

GRIZZLY BEAR & BLACK BEAR IDENTIFICATION

Prepared by the Be Bear Aware Campaign

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The grizzly bear is Montana's state animal. The honor was conferred in 1983 through a democratic process conducted by more than 55,000 of the state's school children in 425 schools. They held primary and general elections, complete with posters, voter rosters, speeches, campaign buttons, bumper stickers, and party caucuses. More than 1,000 school children attended the two hearings on the Grizzly Bill, some even testified or submitted written testimony. On April 7, 1983 the bill was signed into law Governor Ted Schwinden, designating *Ursus Arctos Horribilis* as the official Montana state animal.



Grizzly bear is a name that Native Americans, trappers and Lewis & Clark bestowed upon the grizzly bear. This name was named because of the grizzly bear's grizzled or golden-tipped or silver-tipped fur. Grizzlies are technically a North American Brown Bear, similar to the European, Russian, and Asian Brown Bears.



In the Northwest United States, Alaska and Western Canada, it is important to know the difference between a grizzly bear and a black bear. Black bears tend to be more timid and may seek safety from people by climbing trees or immediately leaving the area; whereas grizzly bears may respond to a perceived threat by charging as a warning or to make contact in order to protect its space, food, and cubs. Both bears can be potentially dangerous when suddenly confronted without warning. It is recommended to always carry bear spray.

1. [11 x 17 BEAR IDENTIFICATION POSTER](#) compares the difference between grizzly bears and black bears. The poster is intended to be used as a wall display in classrooms or training facilities.



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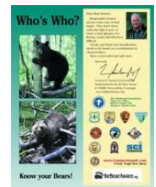
- 2) **[8 1/2 x 11 BEAR IDENTIFICATION HANDOUT](#)** This is a smaller replica of the poster and also compares the difference between grizzly bears and black bears. It is intended to be a handout for group participants that can be taken home and shared with family and friends.



- 3) **[WHO'S WHO VIDEO WITH GENERAL SCHWARZKOPF](#)**
This is an in-depth video covering both grizzly bears and black bears along with wildlife stewardship principles. The video emphasizes the differences in claws, face profile, ears, muscle hump and other features that differ between the two bears. The late General Schwarzkopf was a bear enthusiast who donated his time educating the public about bear avoidance and other safety techniques.



- 4) **[WHO'S WHO BROCHURE](#)** Has an introductory message from the late General Schwarzkopf emphasizing the importance for recreationists to know the difference between black bears and grizzly bears. It contains a fun picture quiz.



- 5) **[LINKS TO STATE AGENCIES TO TAKE A BEAR IDENTIFICATION QUIZ](#)**

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks: <https://myfwp.mt.gov/fwpPub/testStart.action?testid=559639>

Idaho Fish & Game Dept: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/bear-exam/color>

*YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SHARING THIS INFORMATION
WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS*



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