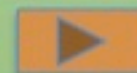
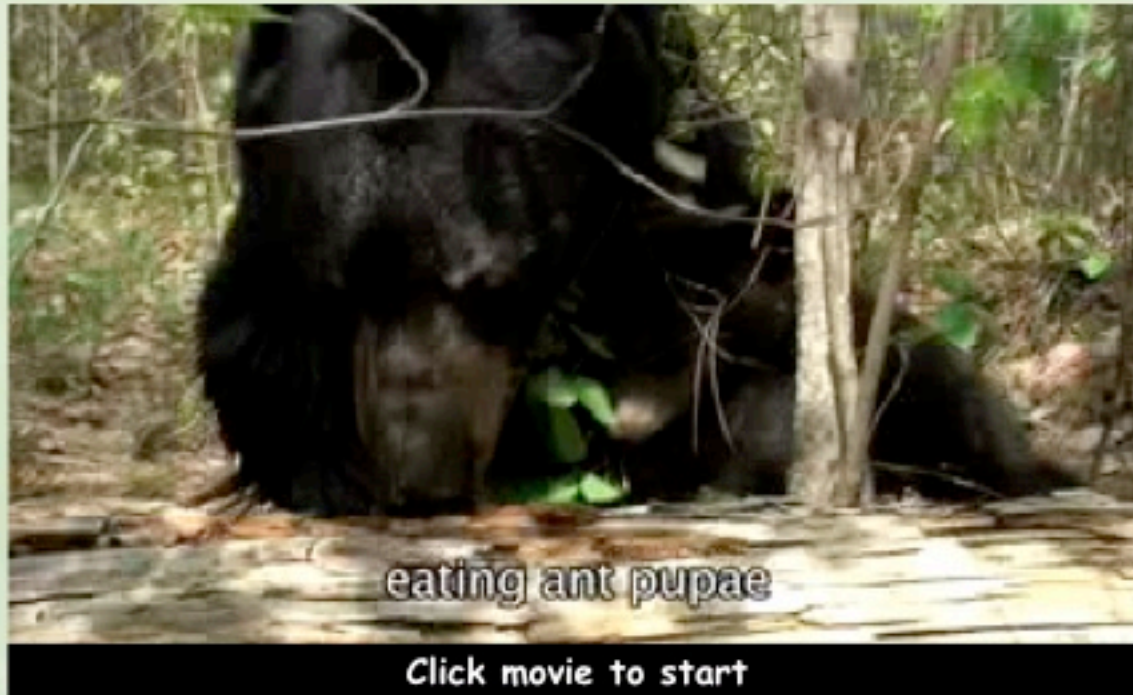


The ABCs of Black Bears





A is for ANT and ACORN. Black bears eat ANT larvae and pupae for protein. Where oak trees grow, ACORNS are an important food for black bears.

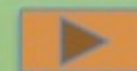
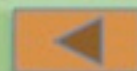




B is for BERRY and BIOLOGIST. Black bears eat many BERRIES; strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, sarsaparilla, chokecherries, and more! BIOLOGISTS study plants and animals.

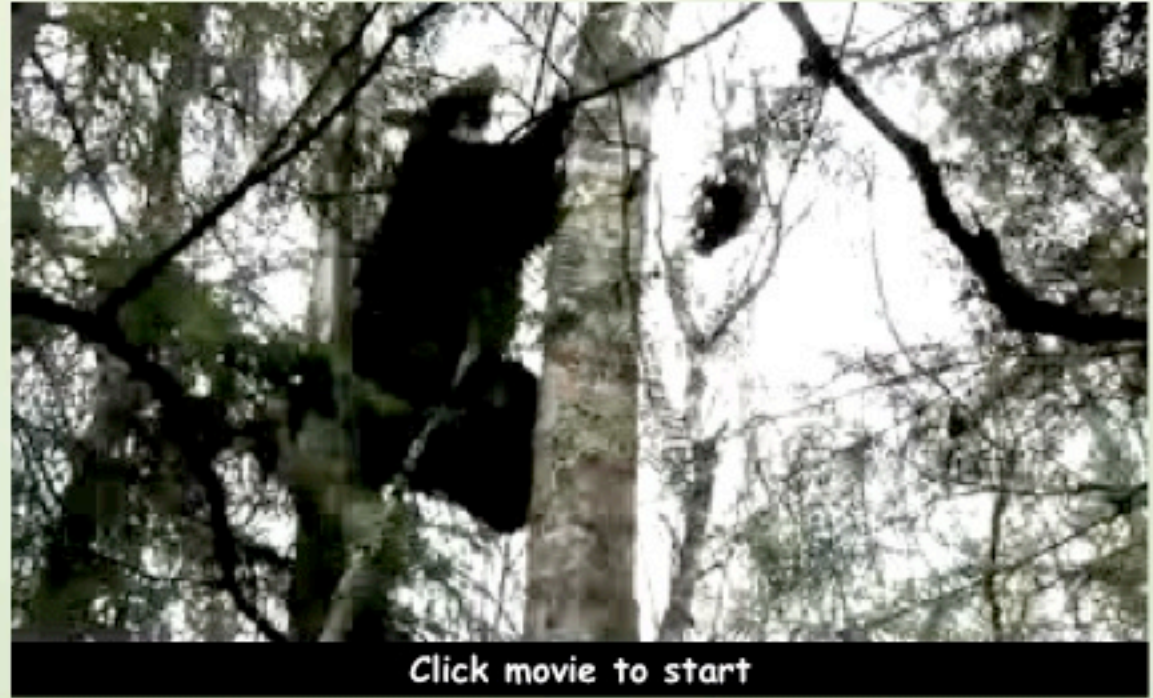


Click movie to start

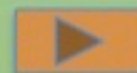
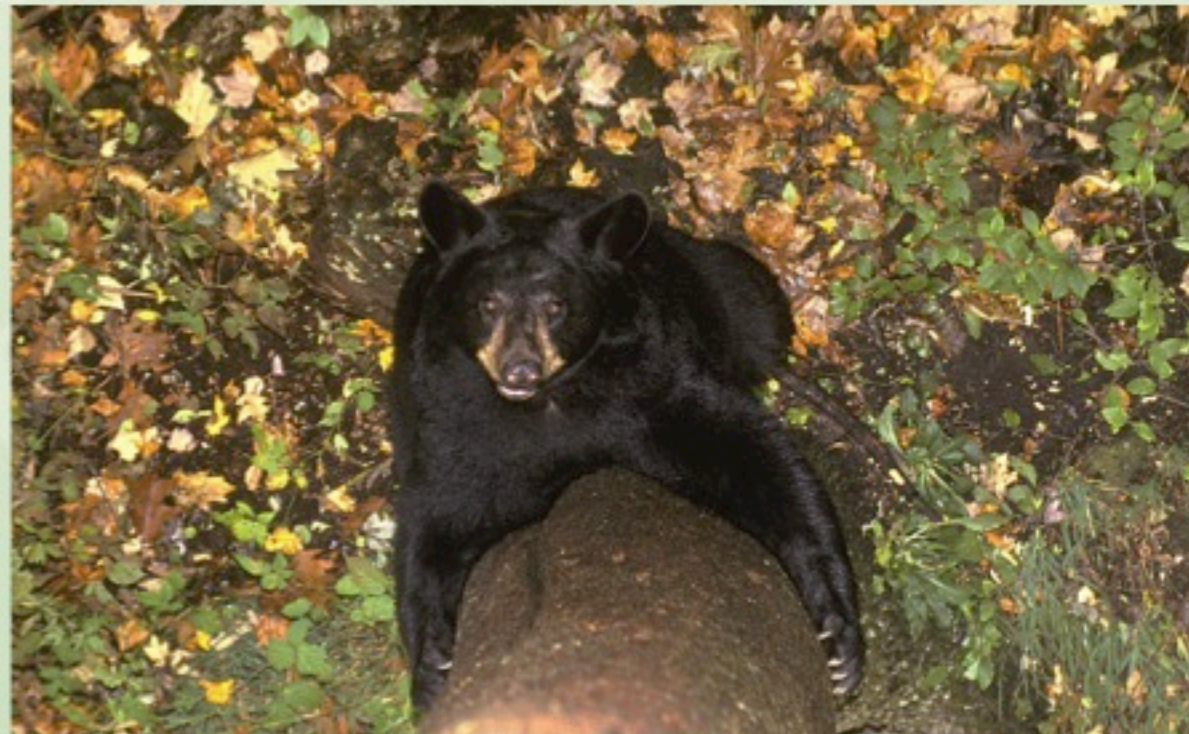




C is for CLAWS and CLIMBING. Black bears have strong curved CLAWS for CLIMBING trees and ripping logs.

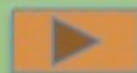
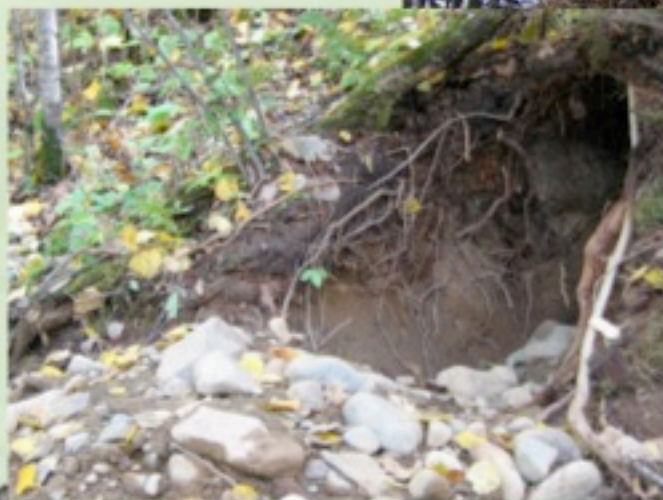


Click movie to start



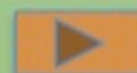
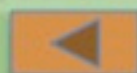


D is for DENS of various sorts—rock DENS, dug DENS, brush-pile DENS, and nest DENS. Black bears usually choose a new DEN each winter. DENS are not much bigger than the bear itself.



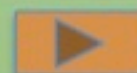
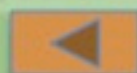
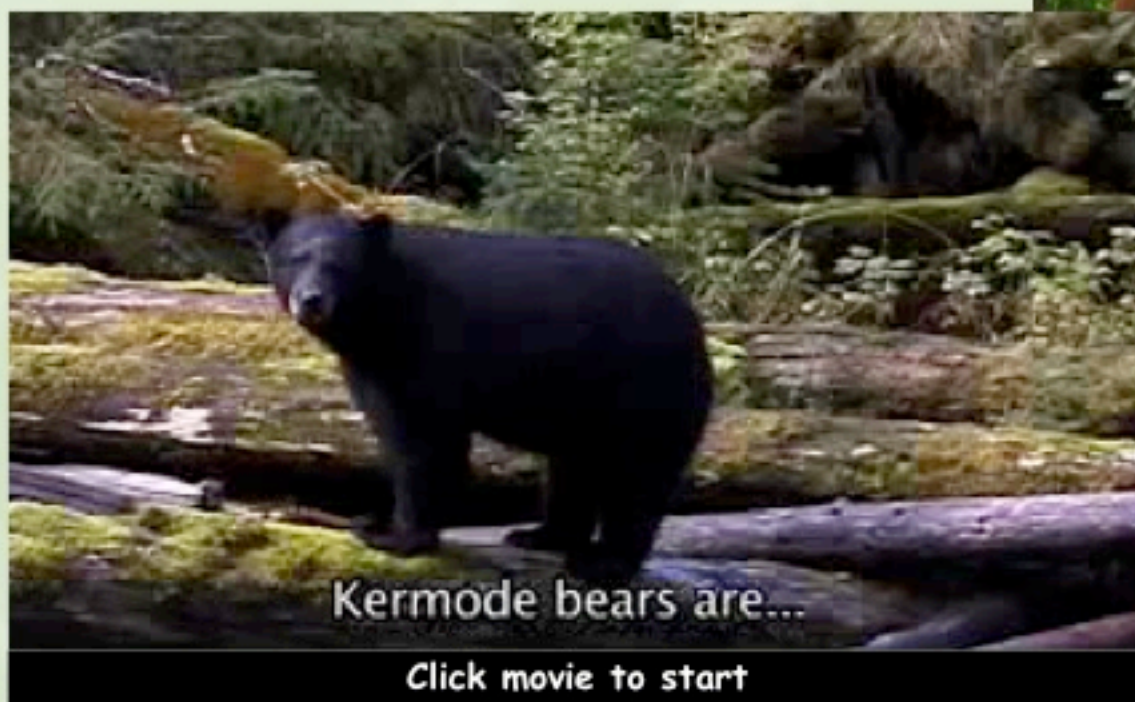
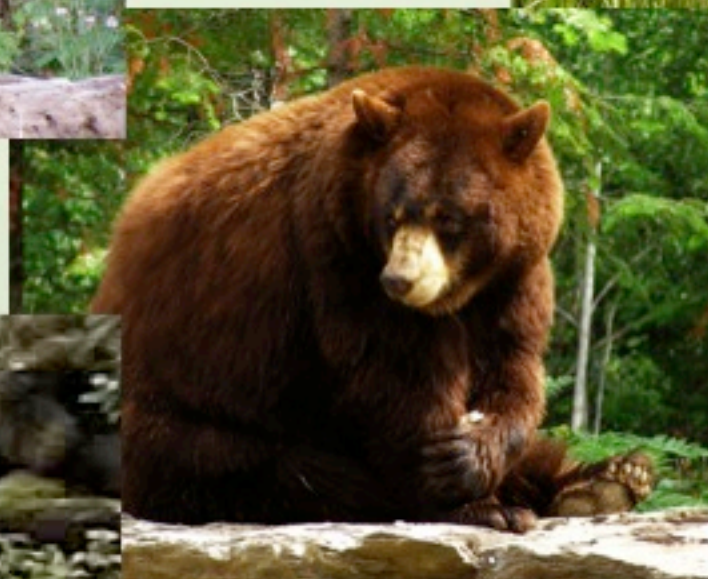
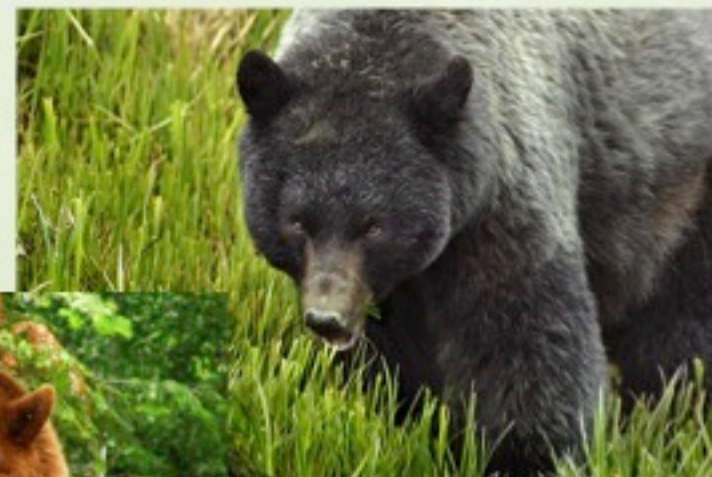
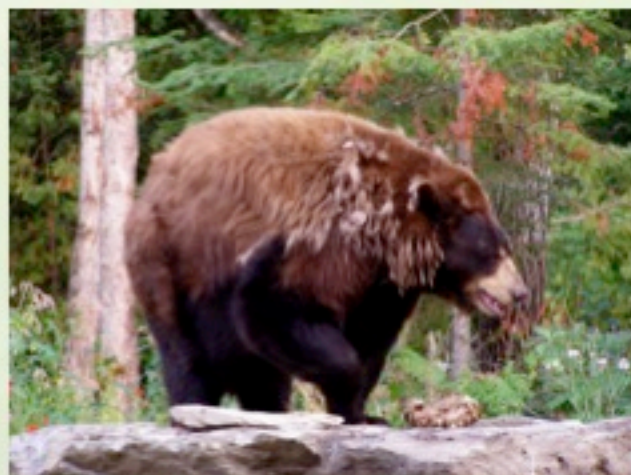


E is for EARS and EYES. Black bears use their EARS to sense danger, then run away or climb a tree to escape. Cubs have blue EYES that turn brown before their first birthday. Bears see in color and have good vision close-up.





F is for FUR. FUR insulates and helps repel water. A black bear's FUR is not always black. Variations include brown, cinnamon, blonde, white, or bluish gray. Black bear FUR is shaggy or sleek, depending on the season.

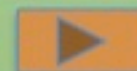
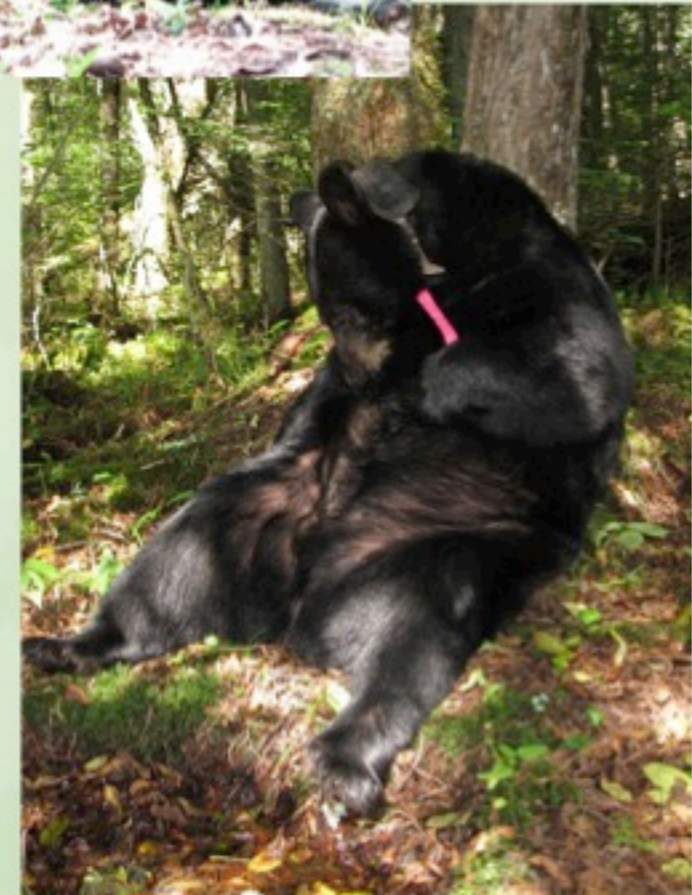




G is for GROOMING. Black bears keep themselves clean by GROOMING their fur with teeth and claws. Family members GROOM each other to remove ticks and debris.

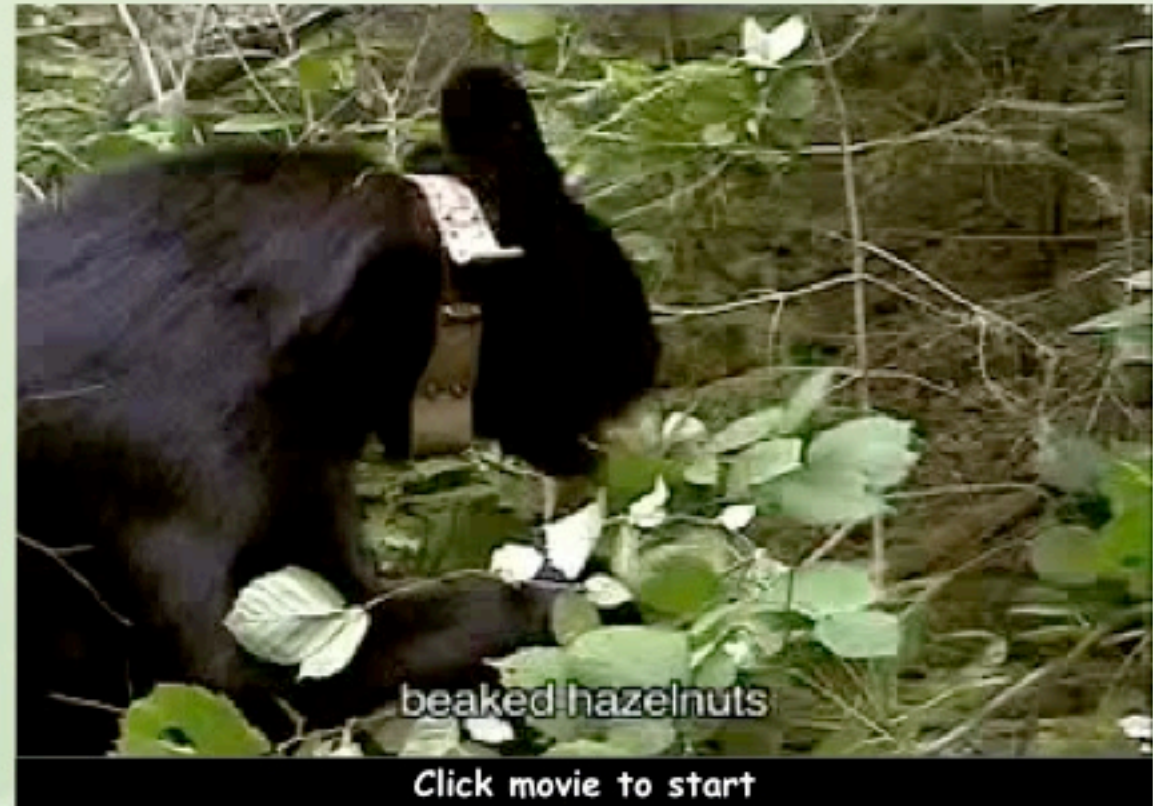
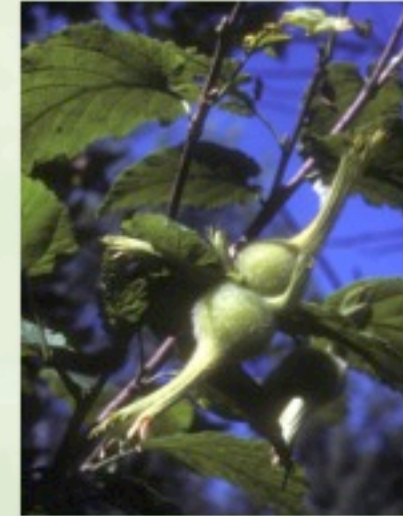


Click movie to start



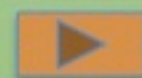
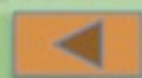


H is for HIBERNATION and HAZELNUTS. Black bears HIBERNATE to escape winter food scarcity. If black bears are lucky, they find tasty HAZELNUTS before the squirrels and other rodents do.



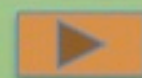
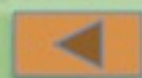
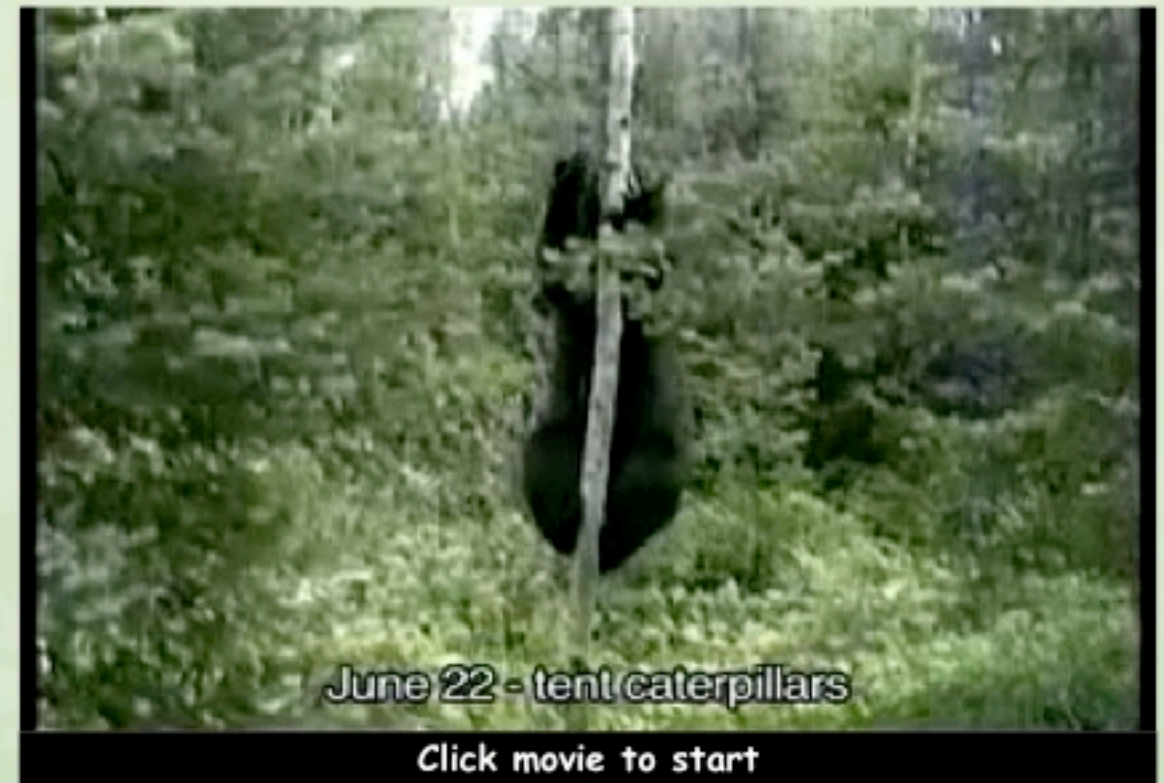
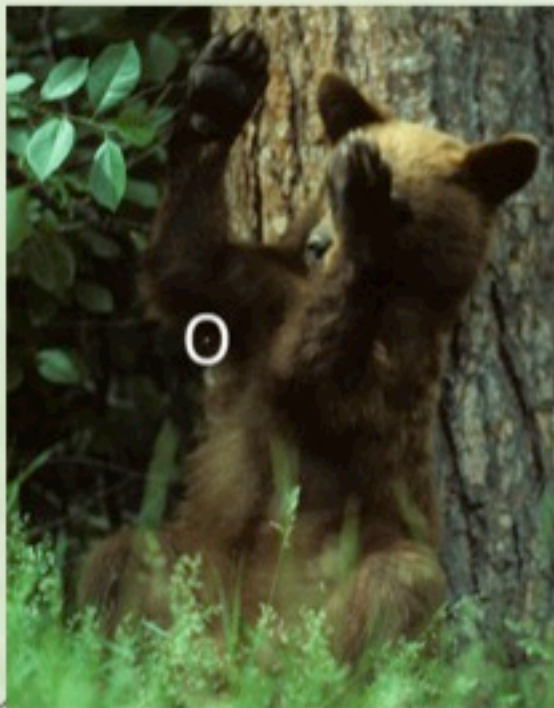
beaked hazelnuts

Click movie to start



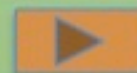
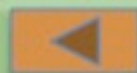
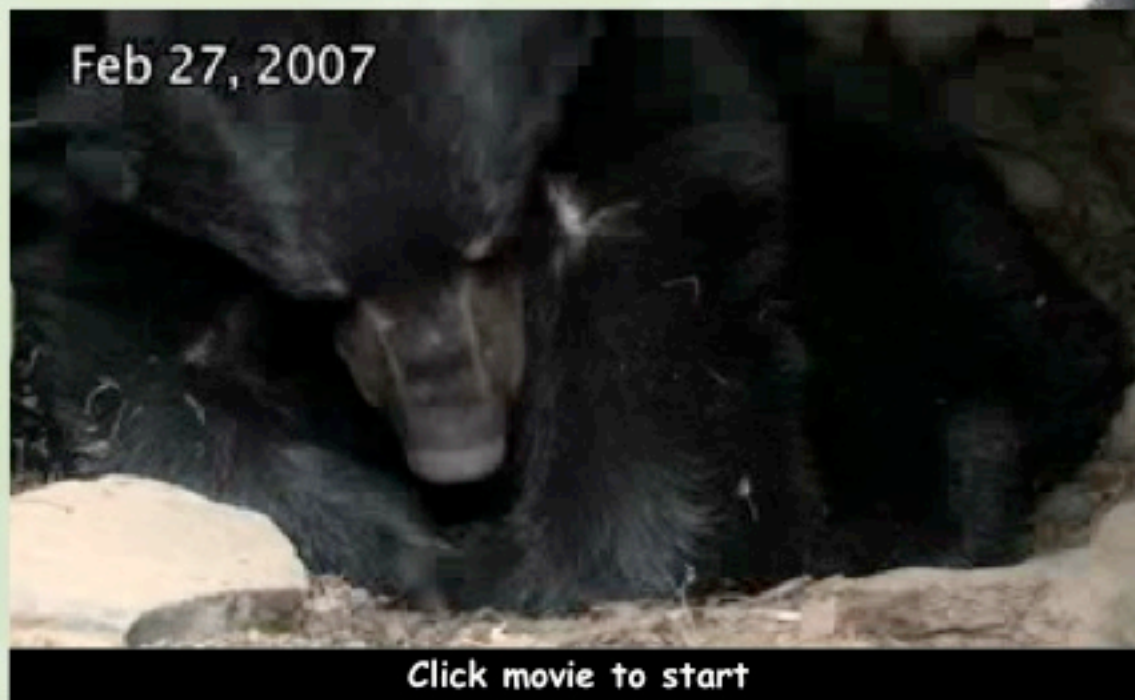
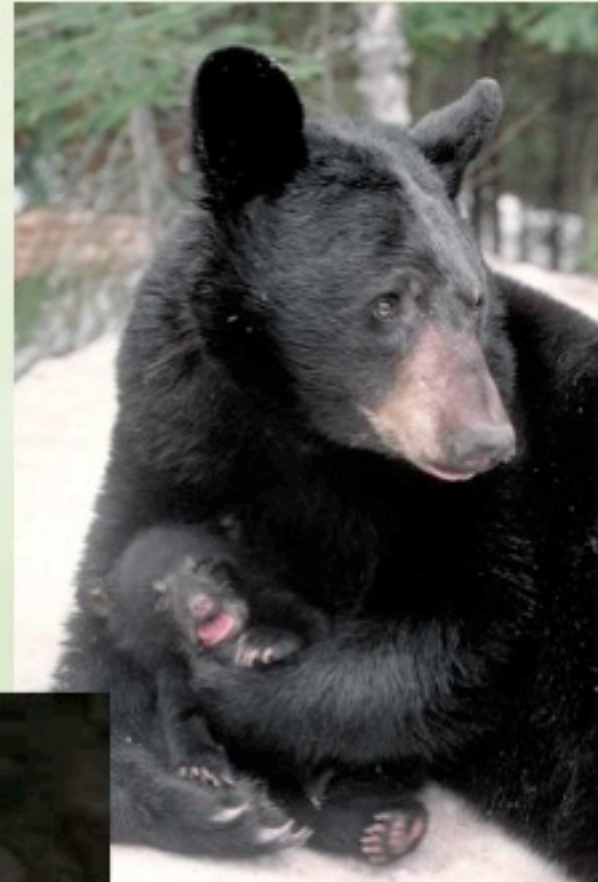


I is for INSECTS. Larvae and pupae of INSECTS are important food for black bears. Black bears bite at and eat deer flies that bother them, but mosquitoes are mostly ignored. Black bears endure many stings to feed on bee larvae!



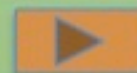
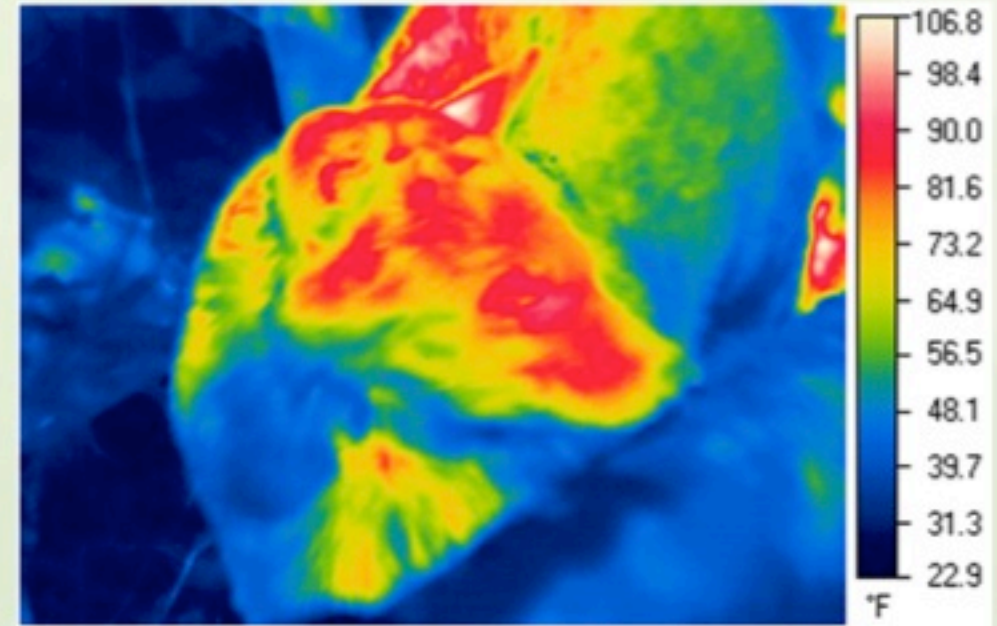


J is for JANUARY. Most black bear cubs are born in JANUARY. Mother bears are awake for the birth and respond to every cry.





K is for KNOWLEDGE. Accurate KNOWLEDGE of black bears helps us understand and co-exist with them.









L is for LANGUAGE. Black bears communicate with a LANGUAGE of body postures and sounds. Black bears may become blustery when nervous.

Click below to hear examples




Amiable Sounds

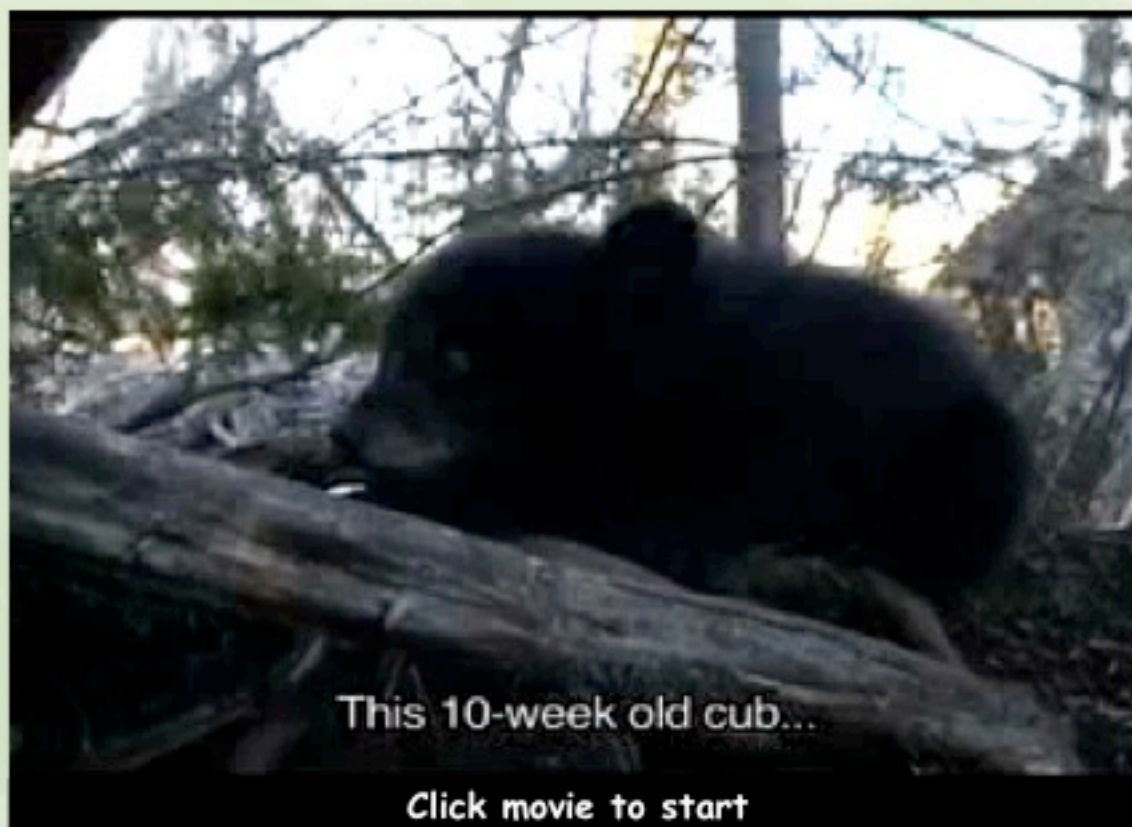
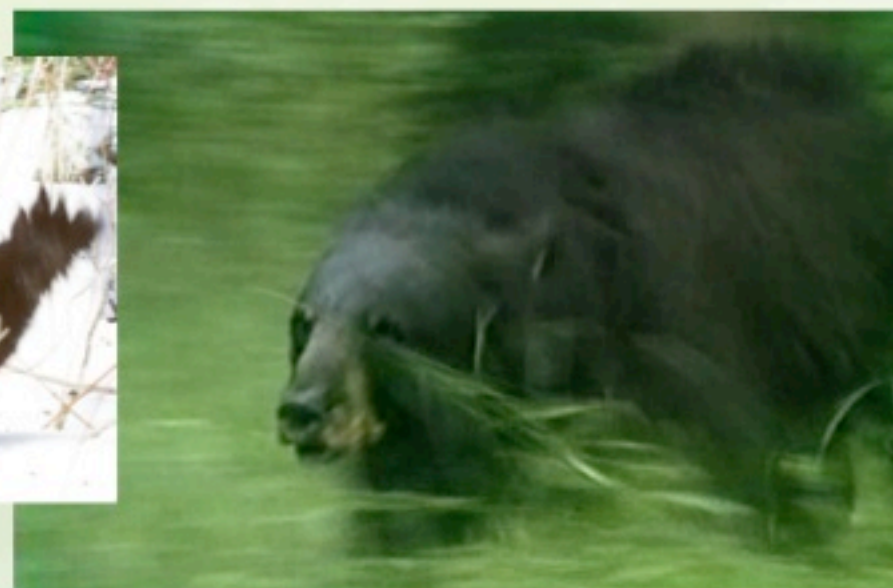
-  Cooing and motherly grunts
-  Motor-like nursing
-  Motherly grunt of concern

Apprehensive Sounds

-  Blow and chomp

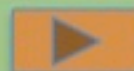
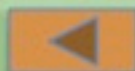
High Emotion

-  Distress by a cub
-  Pulsing threat
-  Scared moaning



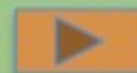
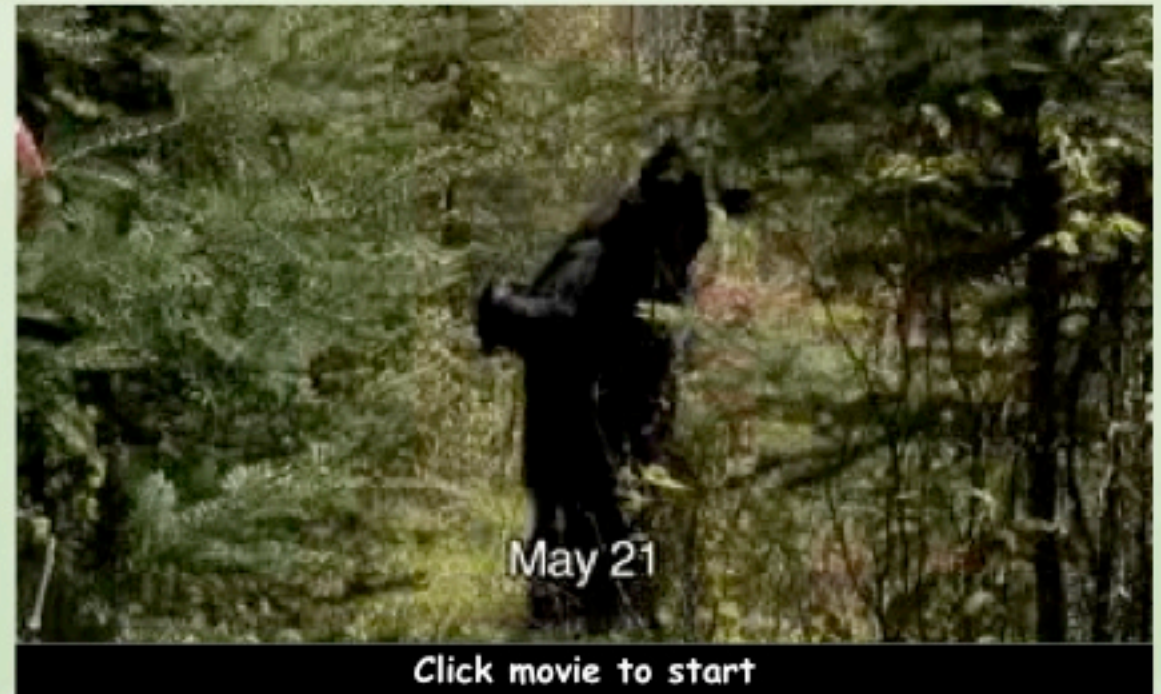
This 10-week old cub...

Click movie to start





M is for **MARKING** and **MATING**. Black bears engage in scent **MARKING** behavior to communicate with other bears. Males follow the females' scent trails during **MATING** season.





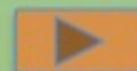
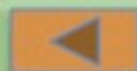
N is for NURSING and NIPPLES. Mother bears have 3 pair of NIPPLES for a total of 6. Cubs compete for NIPPLES, but soon claim one pair and use them each time they NURSE.



Click movie to start

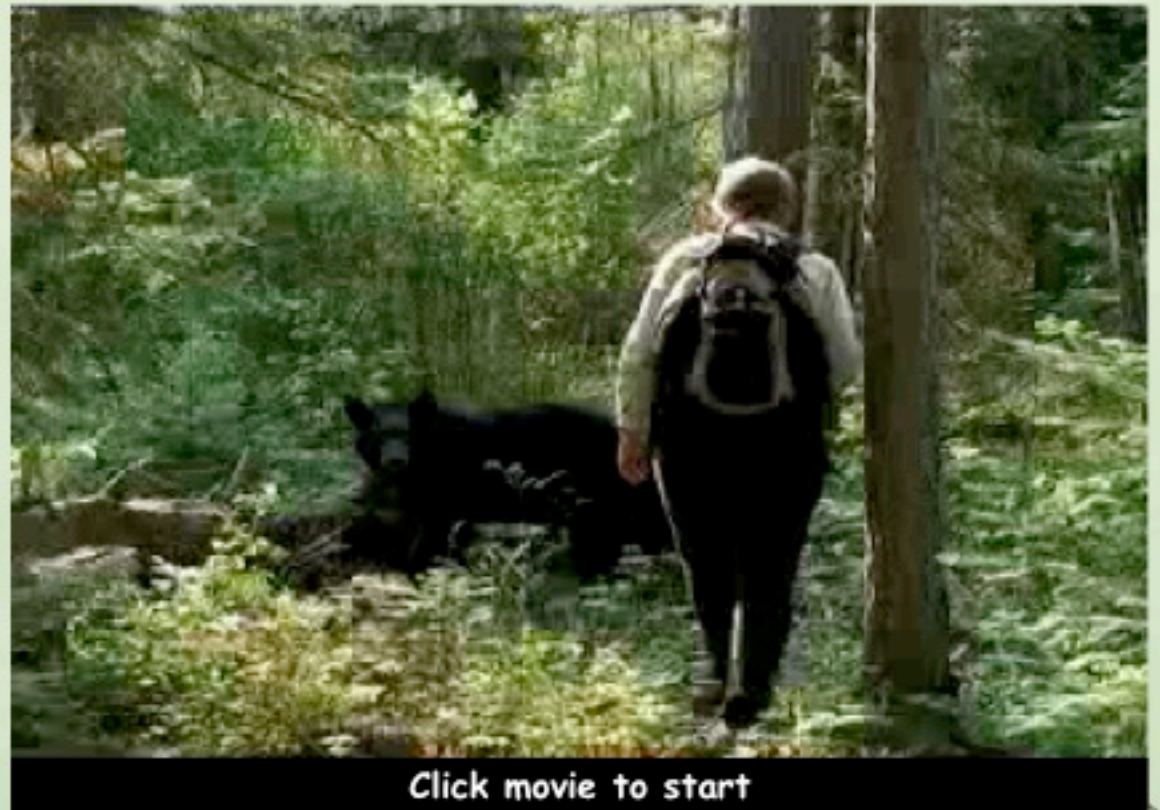
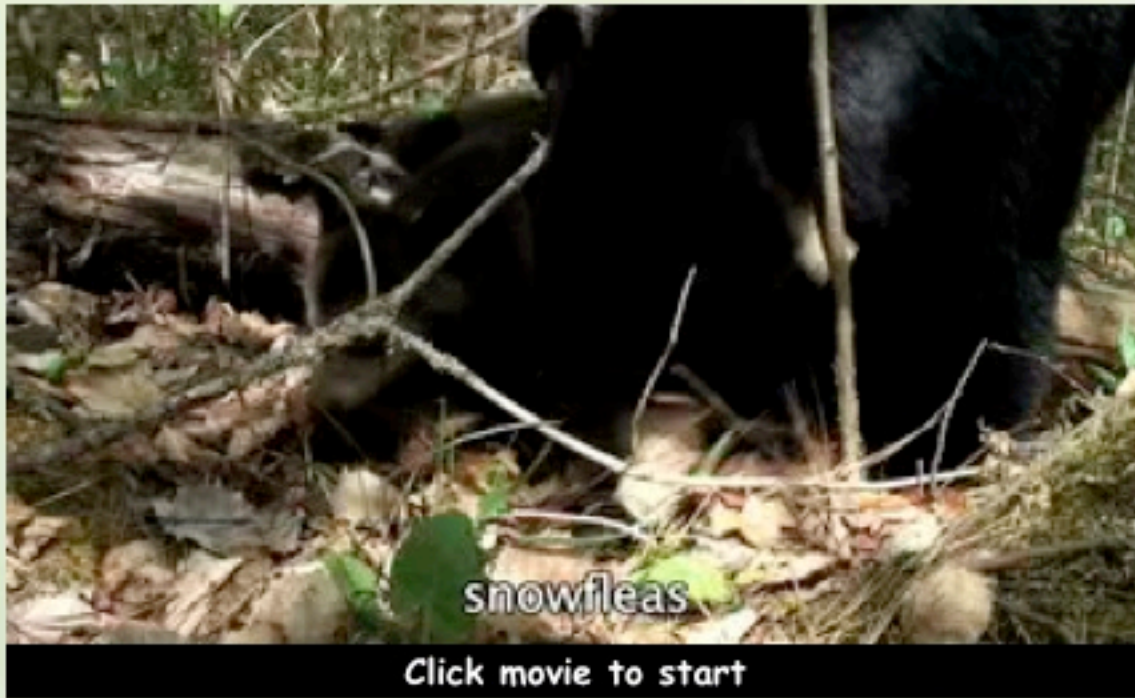


Click movie to start

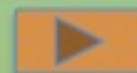
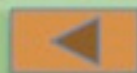




O is for OBSERVATION and OMNIVORE. Biologists record OBSERVATIONS of black bears to help understand their behavior. As OMNIVORES, black bears eat both plants and animals. However, the most common animal matter consumed is insect larvae.



Click movie to start

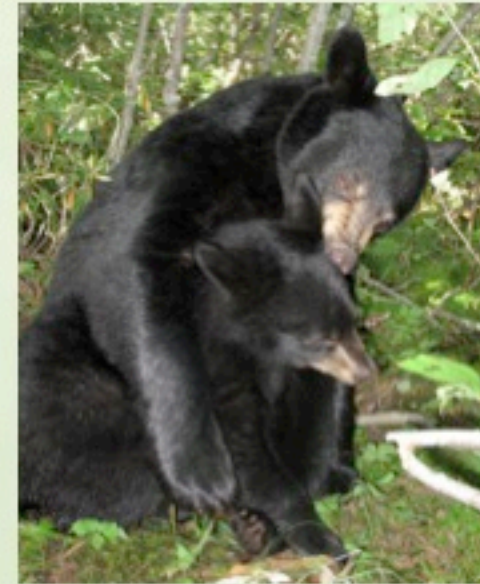




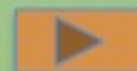
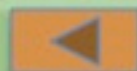
P is for PLAY. Unlike children, bears PLAY without vocalizing. PLAY is quiet, and PLAY-bites are gentle.



[Click movie to start](#)



[Click movie to start](#)

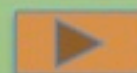
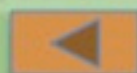




Q is for QUIET. Black bears soft footpads allow them to move QUIETLY through the woods.

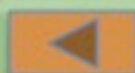


Click movie to start



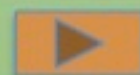
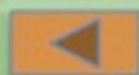
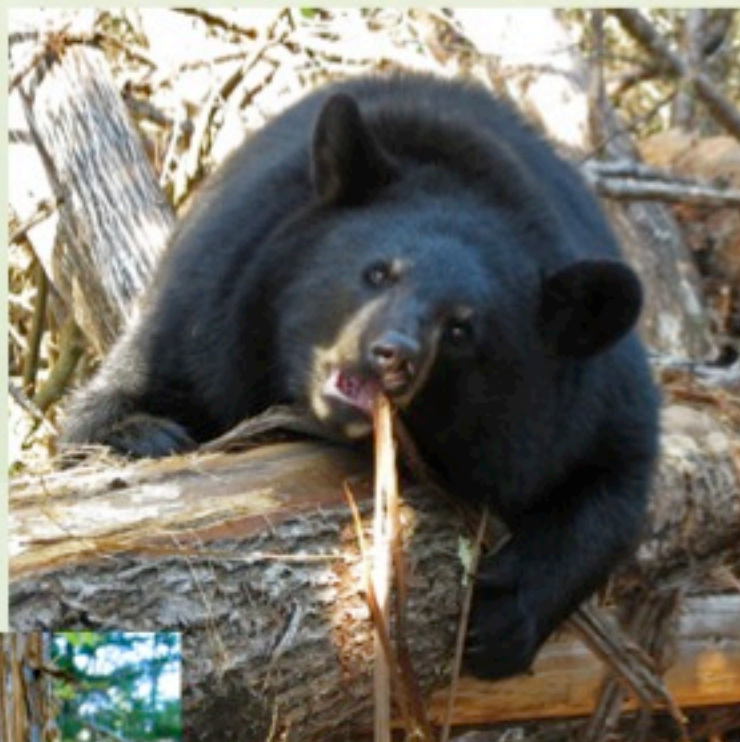


R is for RADIO-COLLAR and RESEARCHER. RADIO-COLLARS and GPS transmitters help RESEARCHERS locate black bears and track their movements.



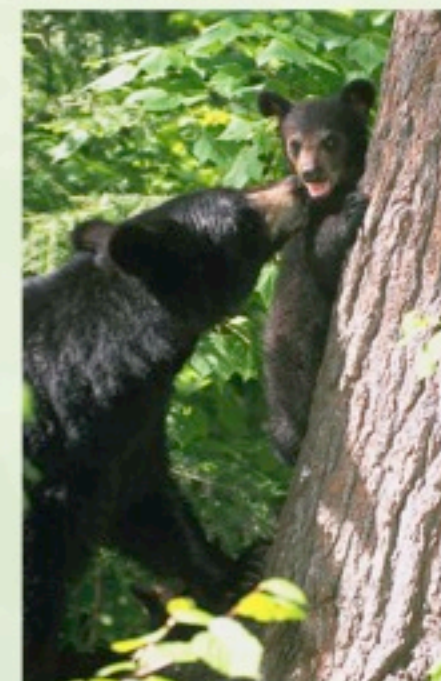
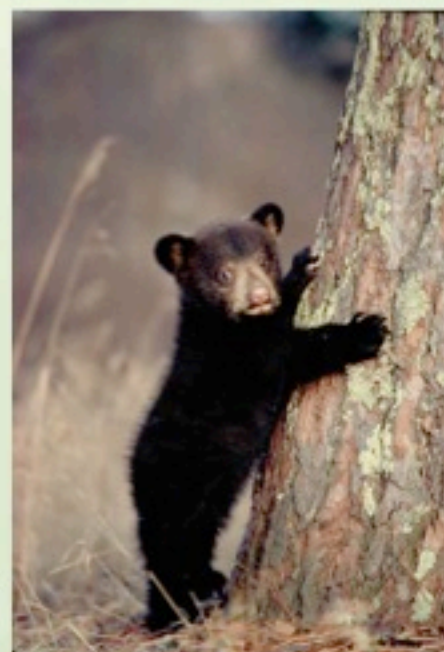
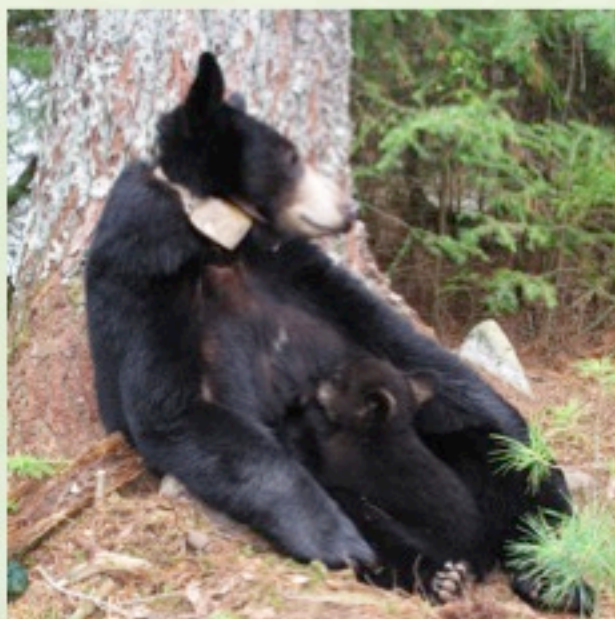


S is for bear SIGN and SCAT. Black bears leave SIGN such as: torn apart logs, tracks, trampled brush, SCAT, and claw or bite marks on trees. Black bear droppings—also called SCAT—give clues to what they have been eating.

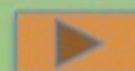
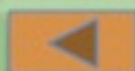




T is for TREE and TERRITORY. Black bears often bed at the base of large TREES with rough-textured bark that are easily climbed by cubs and support the adult's weight. A black bear's TERRITORY or home range may include swampy areas as well as clearings and forests.

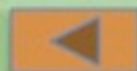
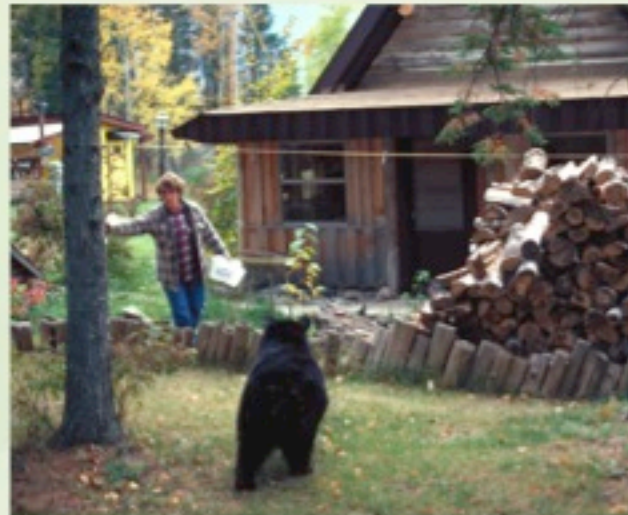


Click movie to start





U is for UNDERSTANDING and URSUS AMERICANUS, the scientific name for black bear. Black bears, URSUS AMERICANUS, tell us how they are feeling by using body language and sounds. By UNDERSTANDING their language we can learn to better coexist with them.



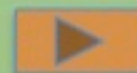
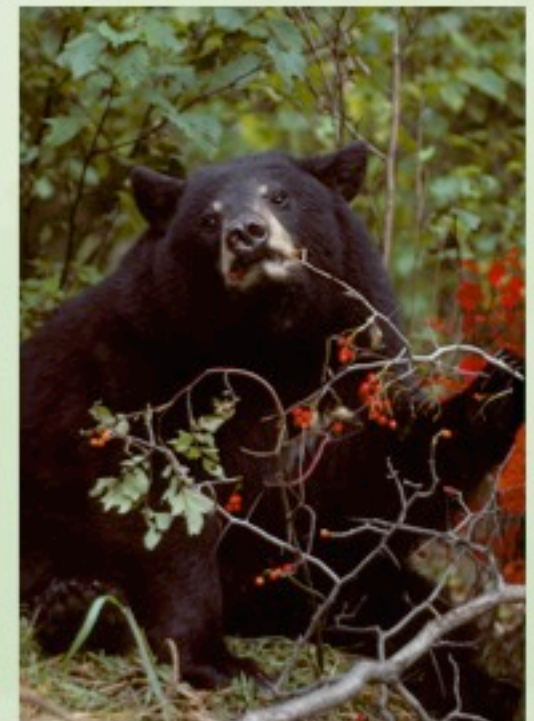


V is for VEGETATION. Black bears wander their territory to forage for food. The black bears' diet includes lots of VEGETATION; leaves, flowers, roots, buds, nuts, berries, and fruit.



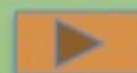
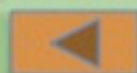
male aspen catkins

Click movie to start



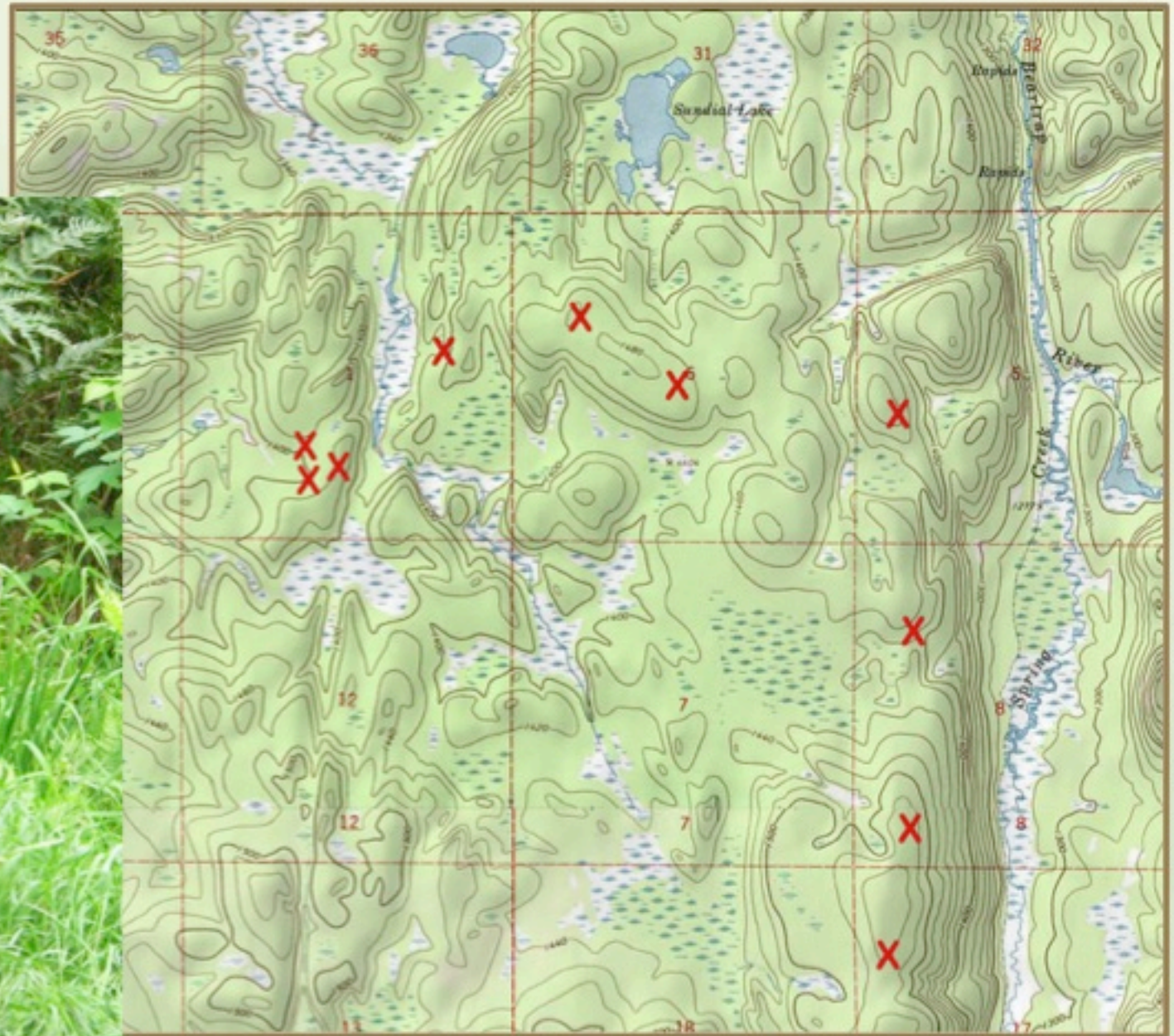


W is for WINTER and WEIGHT. Black bears eat during spring, summer and fall to gain WEIGHT, and then live off their fat during the WINTER.



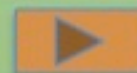


X marks the GPS locations of a research bear!



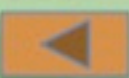


Y is for YEARLING. One-year-old black bears are called YEARLINGS. Family breakup occurs when mother bears and their YEARLINGS separate so the mother can mate again and have new cubs.





Z is for ZOOLOGY and ZOO. The study of animals and animal life is called ZOOLOGY. Can you guess where the word ZOO comes from?





This presentation is brought to you by the
Wildlife Research Institute and North American Bear Center.

Information is based on research by
Dr. Lynn Rogers and Sue Mansfield.

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all rights are reserved.

Special thanks to:

Helen Schwarz, this presentation would not have been possible
without her creative idea and hard work on this project!

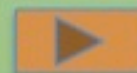
Jim Stroner, for the use of several of his photographs.



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START
OVER





Videos used in this presentation can be found at these links:

(as of 02/2011, links are subject to change)

- A - Eating Ant Pupae - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- B - Eating Berries - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- C - Mother and Cub Climbing - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIcKGrf6MCU>
- D - Den Dig - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- F - Kermode Bears - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- G - Grooming - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UUyo8u30Cw>
- H - Eating Hazelnuts - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- I - Eating Tent Caterpillars - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- J - Caring for Cubs in Den - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- L - Nervous Behavior - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- M - Marking Behavior - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- N - Mother and Cubs in Den - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0mhgwRWnWQ>
- N - Nursing Cubs - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- O - Eating Animal Matter - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuDSrdkCcSQ>
- O - Taking the Videos - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- P - Bear Cubs Playing - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- P - Tamarack Play - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>
- Q - Footpads - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IRHAYScgZU>
- T - Cub Climbing High - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5QLtVxlrMo>
- V - Eating Vegetation - <http://www.bear.org/website/live-cameras/videos/bear-videos.html>

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