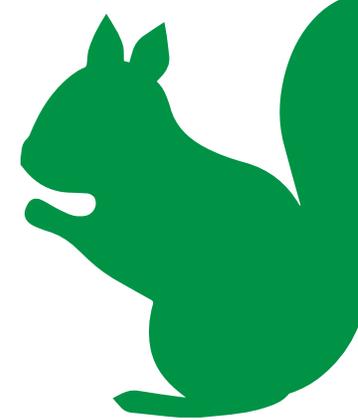


# thinking like a bear



Understanding a bit more about a species' basic needs helps us to better understand human-wildlife conflict. A few months ago, WildSafe Rangers were challenged to "Think like a deer", looking for food, water and shelter. We learned that all sorts of human-deer conflict can occur when deer find these basic needs in our backyards.

Well, guess what? The same is true for black bears! Black bears are extremely food-motivated, which means they will go to great lengths for a good meal. They also have an incredible sense of smell to help them find new food sources in their habitats. What do you think happens when they find food in town? Unfortunately, it sometimes results in messes, property damage, safety concerns for you and your neighbours and in some cases, the death of the bear. Luckily, if we remove the food, we can remove the reasons for these conflicts!



## your mission

Find an adventure partner and head out for a walk around your neighbourhood. As you walk, your mission is to think like a bear! You will be seeking out the basic things you (as a bear) must find to survive. Check off all the examples of food, water and shelter you find on the worksheet. Once you get home, there are a few extra questions to answer about your experience.

## what you will need

- Pencil
- Clipboard or hard surface to write on
- A printed copy of this Activity Guide
- An adventure partner

## did you know?

At this time of year, bears need to pack on lots of weight to get ready for hibernation. In order to do this, they can spend up to 20 hours a day looking for food! An adult black bear can eat up to 20,000 calories a day!



# thinking like a bear

WildSafe Ranger Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Record all sources of bear food, water, and shelter that you see during your walk in town:

## Water sources

## food sources

## Shelter

A river

A garbage can

Grass

A stand of trees

A creek

A birdfeeder

Clover

A forested park

A lake

A barbeque

Litter

Other

Other

Pet food bowls

An anthill

A fruit tree

A composter

(describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

Other

(describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

(describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

2. Circle or highlight all **unnatural** food sources or wildlife attractants above.

3. Based on what you saw today, do you think a black bear could find all its basic needs in town? (Check one)

**yes**

**No (why Not)** \_\_\_\_\_

4. We know that having bears in town can be dangerous for people, but can you think of any reasons why it might be risky for the bear? List any possible dangers:

5. What can people in your neighbourhood do to keep bears wild and your community safe?