDING OR APPROACHING BEARS IS DANGEROUS. Once bears find food, they often return for more. People food is bad for bears.

**Remember: Wild animals may seem cute and friendly,
but they can be dangerous. Watch from a distance!**



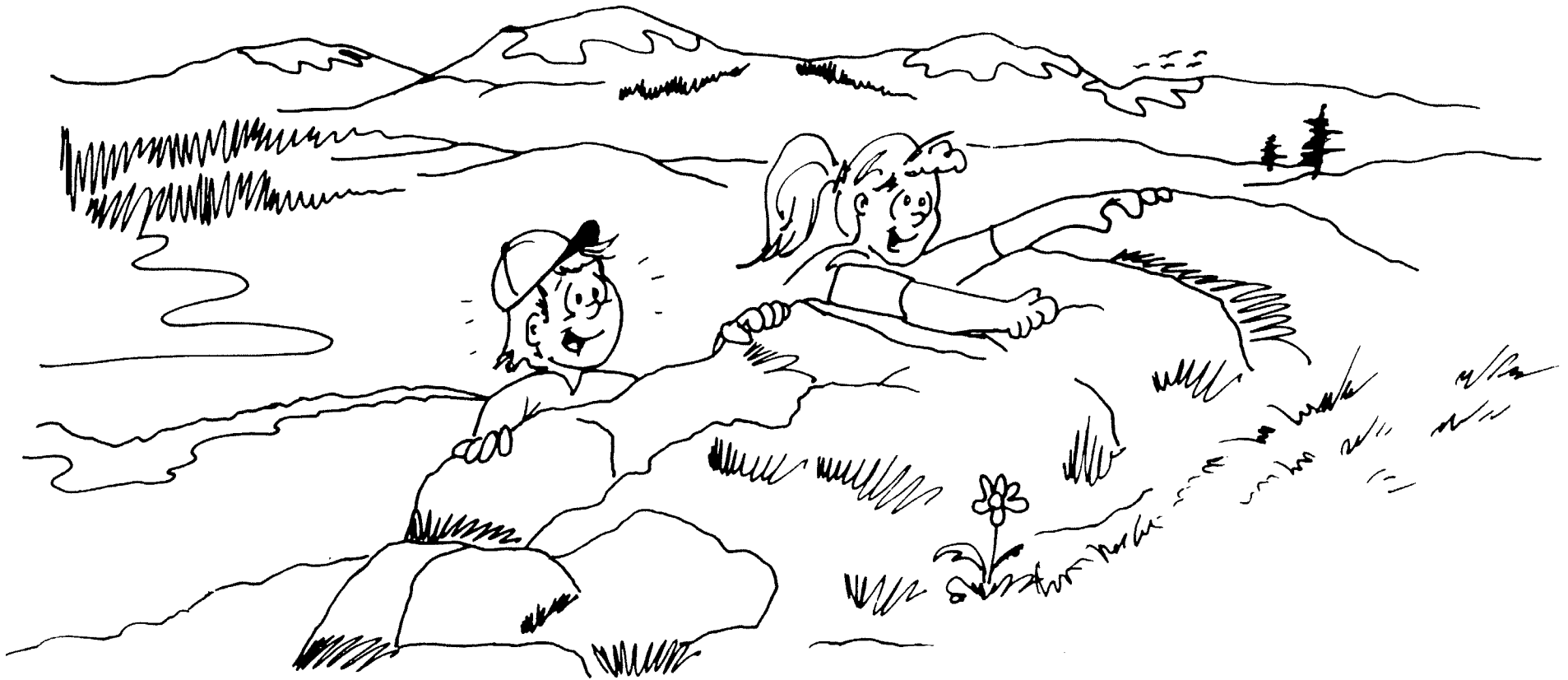
TOO CLOSE!

Call out as you go, so bears can tell you are coming.



Talk. Sing. Call out “Hey Bear, Ho Bear.”
If a bear knows people are near, it will not be surprised.

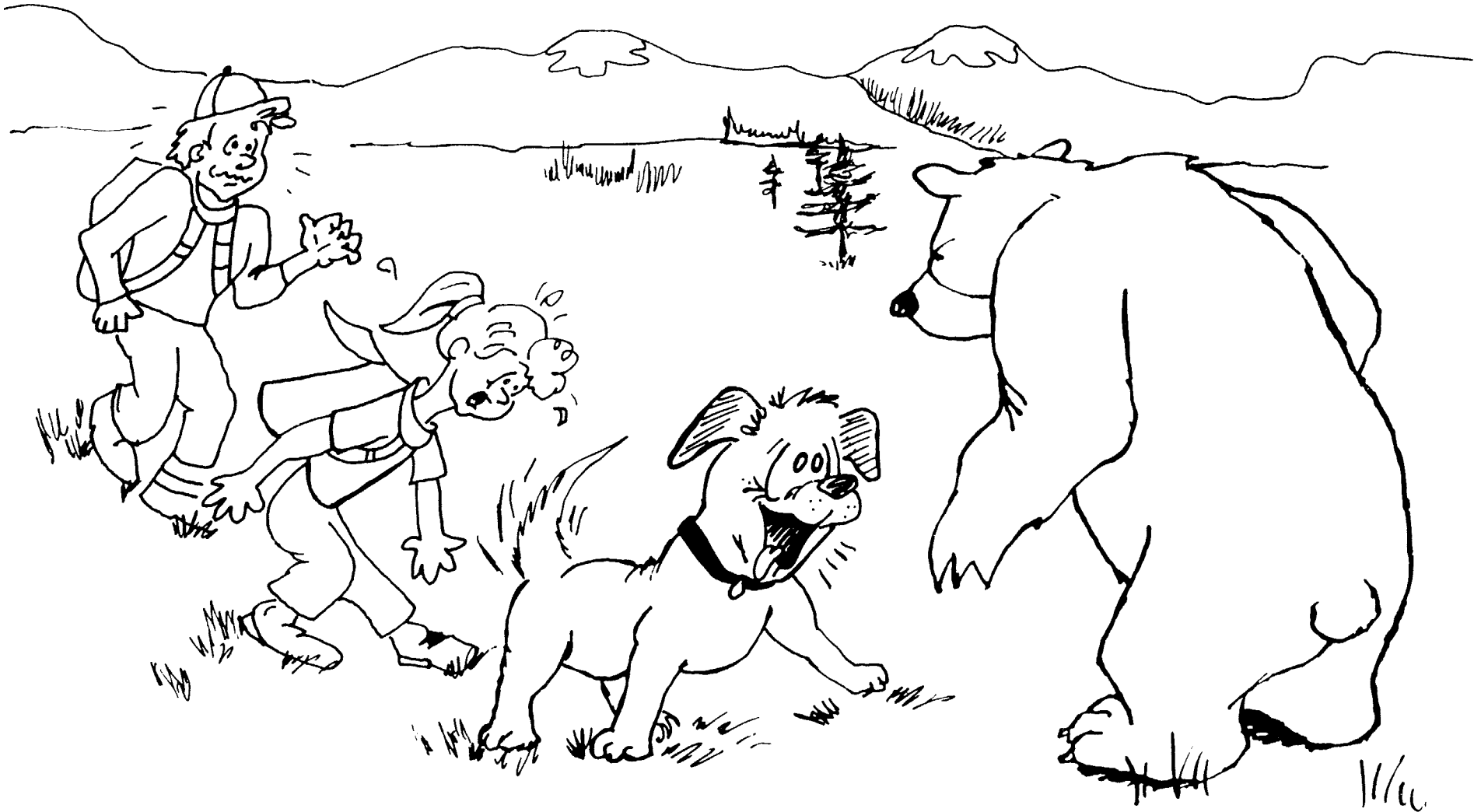
**Hike and explore in open areas; it is easier to avoid bears,
and for bears to avoid you.**



ALWAYS:

- Obey bear warning and trail closure signs.
- Hike with at least one other person.
- Tell an adult where you are going.
- Hike during daylight hours.
- Be careful near berry bushes. (bears like berries).
- Stay away from dead animals. (bears like them, too).
- Stay on the trail.
- Stay alert. (look for bear signs and tracks).

**Bears and unleashed dogs don't mix.
Dogs can easily disturb bears and lead the bear back to you.**



Dogs are discouraged in all bear country. They are even prohibited in some areas. It is safest to leave your pets at home.

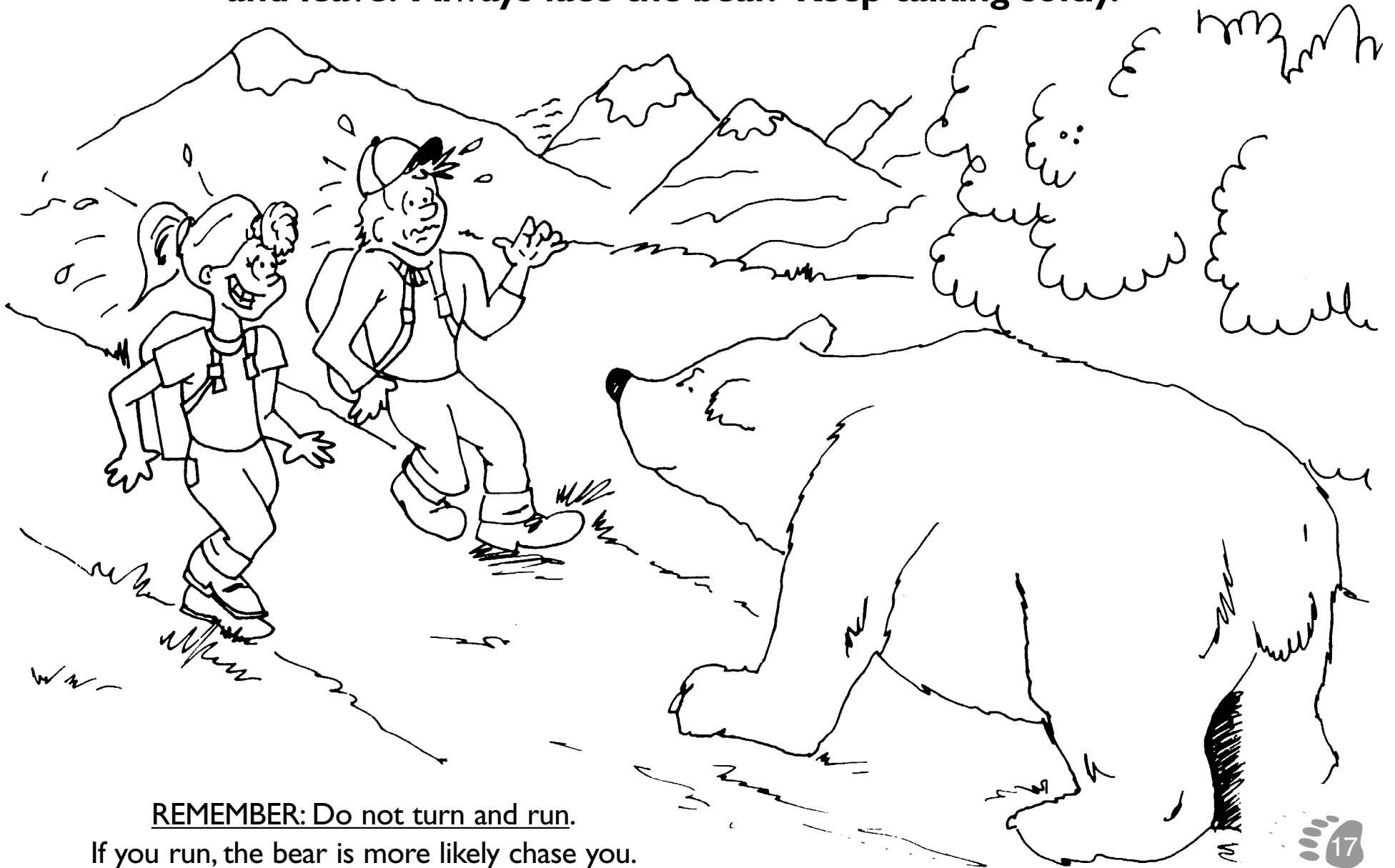
If you meet a bear, stay calm, keep your backpack with you.



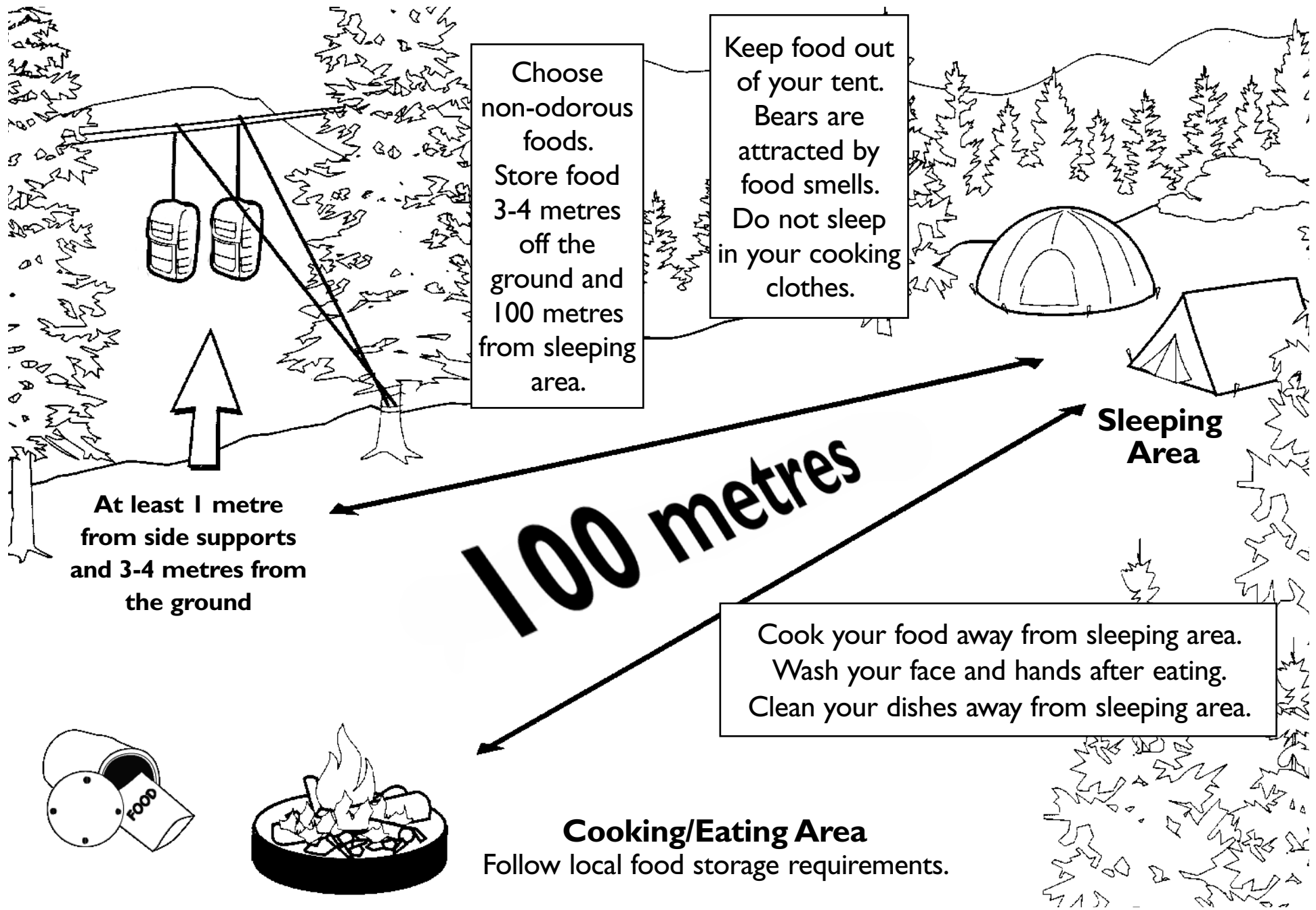
They may come closer to get a better look and smell to determine what you are.
Could this surprise have been avoided? How?

Answers on page 22.

When on a trail, slowly back away from the bear and leave. Always face the bear. Keep talking softly.

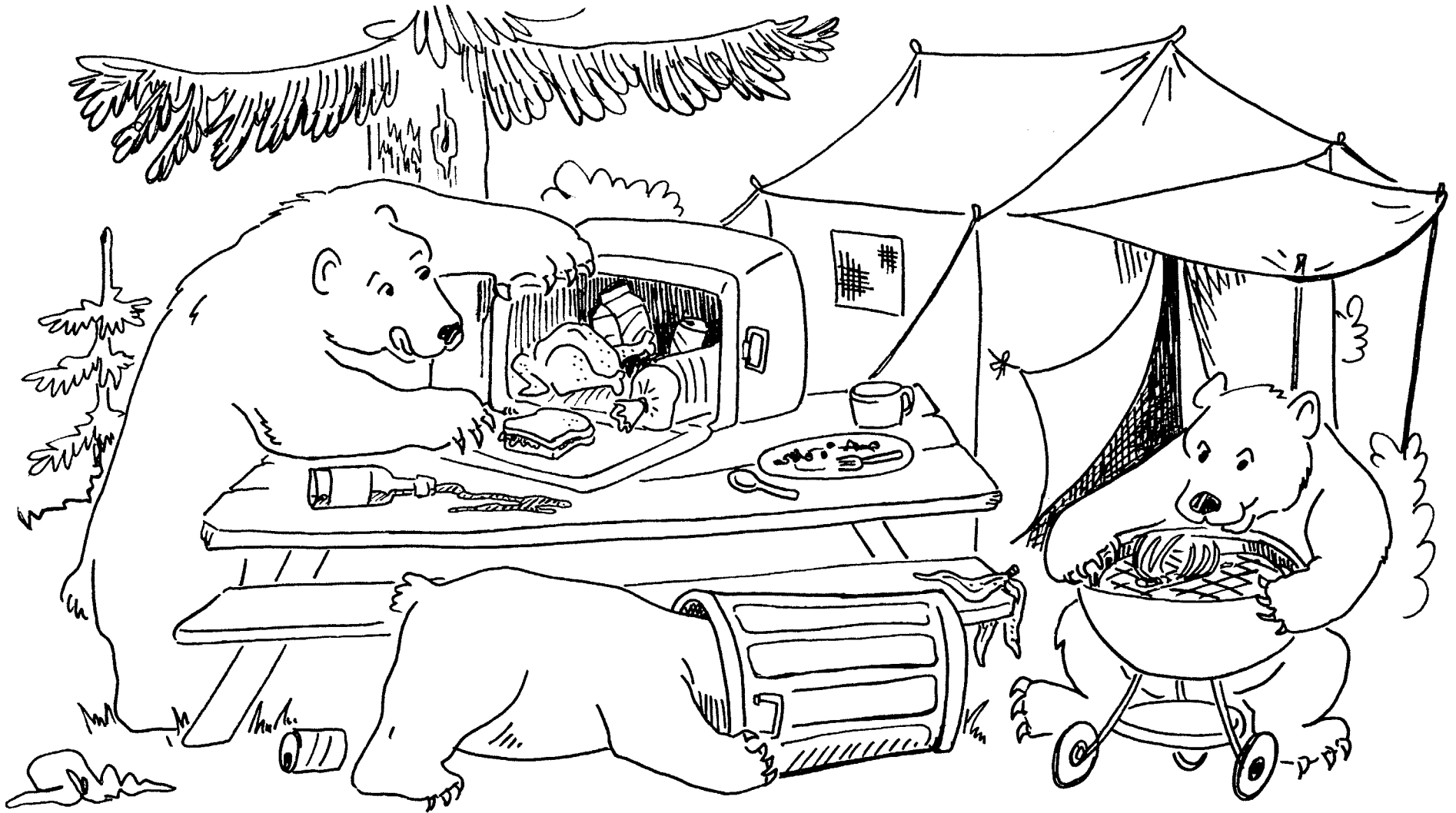


REMEMBER: Do not turn and run.
If you run, the bear is more likely chase you.

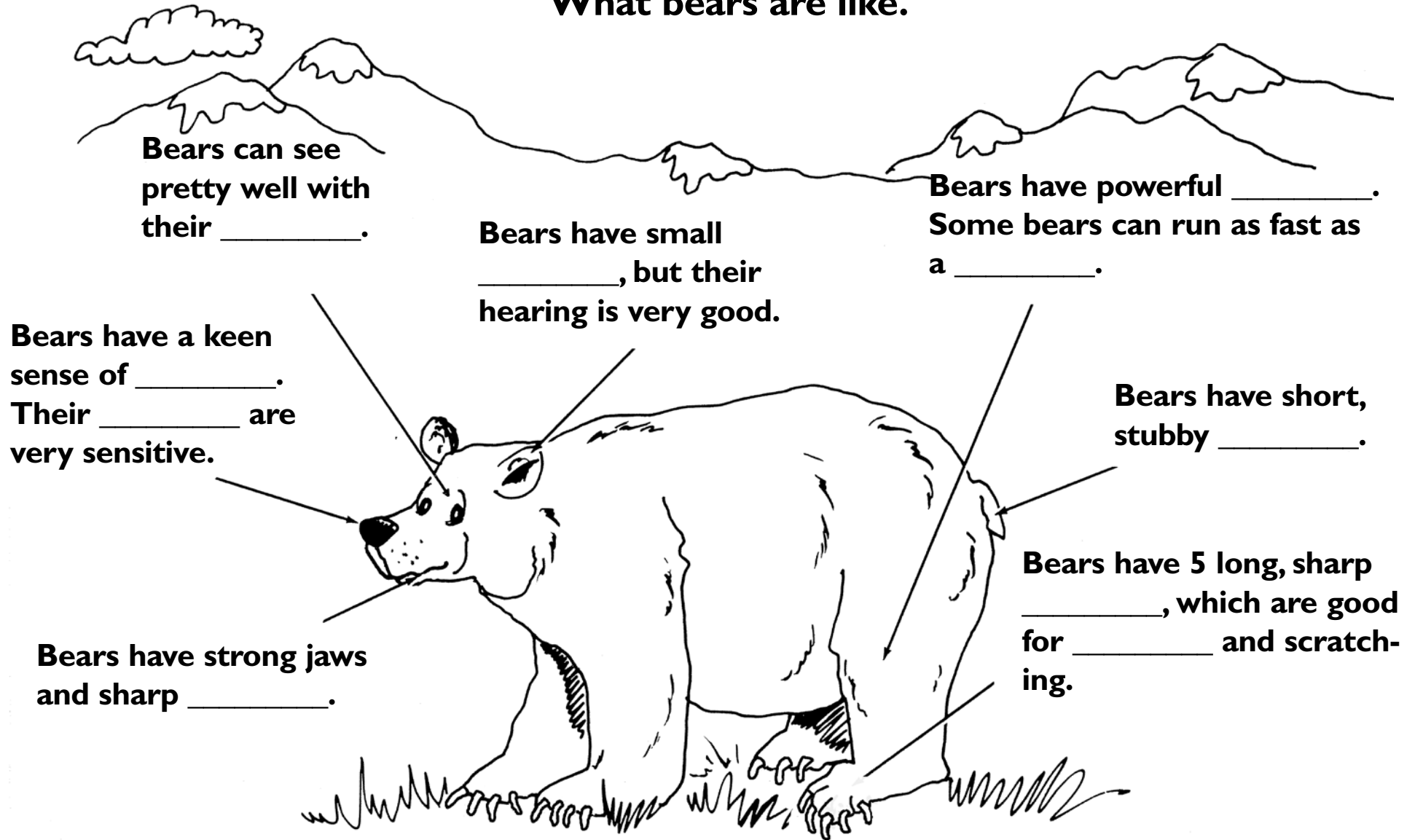


REMEMBER: Bears love to eat. If you keep a clean camp, bears will not be attracted by food smells. These people are NOT GOOD CAMPERS. In campgrounds food should be stored in food lockers or hard sided vehicles. Can you tell why bears were attracted to this camp?

Answers on page 22.



What bears are like.



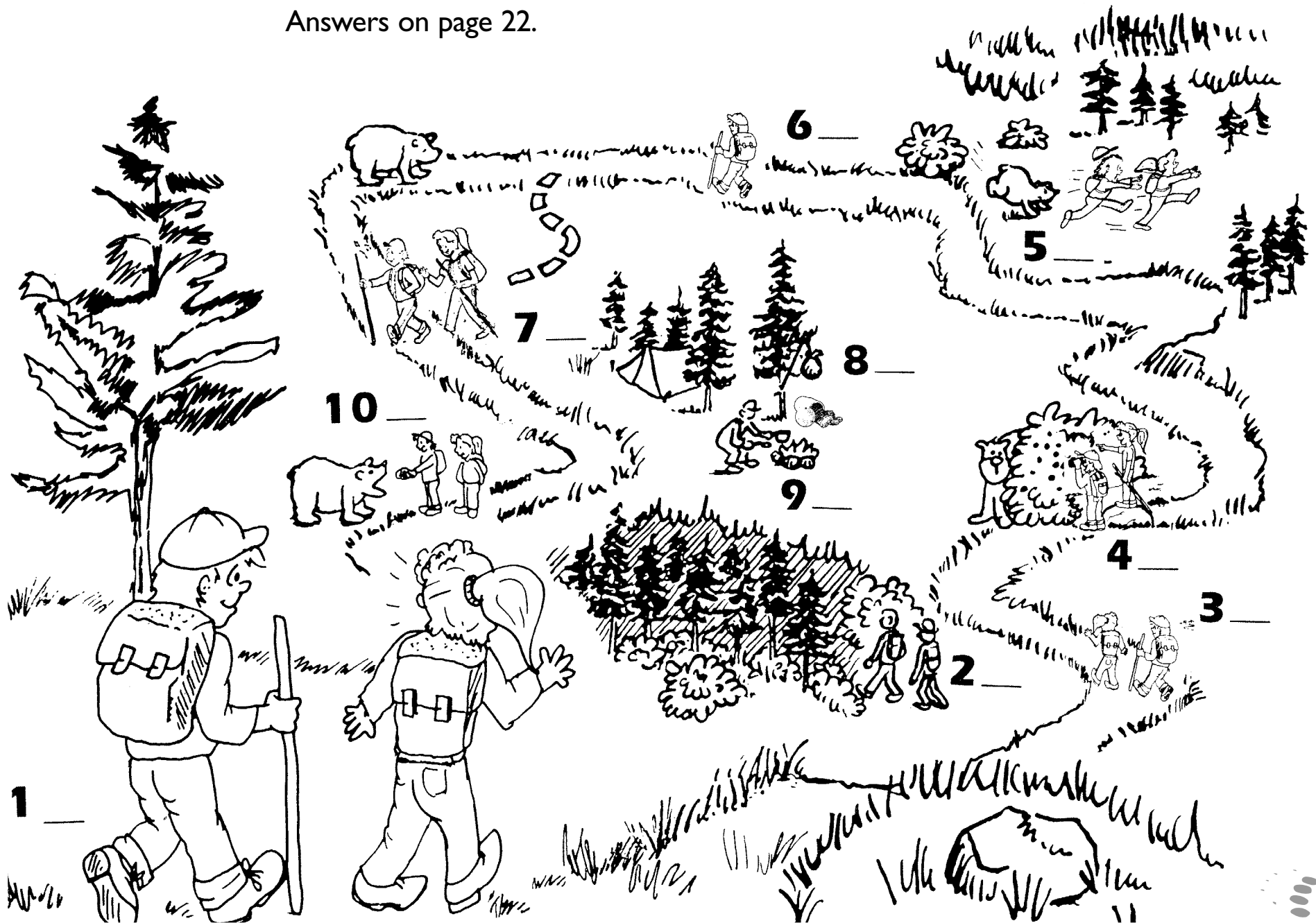
Use these words to fill in the blanks: (words may be used more than once)

claws noses legs ears digging teeth tails horse eyes smell

Answers on page 22.

Mark **DANGEROUS** actions with a **D**.
Mark **SAFE** actions with an **S**.

Answers on page 22.



Answers to puzzles and games.

- Page 4. Bear in cloud at upper right.
Bear outline in snowcap on mountain in top middle.
Bear shape in trees at upper left.
Bear head at end of trail at upper right.
Bear head behind girl's ear.
- Page 13. The hikers should have been making more noise by talking, singing, or calling out.
If the bear had heard the hikers coming, it probably would have left.
- Page 16. Food left outside in cooler.
Grill not clean, trash left out.
- Page 17. Bears can see pretty well with their eyes.
Bears have small ears, but their hearing is very good.
Bears have powerful legs. Some bears can run as fast as a horse.
Bears have short, stubby tails.
Bears have long, sharp claws, good for digging and scratching.
Bears have strong jaws and sharp teeth.
Bears have a keen sense of smell. Their noses are sensitive.
- Page 18. 1. **S** Call out when hiking.
2. **D** Hiking into dense trees/bushes.
3. **S** Hiking into open country.
4. **D** Not careful near berries.
5. **D** Turning and running.
- Bear in tree, middle right.
Bear in bush at left of trail.
Bear head in bush at right of trail.
Bear head rock at lower right.
Bear head on boy's pack.
- Dirty dishes and food scraps left on table.
Food cooked and eaten right beside sleeping area.
6. **D** Hiking alone.
7. **S** Staying away from the bear.
8. **S** Keeping food high in a tree or use food storage canisters.
9. **S** Cooking away from sleeping area.
10. **D** Feeding a bear.

For more information about bears in the Northwest Territories visit our ENR website at:

<http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca>



This was produced in partnership with the Center for Wildlife Information and contains copyrighted material. For more information on bears and bear education go to www.BeBearAware.org.

