

Bear Habitat

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Overall Unit Enduring Questions

- How has the Vermont environment effected bear populations from the late 1800s to present day?
- What are the keys to maintaining a healthy bear population?
- How can a managed forest contribute to good quality bear habitat?

Previewing Activities

- Ask students what they already know about bears and their Vermont habitat.
- Review the following vocabulary terms:

Extirpated	Omnivores
Bounty	Home range
Reclusive	Human/bear interface
Soft mass	Bear nest
Sow	Regulated hunting

Viewing Activities and Questions

Divide students into three groups ask each group to take notes on one of the enduring questions while they watch the video.

Post-Viewing Activities

- After the video, have students break into groups with the same question and discuss their answers. (All the students with question A. meet together.) They should write their answers down so they are ready to share.
- Do a “Puzzle” activity where one student from each group gathers and shares his/her answers with the other groups. Each group would have someone from one group that had discussed each enduring question. (All the groups will have someone who has discussed question A, B and C.)
- View the video again and do a final project. It could be a poster sharing the information, a written assignment or a reflection from the video.
- Follow-up with the activities from Project WILD called Oh Deer!, Bearly Growing and How Many Bears Can Live in the Forest. These activities can also be used before viewing the video. (See “Related Activities” below.)

- Guest speakers might include someone from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department such as a state game warden or wildlife biologist. Call 802-241-3700.

Related Activities

Take a Walk on the Wild Side: Project WILD

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department offers workshops on lively and interactive instructional strategies, using materials designed to support state and national academic standards for K – 12. For more information or to request a workshop, go to:

www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/factsheets/posters/wildside_flyer.pdf.

Participants of the Project WILD workshops have access to 120 activities and activity sheets for use in the classroom and in informal settings. Here is a sample that could be used with the **Bear Habitat** teaching materials:

Oh, Dear!

In this activity, students portray deer and habitat components in a physical activity.

Bearly Growing

In this activity, students illustrate the differences between people and black bears at different stages of maturity.

How Many Bears Can Live in the Forest?

In this activity, students pretend to become bears to look for various components of habitat.

Vermont Teaching Standards

Science

Analysis

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| 7.11 | Students analyze and understand living and non-living systems (e.g., biological, chemical, electrical, mechanical, optical) as collections of interrelated parts and interconnected systems. Classification of Living Things and Natural Selection |
| 7.13 | Students demonstrate understanding of the characteristics of organisms, understand the role of evolution and recognize the interdependence of all systems that support life. |
| 7.16 | Students demonstrate an understanding of natural resources and agricultural systems and why and how they are managed. |