

# All About Bears



In clear language supported by a judicious selection of wildlife scenes, this short documentary teaches youngsters all about bears. It focusses on the two North American species that nature lovers are most likely to encounter: the black bear and the grizzly.

The film describes the characteristics and habits shared by these bears, their normal diet and habitat, and their behavior when startled. It then discusses the "spoiled bear," one that has been introduced to human food by ill-informed hikers and campers and become addicted to it. Such a bear loses its fear of humans and becomes increasingly dangerous.

The precautions people can take when in bear country are presented. The film also shows the attempts of Parks Canada employees to make the spoiled bear revert to its natural diet — a step that protects both humans and bear. For the bear is a magnificent animal, whose future is threatened by an invasion of careless people. The best protection for all concerned requires people to respect the bear's ways and its environment.

This superbly crafted film, a classroom adaptation of the longer *Bears and Man*, is an excellent tool for children in grades

three to six. The pacing of the narration allows young viewers to absorb each group of facts before additional information is introduced, and the wildlife scenes deepen the learning experience. Well-positioned lyrical music helps this film pay fine homage to the bear.

**Age groups:** Grades 3 to 6

**Subject Areas:** Science and environmental studies (wildlife/conservation); Language Arts.

**Vocabulary:** omnivorous; hibernate; addiction; precaution; invasion; habitat

### **Some questions for discussion**

1. What was the most interesting piece of information for you?
2. How does a bear become "spoiled," and how does a spoiled bear behave?
3. What are some general rules you can follow so that the bear does not become spoiled?  
What are some of the attempts Parks Canada has made to help the spoiled bear break its addiction?
4. If you were hiking and camping in bear country, what precautions would you take?

### **Activities**

1. Make up a story about a bear and a child your age. Tell your story to your classmates.
2. Write a factual report on the characteristics and habits of the black bear.
3. Do some research on another member of the bear family: a brown bear, polar bear or grizzly. Draw or find pictures to illustrate your research. Present your findings to your classmates.

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*Film Editor and Writer*  
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**All About Bears is an adaptation of *Bears and Man*, produced by Wilderness Cinegraphic Ltd. for Parks Canada, Western Region.**

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