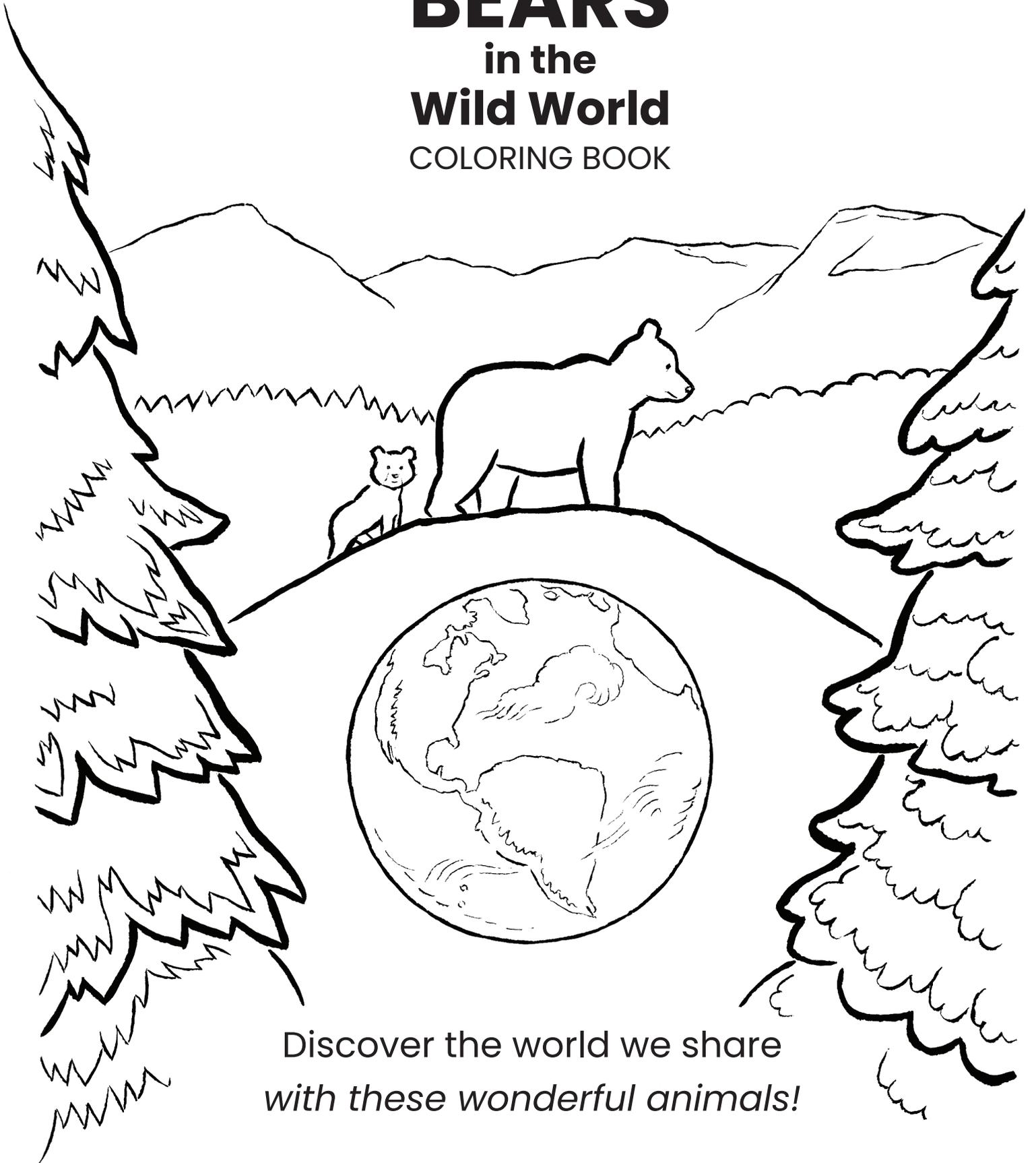


Bear Trust International Presents

# BEARS

in the  
**Wild World**  
COLORING BOOK



Discover the world we share  
*with these wonderful animals!*

*Bears in the Wild World: Coloring Book*  
Written and illustrated by Arthur Smid

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Pages 14 and 15 are based on Monte Dolack art commissioned by Bear Trust International.

First Edition: 2023

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# Dedication

This book is dedicated to the next generation of conservation leaders. Bear Trust International works with biologists to create lesson plans for youth. To advance conservation, we hope to inspire young people to be curious about animal life and the habitats they depend on. Our executive director and board have learned about wildlife in the outdoors through hunting. State conservation programs in the United States are largely funded by fees on hunting and fishing.

Bear Trust International is a founding member of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners, which supports the hunting heritage. We support science-based, regulated hunting of populations of wild animal species that are not vulnerable, threatened, or endangered. With many vulnerable populations of bears, it requires effective communication to clarify why bears in one region can be hunted when other populations cannot be legally hunted.

Six of the eight bear species are vulnerable, and only the brown bear and American black bear are considered species of least concern. Bear Trust deeply values and seeks collaboration to maximize talents, resources, and time. We work with governmental and non-governmental organizations around the world where bear habitat exists. Some of our partner organizations support hunting bears in North America, others research bears in India. We encourage and seek a collaborative spirit. The more we work with others, the more we can do for wild bears.



A **mother bear** usually has two or three cubs.  
How many cubs do you see here?



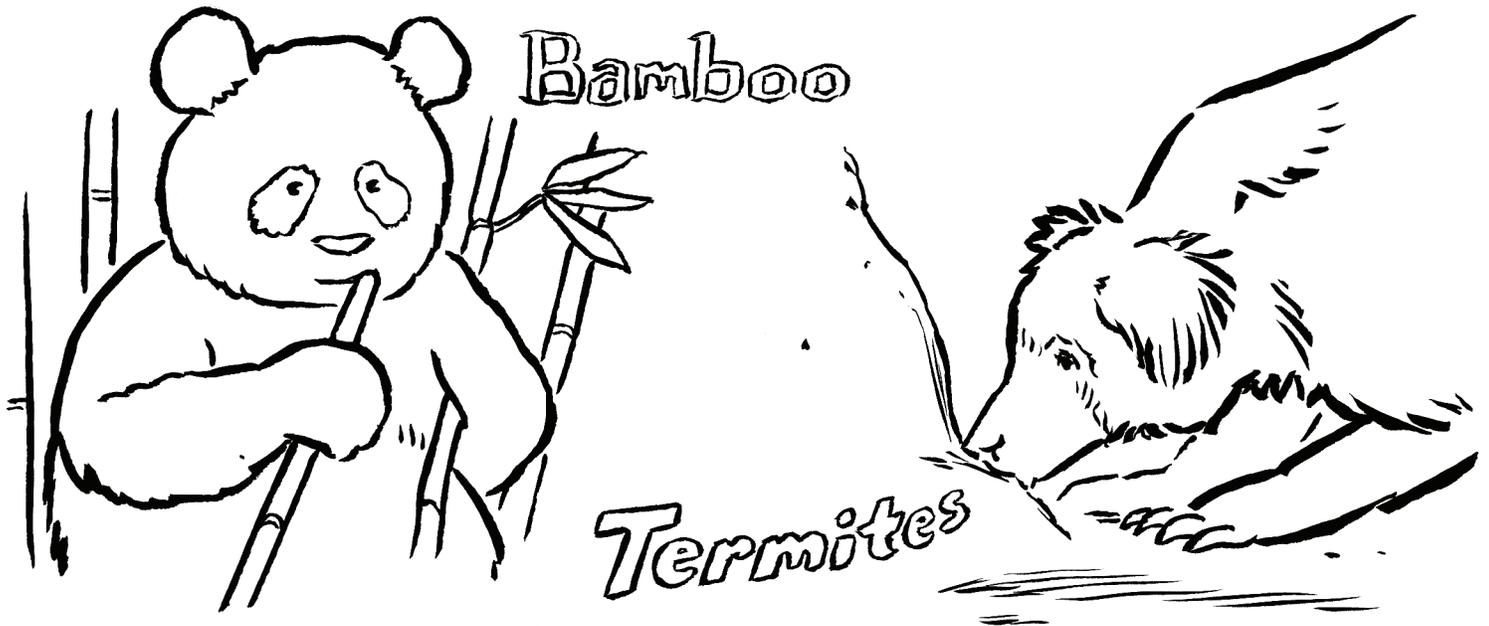
Play can help cubs **develop skills** that will be vital for survival in the wild.



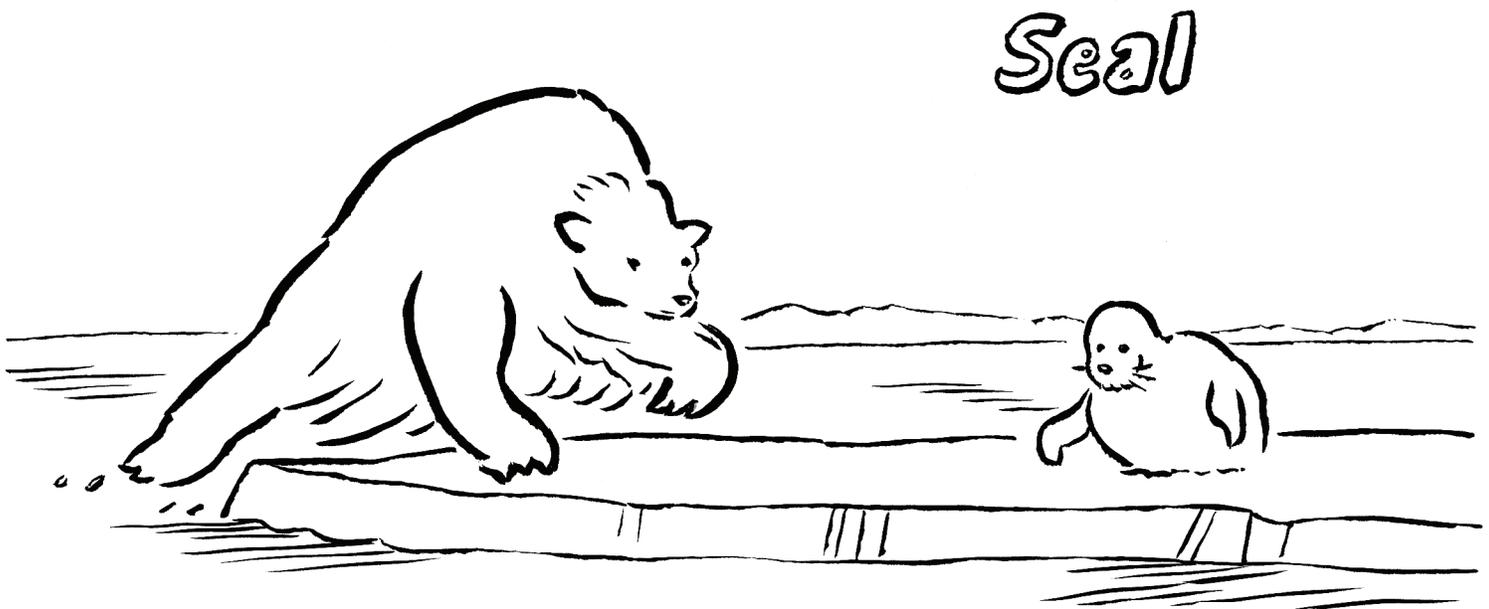
Black bears are **omnivores**.

They eat plants and meat, but mostly plants.

The panda bear eats mostly plants.  
It is an **herbivore**.



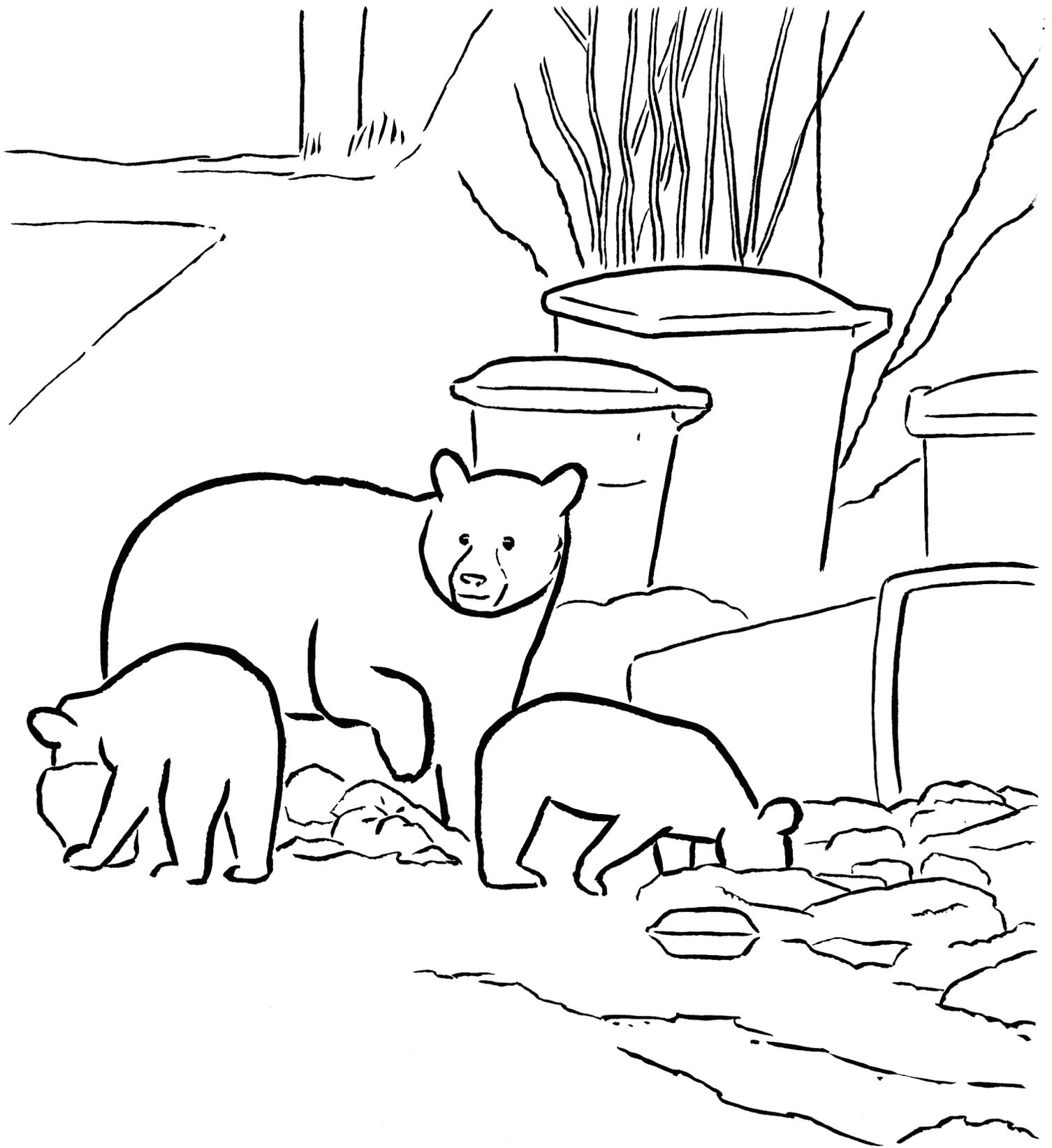
And sloth bears eat insects.  
They are **insectivores**.



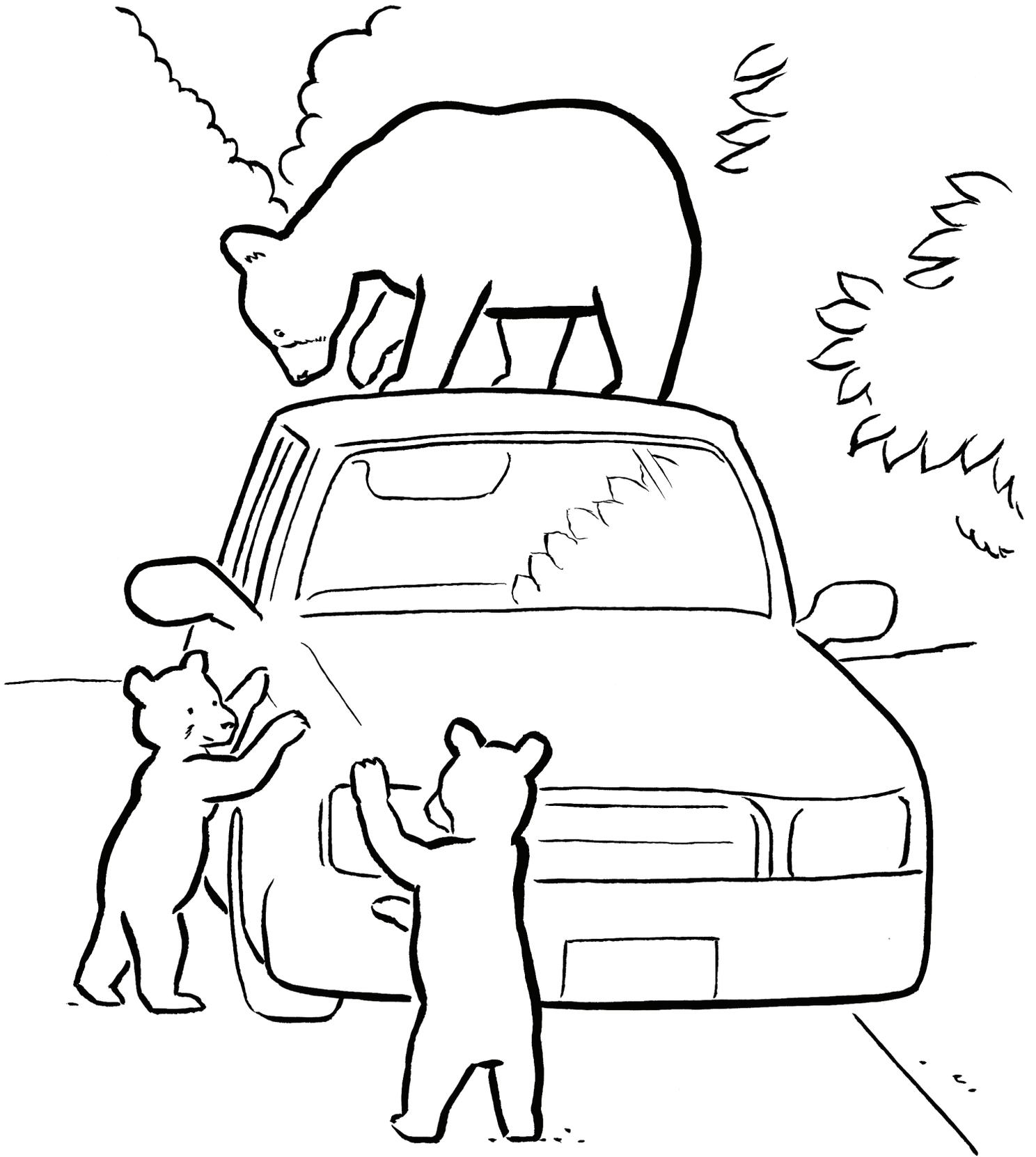
A **carnivore** eats meat.  
Do you know what a polar bear loves to eat?



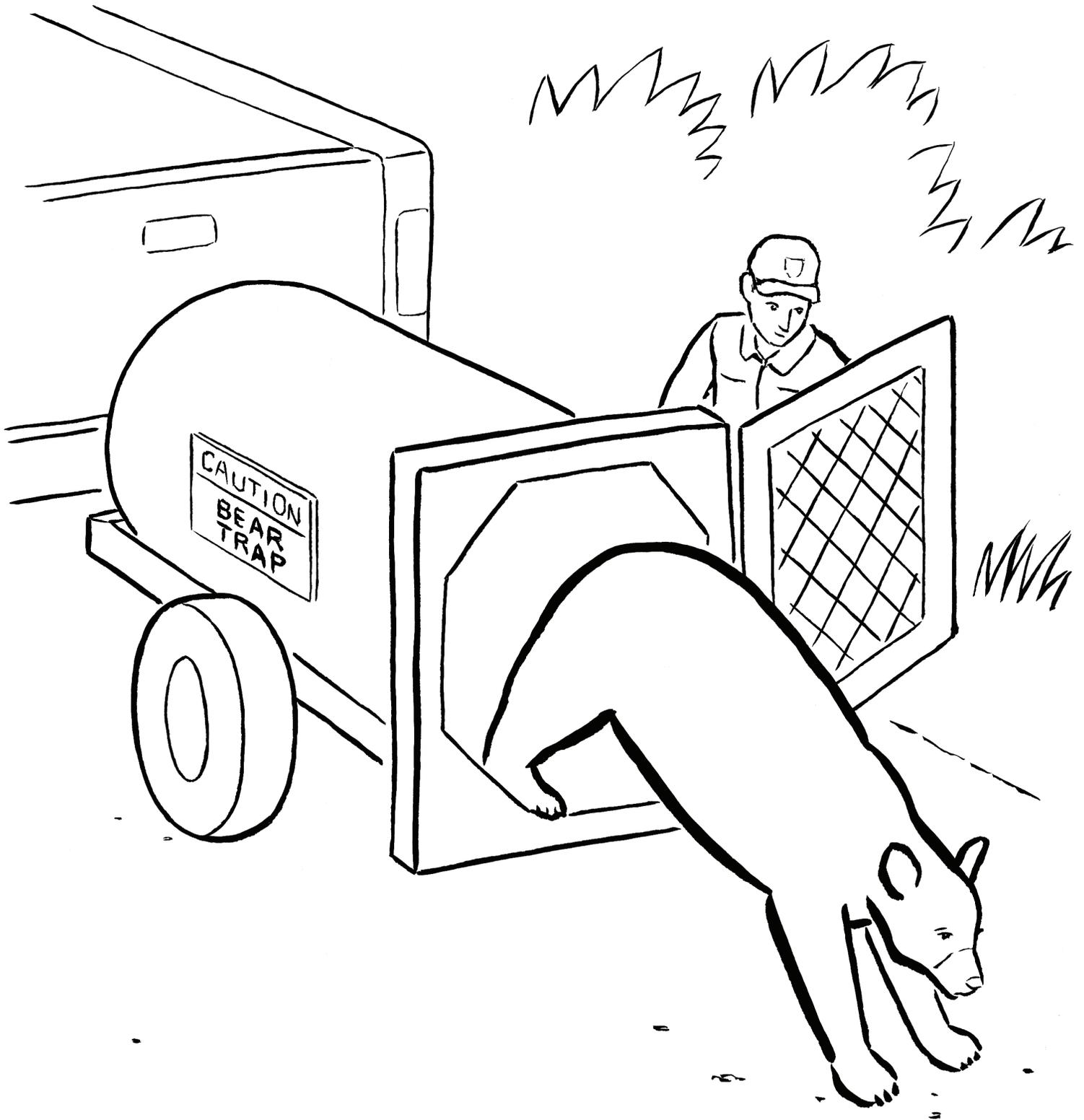
Bears stand to see more and smell the air. A bear can smell food from over a mile away.



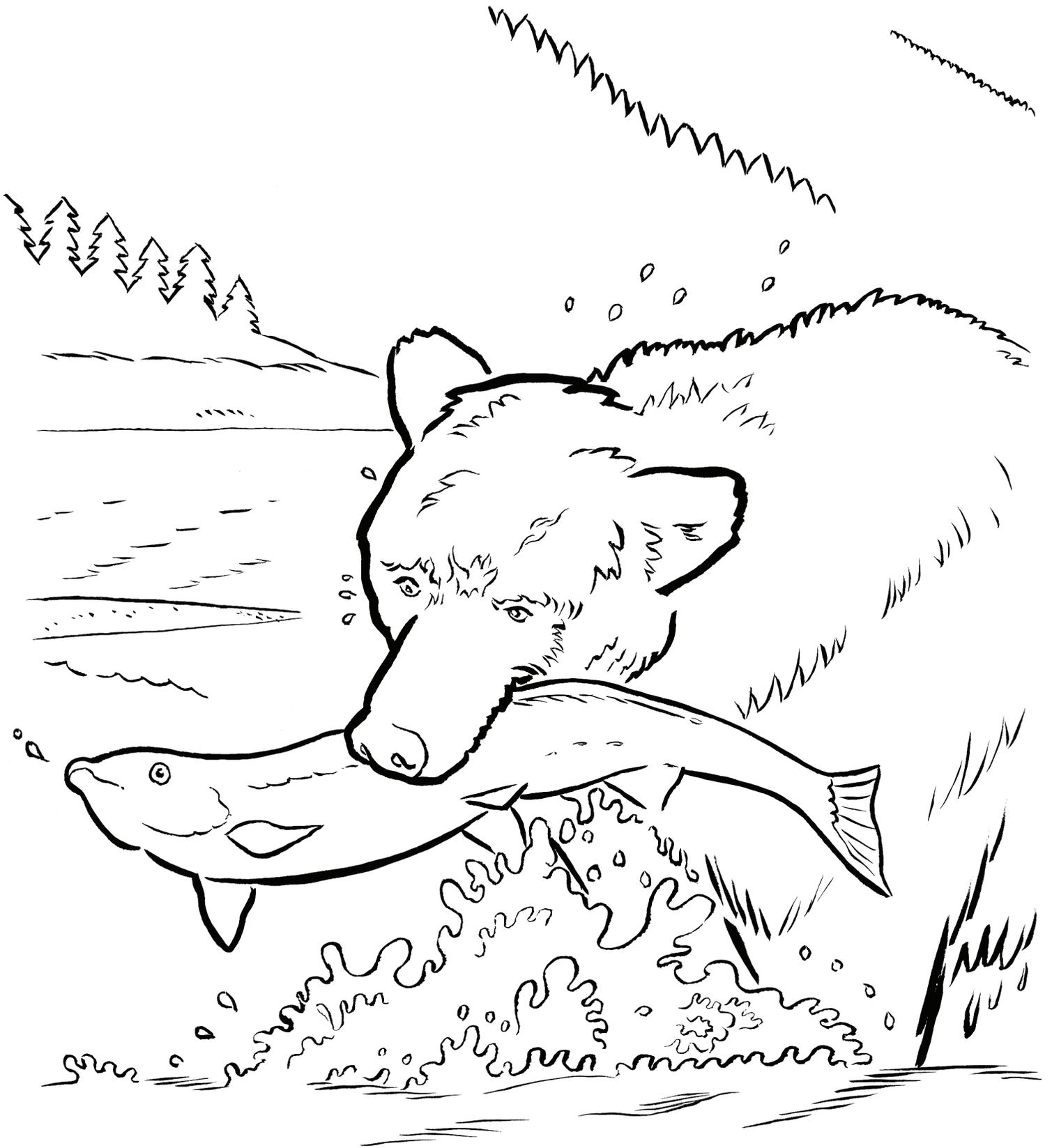
“Food” in the trash is anything with a scent.  
Eating garbage is not healthy. People need to use  
**bear-proof** bins.



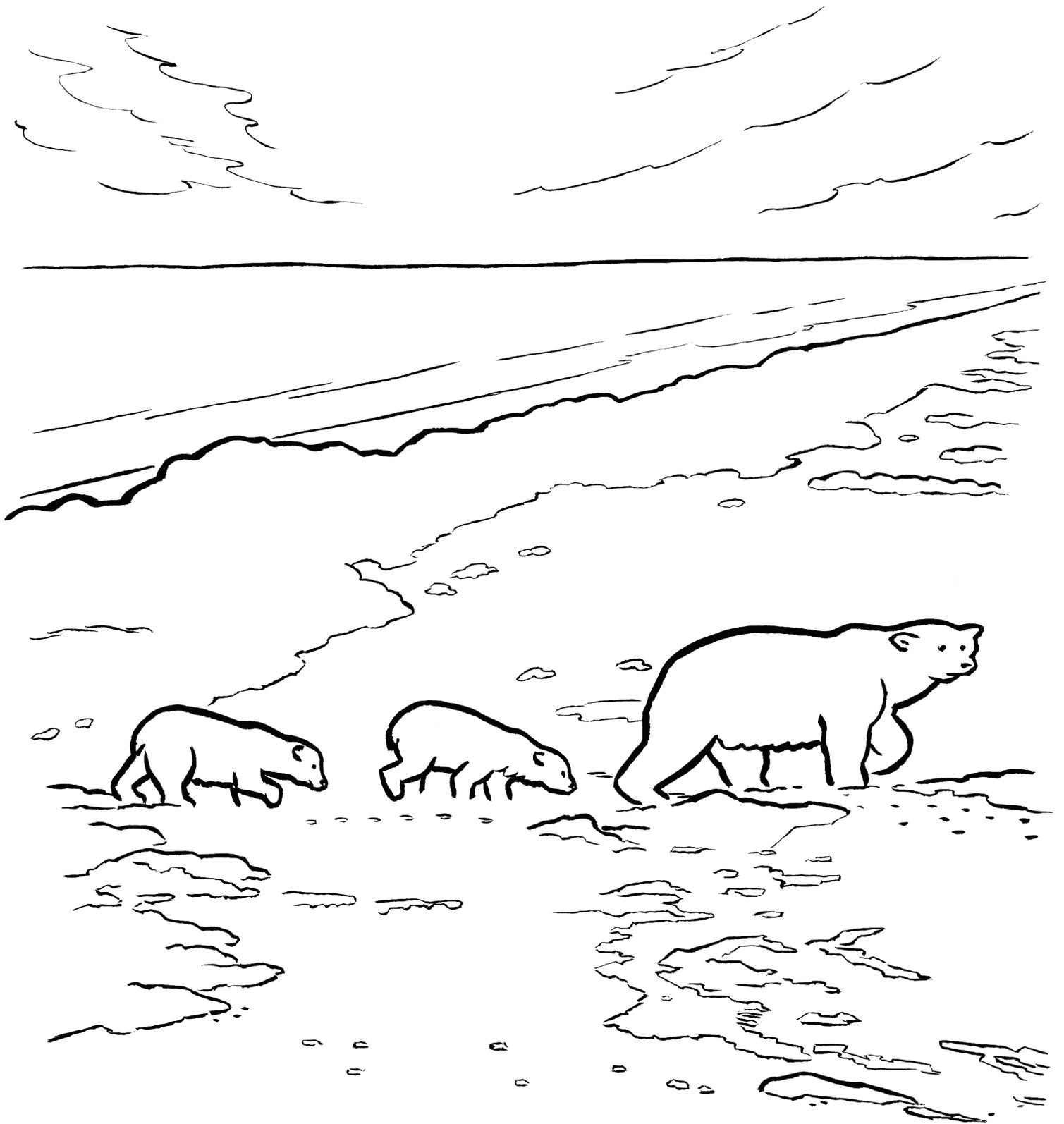
Bears can get into trouble when they **smell food**.



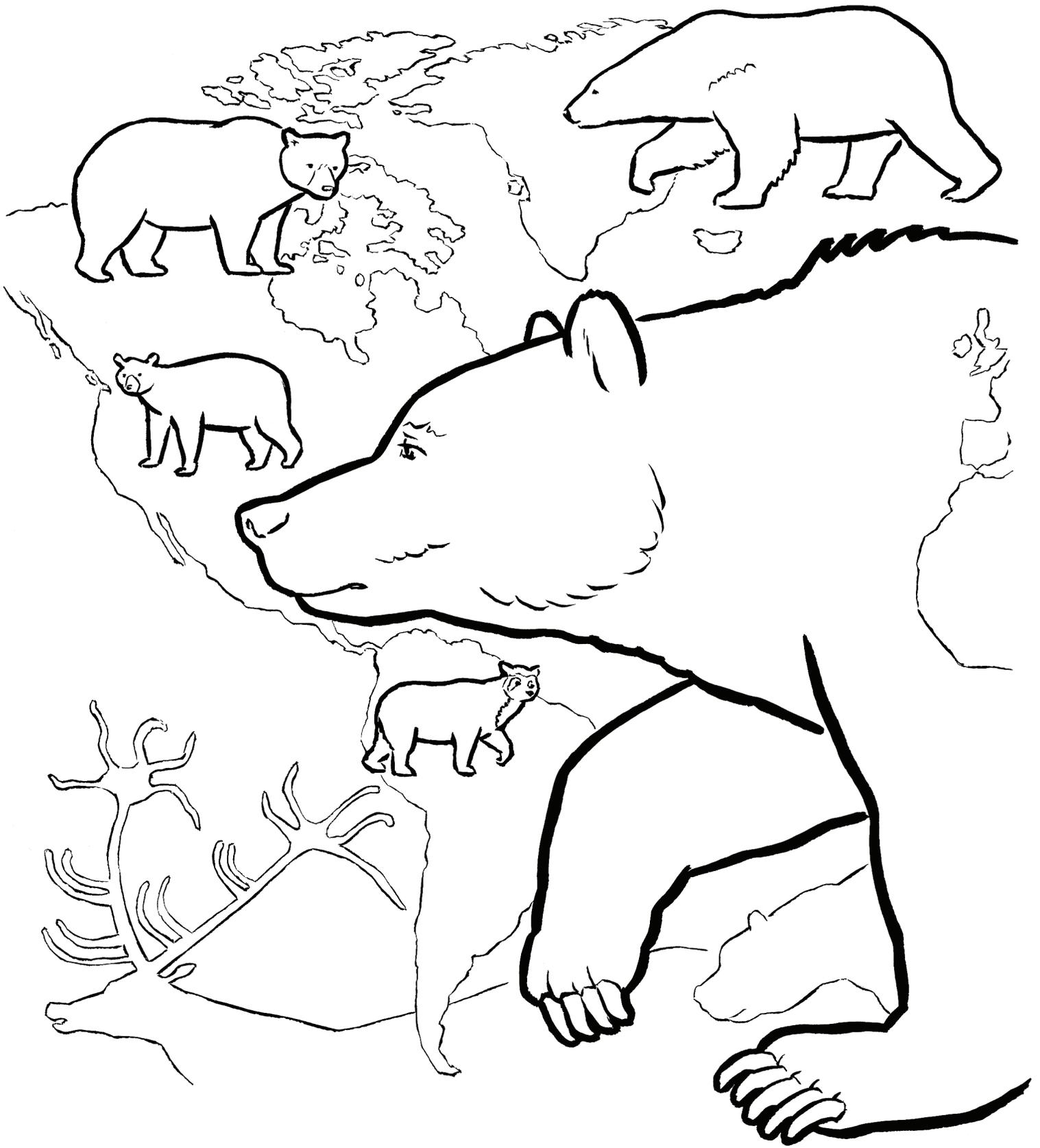
**Relocation** is only a temporary solution if the bear continues to access human food.



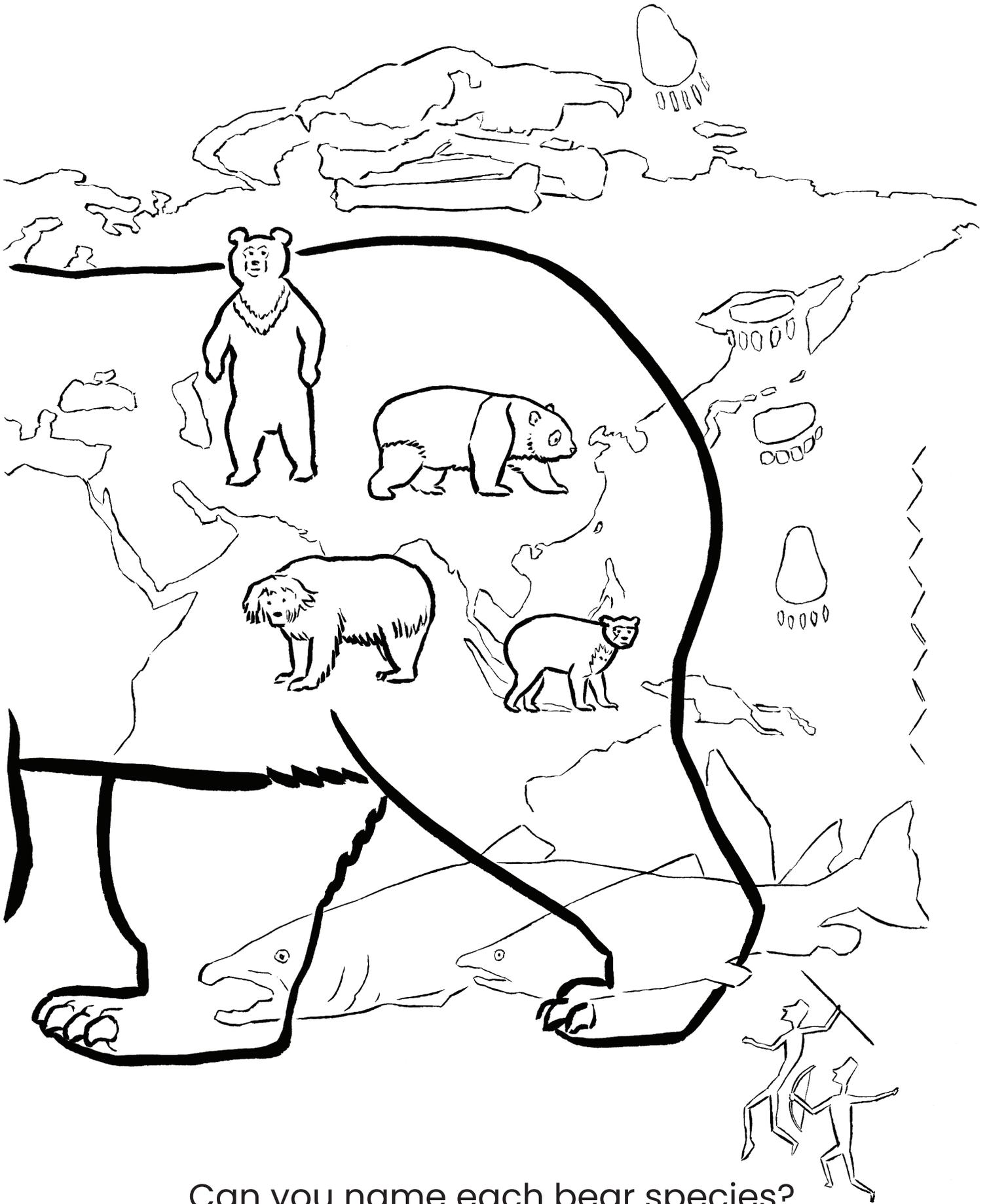
Wild bears need **habitat**  
with natural sources of food.



Some bears migrate to find food  
when the seasons change.



**Eight species** of bears currently exist in the world.



Can you name each bear species?

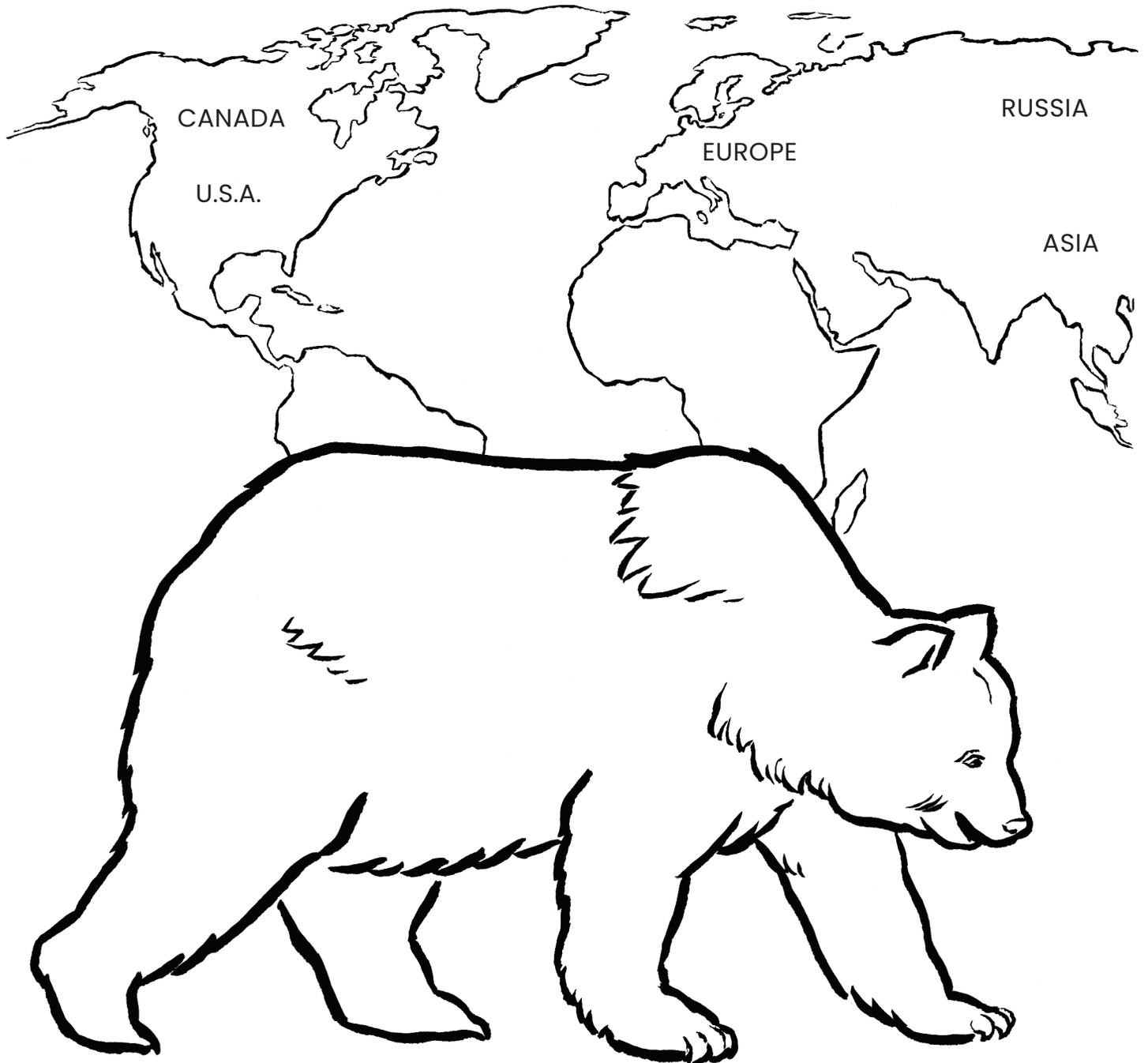
# Brown Bear

You can color them brown, but in the wild you might be surprised. Their fur color ranges from blond to almost black. Brown bears are the most widely distributed bear species. They live in suitable habitats across the Northern Hemisphere. Their largest populations are in Russia, the United States, and Canada. They also live in Europe and Asia. And while some brown bears may look different, they are members of the same species. They share a need for similar habitats and can successfully reproduce. Their cubs will be able to grow up and have cubs of their own!

A female brown bear can weigh from 205 to 500 pounds (93 to 227 kilograms). And adult males may weigh as much as 860 pounds (390 kilograms). When a brown bear is an adult, it can measure about 3 to 5 feet high at the shoulder and 5 to 8 feet in length from head to tail (1.5 to 2.4 meters). Imagine a brown bear standing on its back legs. A large brown bear can be almost 9 feet (2.7 meters) tall when standing. When a brown bear stands on its hind legs and raises its nose to the air, it can smell food, or the scent of other bears, from a mile away. Now, that is a super sniffer!

When standing on all four legs, brown bears have a distinct hump on their shoulders. Those strong muscles allow them to dig roots and tubers from the earth. Brown bears eat vegetables! They also eat insects, fish, small mammals, and dead animals. But the majority of their food is from plants. Their big appetite for both meat and vegetables makes them an omnivore. An eater of all. The grizzly bear is a brown bear subspecies named for its gray-tipped fur. Subspecies have been separated by land and sea for long enough to develop unique characteristics.

## BROWN BEAR *Ursus arctos*



**Brown bears** walk on their feet from heel to toe, just like humans. Running short distances, they can reach speeds up to 35 miles per hour!

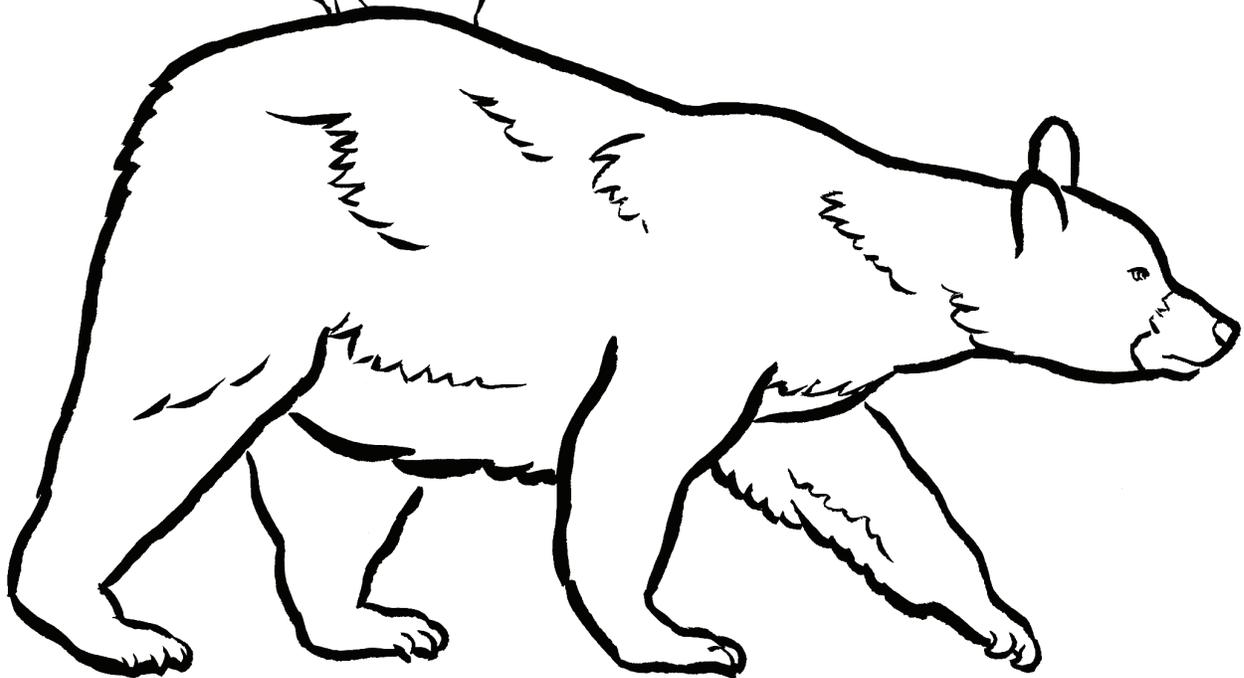
# American Black Bear

Black, brown, gray, blue-gray, blond, cream, cinnamon, and white. American black bears are not always black. But black is their most common color. With around 900,000 black bears in North America, this is the world's most plentiful bear. The number of American black bears is more than the total population of all the other bear species combined. Adult males usually weigh from 150 to 650 pounds (68 to 295 kilograms), and females are 100 to 400 pounds (45 to 181 kilograms). Adults are an average of 4 to 6.25 feet in length (1.2 to 1.9 meters) from nose to tail.

They are not too big, not too small, American black bears are medium-size bears. They can climb trees, even as adults. Black bears prefer to live in forested areas with plenty of their favorite foods. They feed on a wide variety of fruits, nuts, insects, and other small animals. And they regularly climb trees to feed. Bears need trees, especially cubs. After leaving the den in springtime, the mother bear teaches her cubs to climb trees. Babysitting trees protect her cubs from danger while she finds food. Mother bears won't journey too far, not with cubs. Little legs make for a smaller home range.

Cubs stay with their mother until they are around one and a half years old. Except for the protective mother bear and her cubs, bears live alone. They are solitary rather than pack animals. Adult male bears travel in search of food and mates, establishing a home range of 15 to 80 square miles (24 to 129 kilometers). In times of food shortage, they will travel much farther. With some natural food sources being abundant or scarce at different times in different places, bears negotiate their territories among other bears. They mark their territory by rubbing their bodies against trees and clawing at the bark.

# AMERICAN BLACK BEAR *Ursus americanus*



A highly intelligent species, **black bears** quickly learn where to find food. They can even open a car door!

# Spectacled Bear

Their fur color is black and the rings around their eyes are yellow to white. But not all spectacled bears have these eyeglass markings. Sometimes the ring doesn't fully encircle the eyes, and some spectacled bears don't have them at all. Another common name for this species is the Andean bear. The Andes are the longest mountain range in the world, extending through seven countries along the west coast of South America.

Spectacled bears live in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. This species is the only living descendant of the short-faced bear. The others have longer snouts, and spectacled bears have short, stout legs. Imagine two branches of a very old family tree, one reaches back to the ancestors of the spectacled bears and the other branch contains all the other bear species except pandas. Giant pandas are also on their own branch. But short-faced bears lived during the Ice Age and went extinct around 11,000 years ago. Thankfully, we still have the spectacled bears!

Spectacled bears live in a wide range of ecosystems from the equatorial dry forests with their steep cliffs, up to the wetter tropics of the cloud forest, and all the way up on the open plains of the grassland as high as 11,500 feet (3,505 meters) above sea level. They climb trees to find food, and they make leafy platforms in the branches for sleeping and feeding. Spectacled bears eat fruits, palms, and bromeliads. The bromeliad plants are relatives of pineapples. Spectacled bears eat bromeliad plants that grow on trees and from the soil. By eating so many fruits and searching for more, the bears help spread the seeds in their droppings. By leaving behind the seeds of plants that will grow and then become a source of food, the spectacled bears play an important role in the forest ecosystem.

# SPECTACLED BEAR *Tremarctos ornatus*



**Spectacled bears** are the only bear species living in South America.

# Polar Bear

White fur helps polar bears to hide amid the snow and ice. But the individual hairs aren't actually white. Their hair is clear and hollow, and it scatters visible light. To absorb sunlight and keep them warm, polar bears have black skin. The preferred habitat of polar bears is the winter sea ice over the continental shelves of the Arctic and subarctic. The polar bear can also be found on islands and land masses of the Arctic and as far south as Newfoundland, Canada.

This is the largest of all the bear species. Adult males can weigh as much as 1 ½ tons! On average they are around 770 to 1,540 pounds (350 to 700 kilograms), while female polar bears are about half that size. They are the only bear species to eat mostly meat. Polar bears rely on the thick blubber of both ringed and bearded seals. This energy-rich food helps them to survive in habitats where temperatures in winter drop far below zero. They can also eat other seal species and young walruses, as well as grass, kelp, and berries. And polar bears will also feast on dead animals found on land, such as beached whales.

Being excellent swimmers and depending upon the sea for their favorite foods, polar bears have been classified as marine mammals. Their scientific name translates from the Latin *Ursus maritimus* to sea bear. Cubs will ride on their mother's backs to cross open water and the deep snow. Only pregnant females will enter dens for the months of winter. A male polar bear continues the hunt for food and sleeps in shallow holes they dig into the snow. They will sleep through storms, and the thick layer of snow collecting upon their fur actually insulates the sleeping bear, keeping them warm until the storm is over.

# POLAR BEAR *Ursus maritimus*



**Polar bears** don't drink salty sea water. When they eat seals, their body converts the fat to simpler chemical compounds, including water!

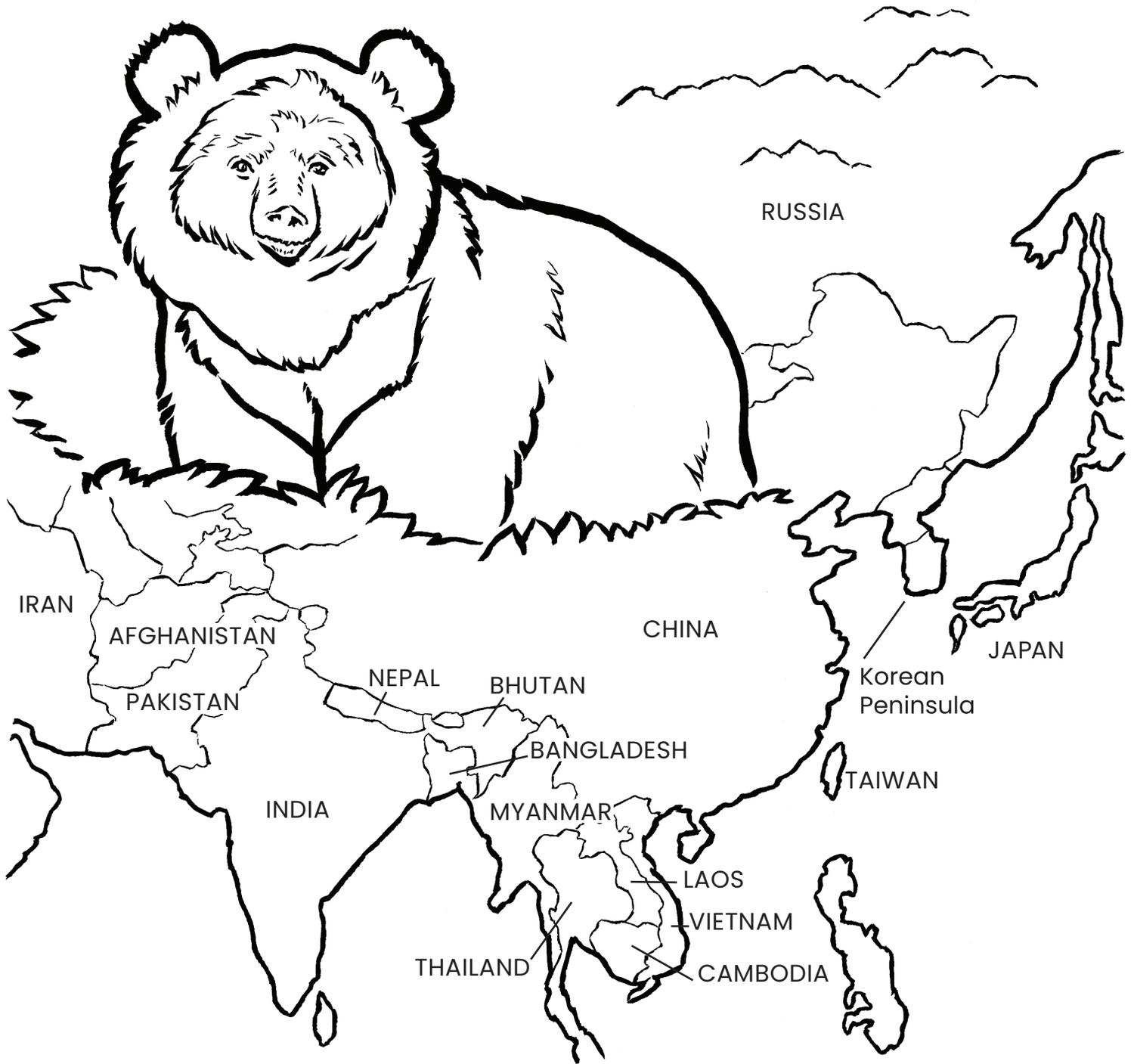
# Asiatic Black Bear

They have sleek black fur with a crescent of pale yellow or white on their chests. This crescent-shaped marking is why they are also called moon bears. They often have a brown muzzle and white chin. Some individuals have long hair at their neck and shoulder that forms a mane. And their large round ears stick out from their heads. Asiatic black bears are a medium-size bear. Adult males weigh 220 to 440 pounds (100 to 200 kilograms), and adult females weigh from 110 to 275 pounds (50 to 125 kilograms).

Seven subspecies have been identified across southern Asia. They live in forests at sea level and into the mountains. Asiatic black bears tend to summer at high elevations and descend during winter. They also find food in secondary forests, tree plantations, fruit orchards, and corn and oat fields. The driest regions of their range are in Iran and southern Pakistan where they eat vegetation along rivers and in orchards. Their range overlaps with the sloth bear in India, the sun bear in Southeast Asia, and the brown bear in the Himalayas and Northeast Asia. The remains of bears from earlier geological periods preserved in sedimentary rock indicate that the Asiatic black bear once ranged as far as Western Europe.

Asiatic black bears and American black bears are more closely related to each other than to the six other living bear species. But the claws of Asiatic black bears are slightly larger and more hooked. This helps them to climb the sides of rocky mountains and tall trees in search of food. When feeding in the trees, they will intentionally break branches to reach fruits and nuts. Broken branches with leftovers that fall to the forest floor become a much-needed food source for other animals. Asiatic black bears spend time in the trees feeding, resting, and avoiding danger.

# ASIATIC BLACK BEAR *Ursus thibetanus*



To intimidate competitors for space and food, **Asiatic black bears** can stand on their hind legs and walk for long distances.

# Sun Bear

The yellow and orange pattern on their chests can look like a rising or setting sun. But they are also known as the honey bear. To reach honey and insects in their hives, these bears have very long tongues. A sun bear's tongue can be as long as 10 inches (25.4 centimeters). They have the longest tongues of all the bears, but the sun bear is the smallest bear species. Adult male sun bears weigh 60 to 180 pounds (27 to 66 kilograms), and females are typically 10 to 20 percent smaller. Being small gives them an advantage in their forest home. Sun bears can eat and rest high above the ground.

Sun bears spend more time in trees than other bear species. Their Malayan name *basindo nan tenggil* translates to "he who likes to sit high." Having adapted for life in the trees, they have inward-facing feet with hairless soles and 4-inch-long hooked claws. This gives the sun bears a characteristic pigeon-toed walk when on the ground. They venture high and low looking for delicious fruits and nuts, tree leaves, termites, ants, bees, beetles and beetle larvae, and reptile eggs. Occasionally, they eat small animals.

By eating fruit, sun bears help to spread seeds for trees. And by breaking up logs with their long claws in search of insects and honey, they help to control pests and decompose dead trees. They are considered to be gardeners of the forest. They live in the rainforests of Burma, Bangladesh, Eastern India, Southern China, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo. The name of Malayan sun bears in Malaysian Chinese translates to "dog bear," and their smaller head appears somewhat dog-like. The Bornean sun bear occurs only on the island of Borneo, and they are even smaller and very cute!

# SUN BEAR *Helarctos malayanus*



**Sun bears** have loose skin that allows them to turn and fight if they get caught by a predator.

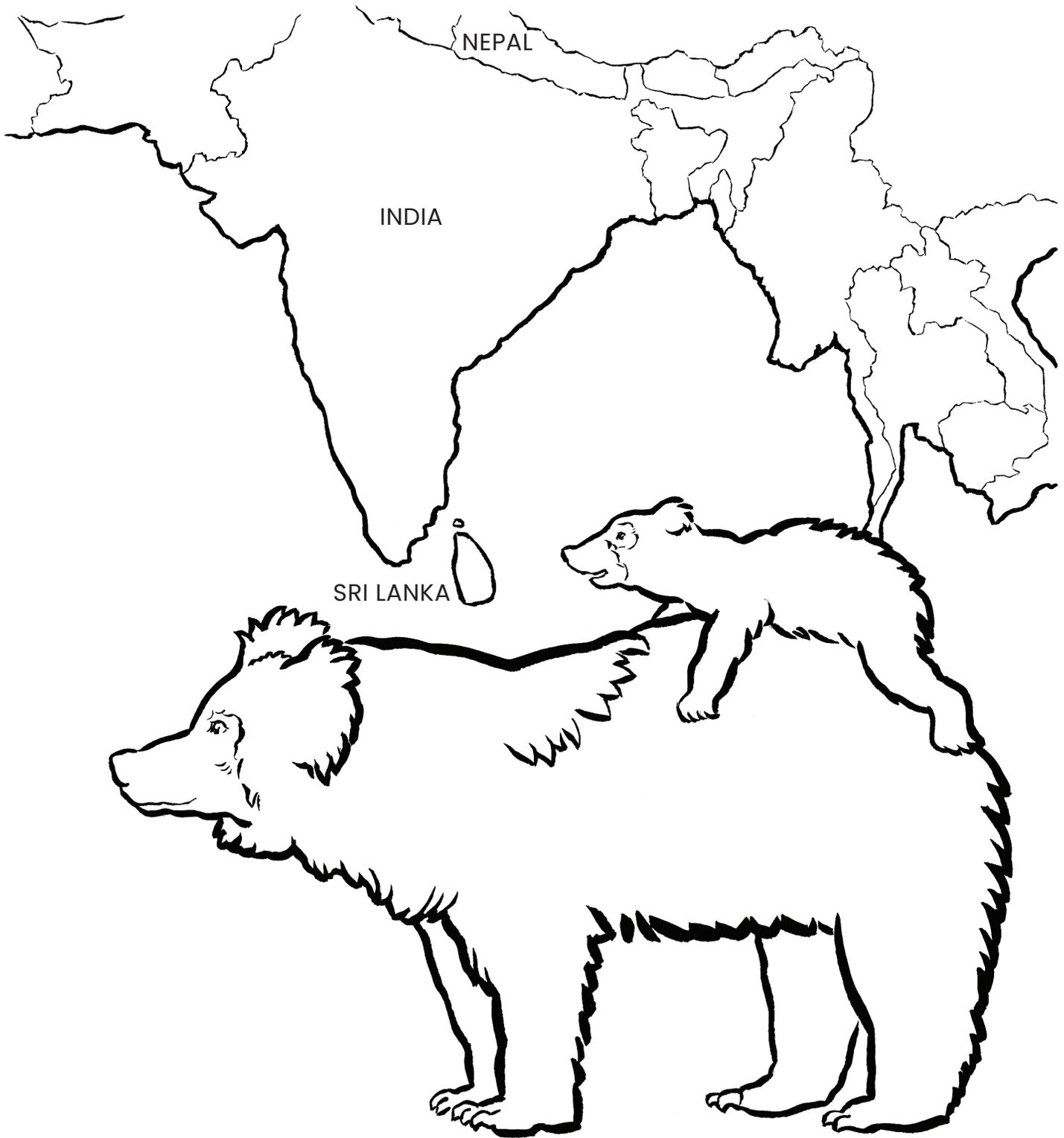
# Sloth Bear

Their long and shaggy fur is black except for a thin white crescent on their chests. The fur color of some sloth bears can be a dark rust color. And some of them don't have a white chest marking. Sloth bears have whitish-gray snouts, and the long hair around their neck and shoulders creates a mane. The cubs will ride on their mother's back when she wants to move faster and to protect them from danger. This species is medium sized. Adult males weigh between 175 and 310 pounds (79 and 140 kilograms), while female sloth bears weigh 120 to 240 pounds (54 to 109 kilograms). They live in their remaining habitats of India, southern Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Sloth bears use their long, curved claws to open termite mounds. The mounds can be quite hard, and once the bears have opened a hole they enclose the opening with their lips and suck out the insects. They have adapted to eating insects. A sloth bear will shut its nostrils to prevent any bugs from going up its nose! They specialize in termites, but sloth bears eat a variety of fruit and flowers, including mowha, mango, jackfruit, fig, and ebony. They also eat honey and eggs and dead animals.

Sloth bears use scent to communicate with other bears. During mating season, male bears can be seen dragging and pressing their feet to the ground. The glands on their feet release scent. Smelly feet! Hearing the name sloth bear for the first time, you may have thought of another mammal known for hanging upside down from a tree branch. Thinking they had similar origins to sloths, a European zoologist named the sloth bears in 1791. Their name in India is "baloo." This is also the name of a fictional bear. You may have noticed the bears in many adaptations of *The Jungle Book* don't quite resemble the actual bears of India.

# SLOTH BEAR *Melursus ursinus*



**Sloth bears** are fierce enough to fight off tigers. They do not hold back if they feel threatened.

# Giant Panda

The giant panda has white fur with black patches around their eyes and ears and black fur on all of their legs. This is the rarest bear species. Wild pandas are found only in Southwest China, along the eastern edge of the Tibetan plateau within six small areas in Sichuan, Gansu, and Shaanxi provinces. They live high up in the mountains at 8,500 to 13,000 feet above sea level. While they belong to an order of animals specialized in eating meat, pandas eat primarily plants. Their preferred forest habitats have a dense understory of bamboo. Sitting and holding bamboo in their front paws, pandas have evolved an additional “false” thumb formed by a long wrist bone.

Their characteristic round face and body evolved over several million years of living in bamboo forests. They need strong muscles and super digestion to consume tough and fibrous plants. Giant pandas have large flat teeth in the back of the mouth, and their jaw muscles attach from the top of their head to the jaw. To gain enough nourishment from bamboo, pandas must consume more than 20 pounds (9 kilograms) of leaves and shoots each day. Eating only bamboo does limit their energy. They tend to avoid interactions with other pandas, and they skip the strenuous climbs common to other bear species.

An adult male panda in the wild can weigh up to 275 pounds (125 kilograms), and females weigh as much as 220 pounds (91 kilograms). Compared with other bears, this is not too big, and yet they are called giant pandas. This name is used to distinguish them from the red panda. But red pandas are not bears, they are from a different family of mammals. Both red and giant pandas belong to the order Carnivora, but the *giant* panda is called a folivore because it eats mostly leaves and bamboo shoots.

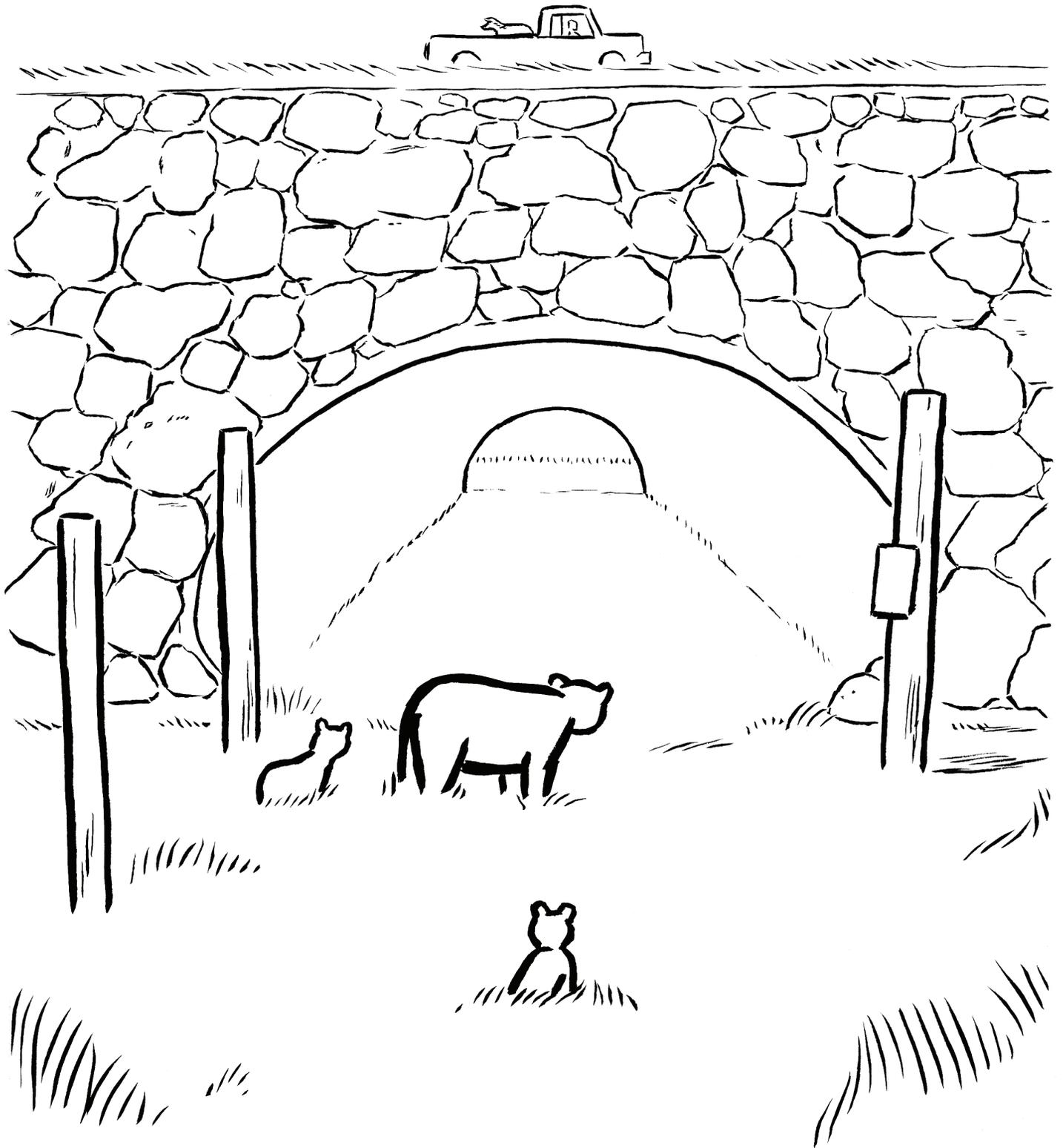
GIANT PANDA *Ailuropoda melanoleuca*



A **giant panda** subspecies lives secluded in the Qinling Mountains. Rather than black patches and legs, the Qinling panda is light brown!



Bears require large **connected** areas of land to find food and mates. Many busy roads cross their path.



Crashing into a bear can be deadly. People create **wildlife corridors and crossings** for animals to avoid cars. This is safer for the bears and for us.



The bears eat and eat until no food can be found in the snowy lands where they live. Their deep winter sleep helps the bears to **conserve** energy.

# Outdoor Ethics

By respecting wildlife and their habitats, people can enjoy the outdoors without causing harm.

- **Plan your trip** by learning what is allowed. When parks require dogs to be leashed, this keeps them safe from bears and other dogs. A leash also prevents dogs from disturbing local wildlife and plants. If the park allows dogs, travel prepared to pack out dog poop.
- **Hike on marked trails.** And remember that bears also travel along pathways through the forest, including marked trails. When encountering a bear on the trail, move off the path far enough so the bear can safely pass.
- **To avoid surprising a bear on the trail,** travel in a group. A group of people will be easier for the bear to sense and avoid safely. Talking or singing can help to alert the bears too.
- **Take extra care when riding a bike on forest trails.** Traveling quietly and fast around turns in the trail makes surprising a bear more likely. Recreational running on trails can also lead to a sudden encounter with a bear.
- **Take only plants and animals permitted by the park service.** A bouquet of wildflowers on the picnic table may look nice, but plants need those blossoms to reproduce, and insects and animals need them as a food source.
- **Never feed wildlife.** Pack out all food scraps and trash.
- **Photograph wildlife at a safe distance,** using a zoom or telephoto lens. Taking a selfie with wild animals can lead people to endanger themselves and animals.

Thank you for taking good care of **wildlife habitat!**

### Our Vision

Bear Trust International envisions a world where bears prosper in their natural habitat while coexisting with sustainable economies.

### Our Mission

Bear Trust International works to conserve all eight species of the world's bears, other wildlife, and habitat. We believe that wild bears in their natural habitat are key indicators of ecosystem health. Their ability to sustain themselves is, therefore, critical to wildlife. Bear Trust strives to reinforce ecosystem viability through habitat conservation and education projects that build on timely research.



This book exists with the support of funders and sponsors who believe in our vision and mission. Bear Trust is especially grateful to a donor for funding this project. Teachers can focus their students' attention on coloring and guide a conversation about bears and their habitats. For many young people, their first journey to the great outdoors begins with media and imagination. By encouraging curiosity, an education in wildlife biology begins. We would also like to thank Gloria Dickie, the author of *Eight Bears: Mythic Past and Imperiled Future*.