

Be Bear Aware

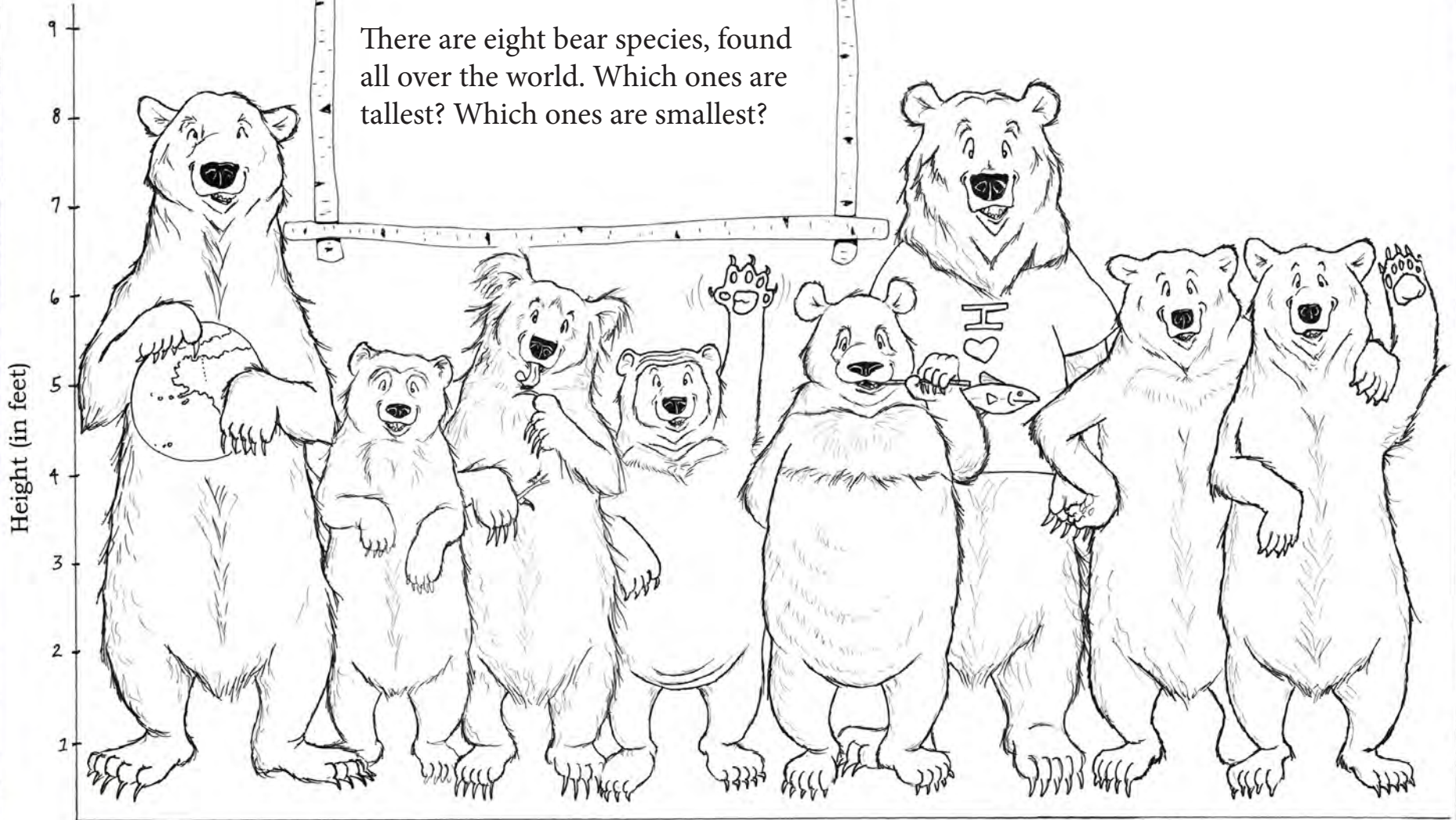
Coloring Book



By Mary Ruskovich and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Bears of the World

There are eight bear species, found all over the world. Which ones are tallest? Which ones are smallest?



Polar bear

Spectacled bear

Sloth bear

Sun bear

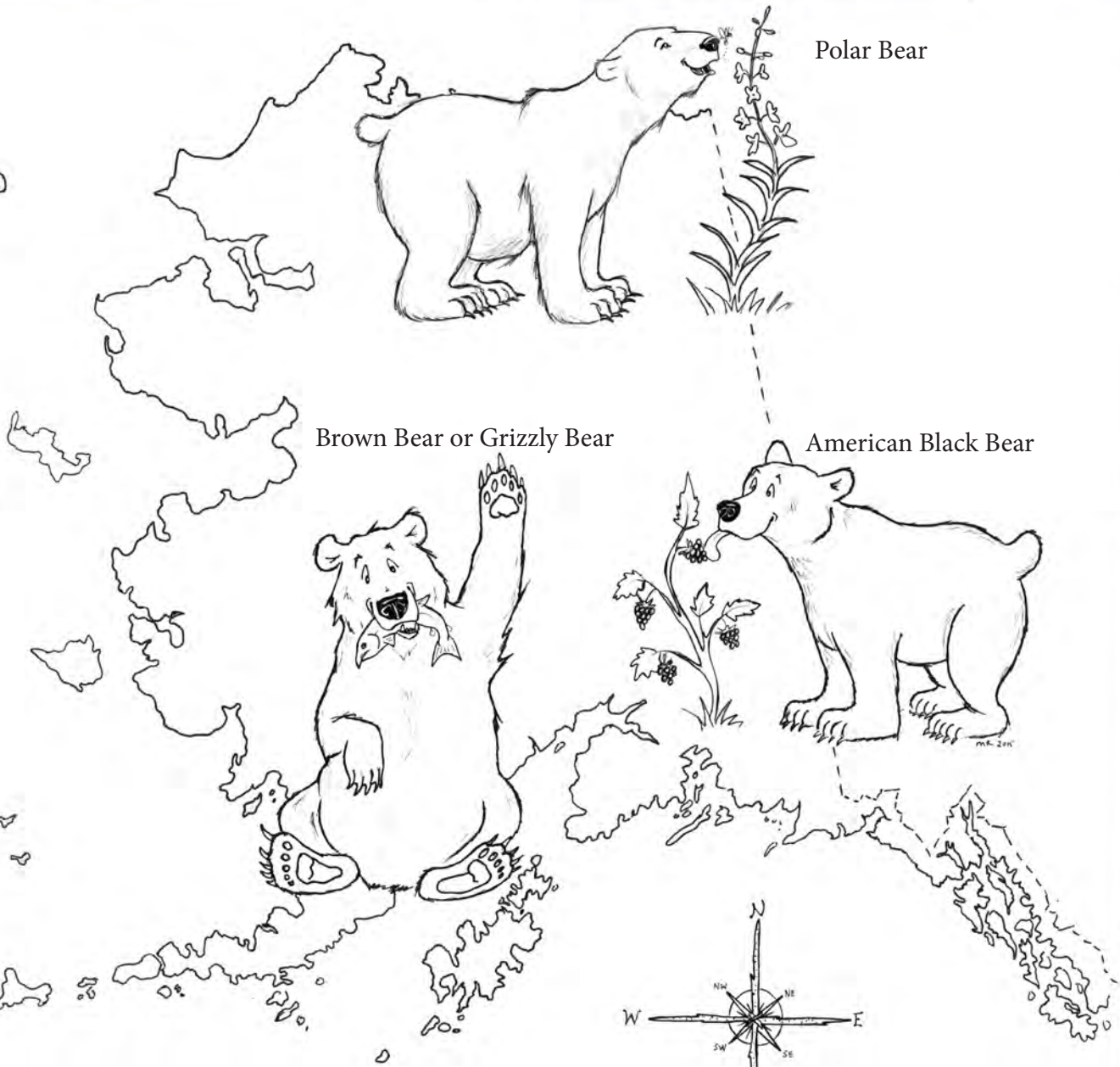
Panda

Brown bear

Asiatic black bear

American black bear

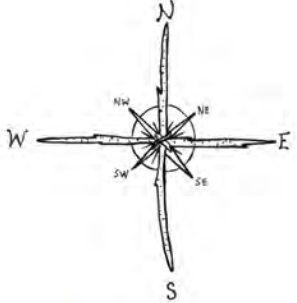
Alaska has three bear species – polar bears, brown bears (also called grizzlies) and American black bears.



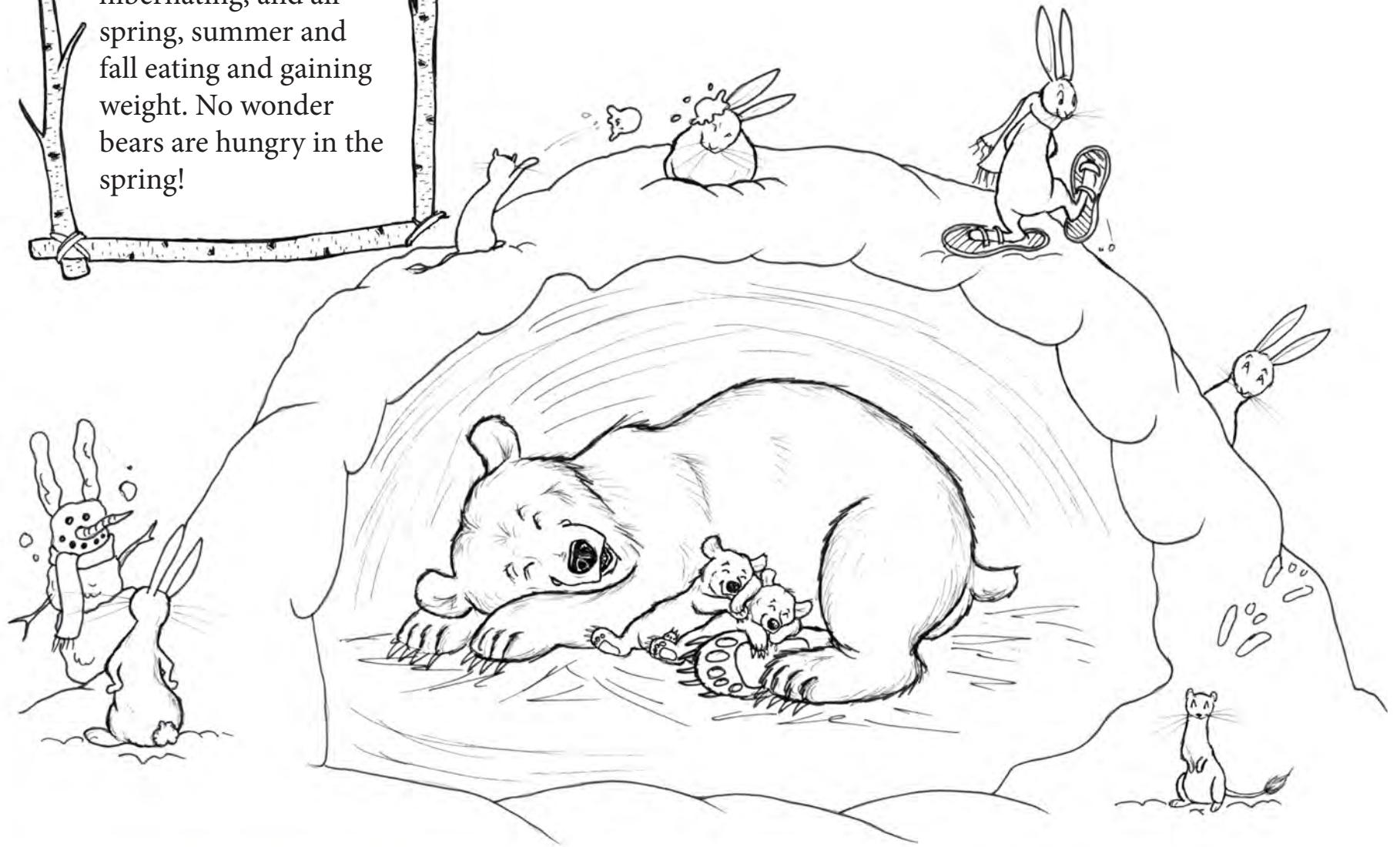
Polar Bear

Brown Bear or Grizzly Bear

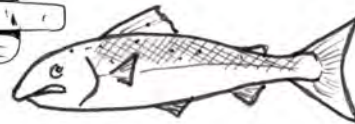
American Black Bear



Most black and brown bears spend all winter hibernating, and all spring, summer and fall eating and gaining weight. No wonder bears are hungry in the spring!



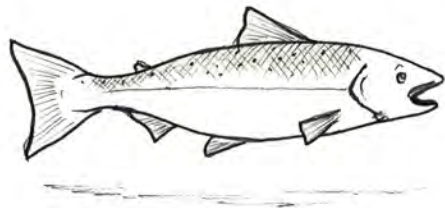
Black and brown bears are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and meat. Here are some of their favorite foods. Can you name some other natural foods bears like to eat?



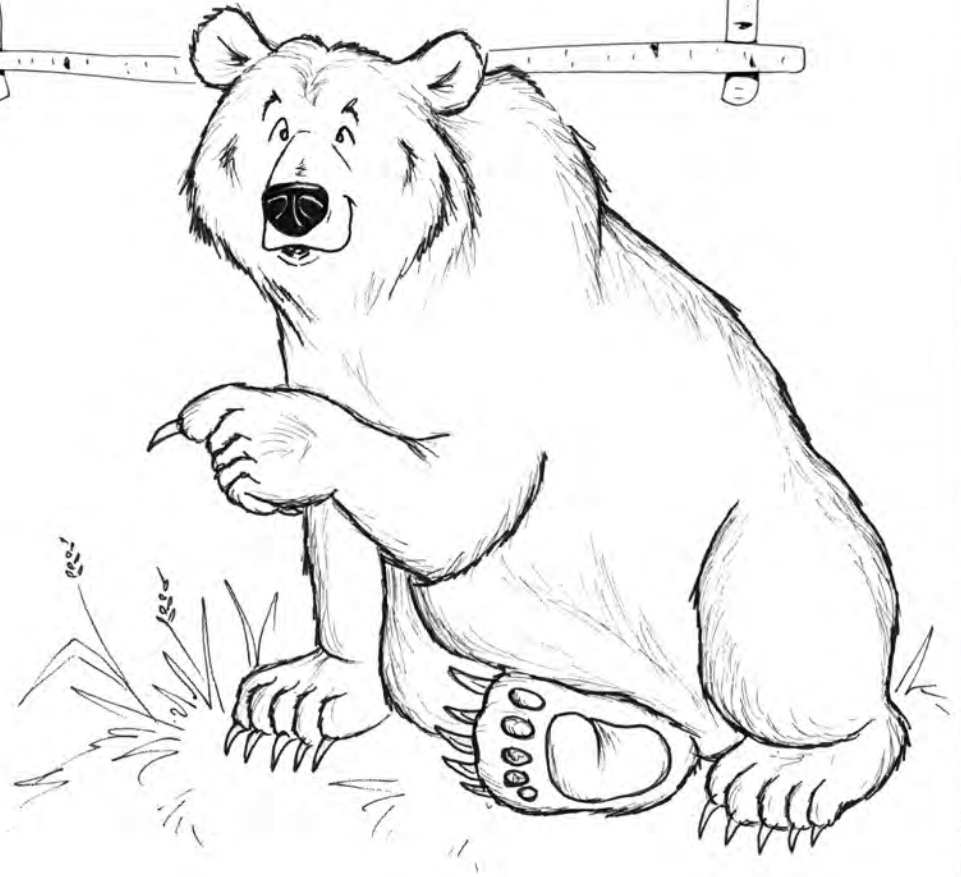


Let's all be bear aware!

- Never feed bears.
- Report bears that hang around people or get into garbage.
- Never get too close to bears.
- Hike in groups and make noise so you don't surprise a bear.
- Watch for bear signs. Be alert. No headphones!
- Stay on trails and avoid thick brush.
- Never get between a mother bear and her cubs.
- Never explore a bad-smelling area; a bear might be feeding.
- Keep a clean camp.
- Learn more about bears!



Bears sometimes eat human food or garbage when they can find it. This is dangerous for both bears and people. Draw a line to the natural foods this bear should eat. Mark an X through human foods bears should NOT eat.



Never feed bears.



Did you know bears like pet food? Store pet and livestock food inside a building or in bear-resistant containers.



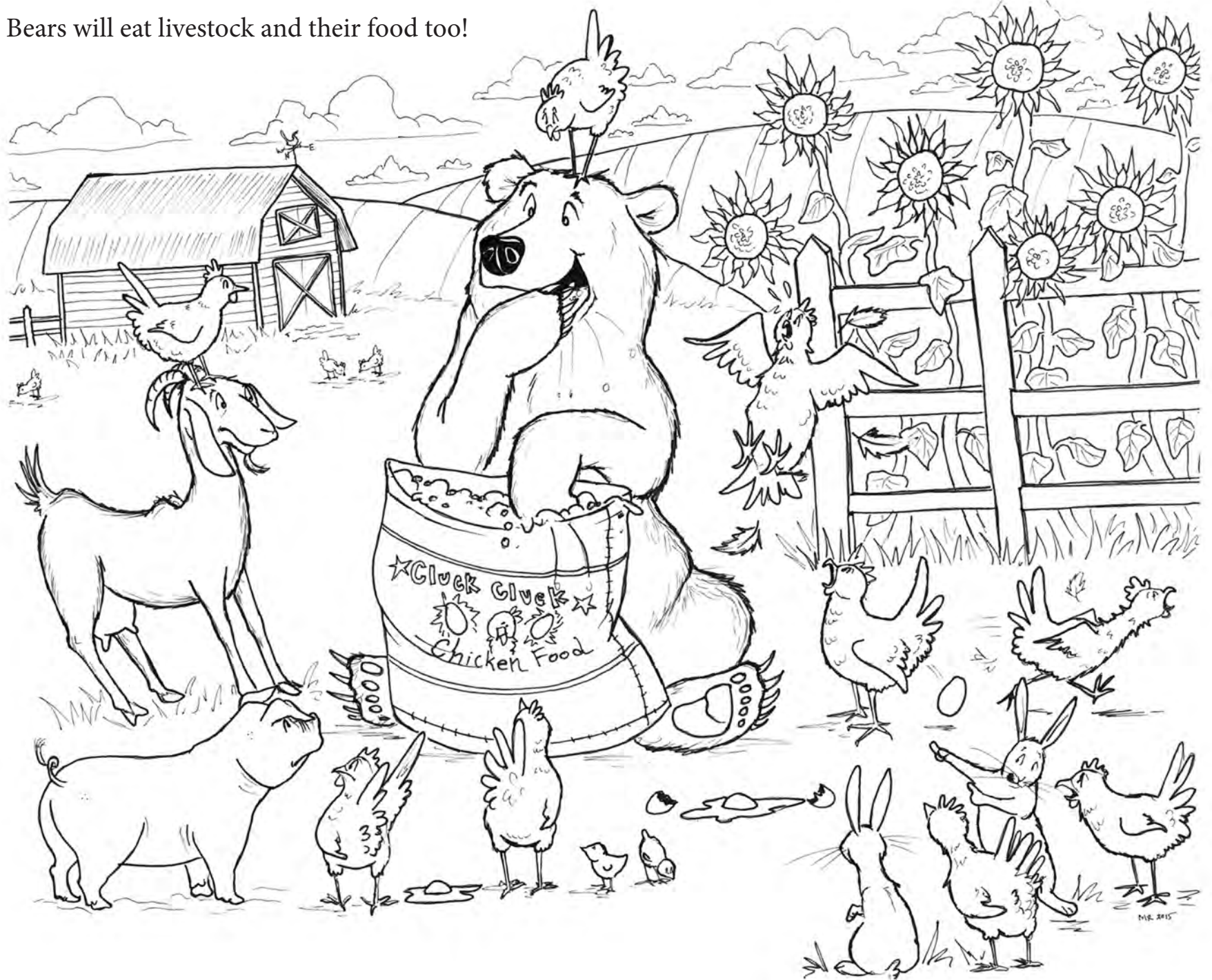
Bears love birdseed!

Take down bird feeders when bears are awake, from April to November. Clean up spilled seeds and store birdseed out of reach of bears.

NO
BEARS
ALLOWED

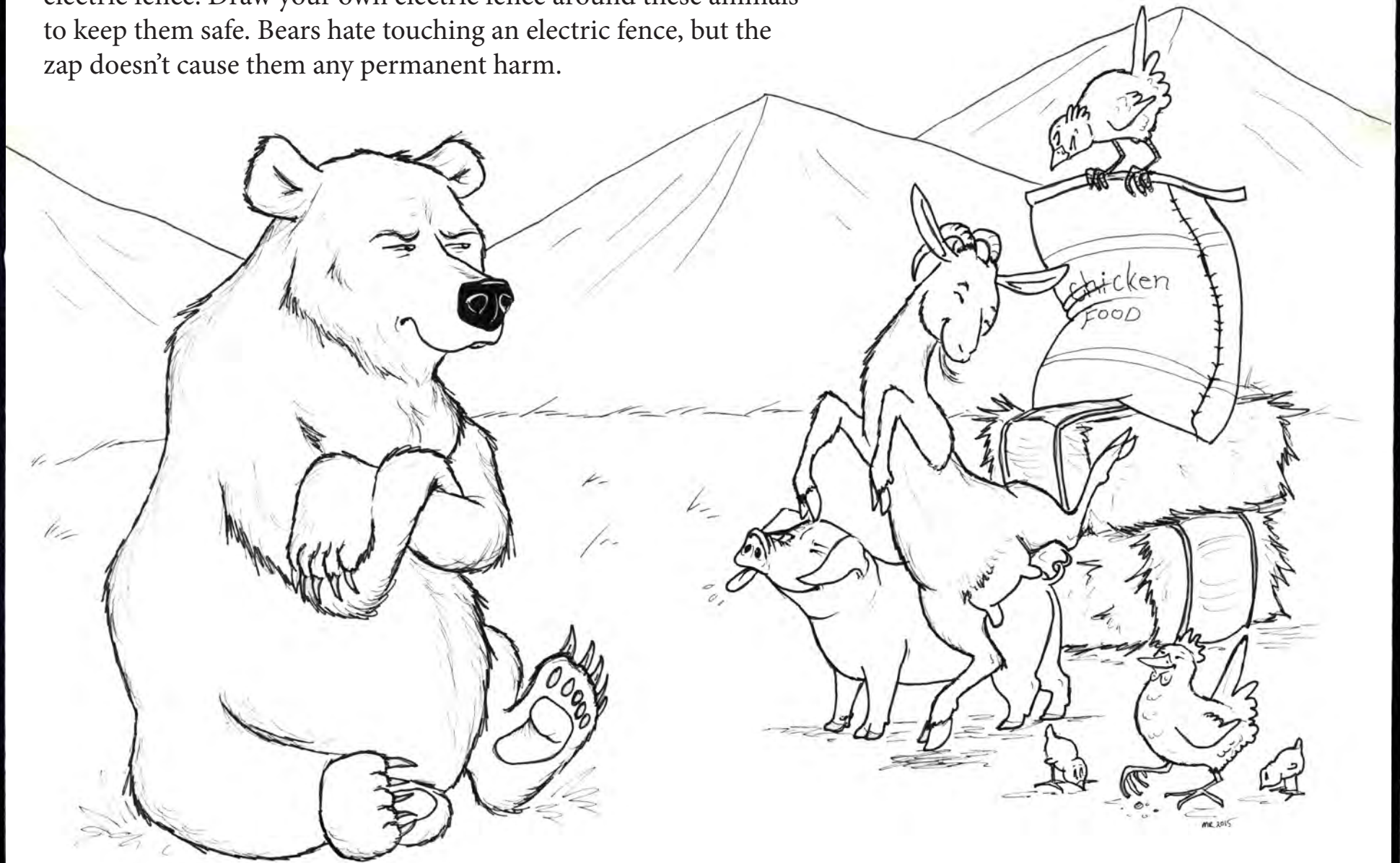


Bears will eat livestock and their food too!



Draw your own electric fence...

The best way to protect livestock in bear country is with an electric fence. Draw your own electric fence around these animals to keep them safe. Bears hate touching an electric fence, but the zap doesn't cause them any permanent harm.



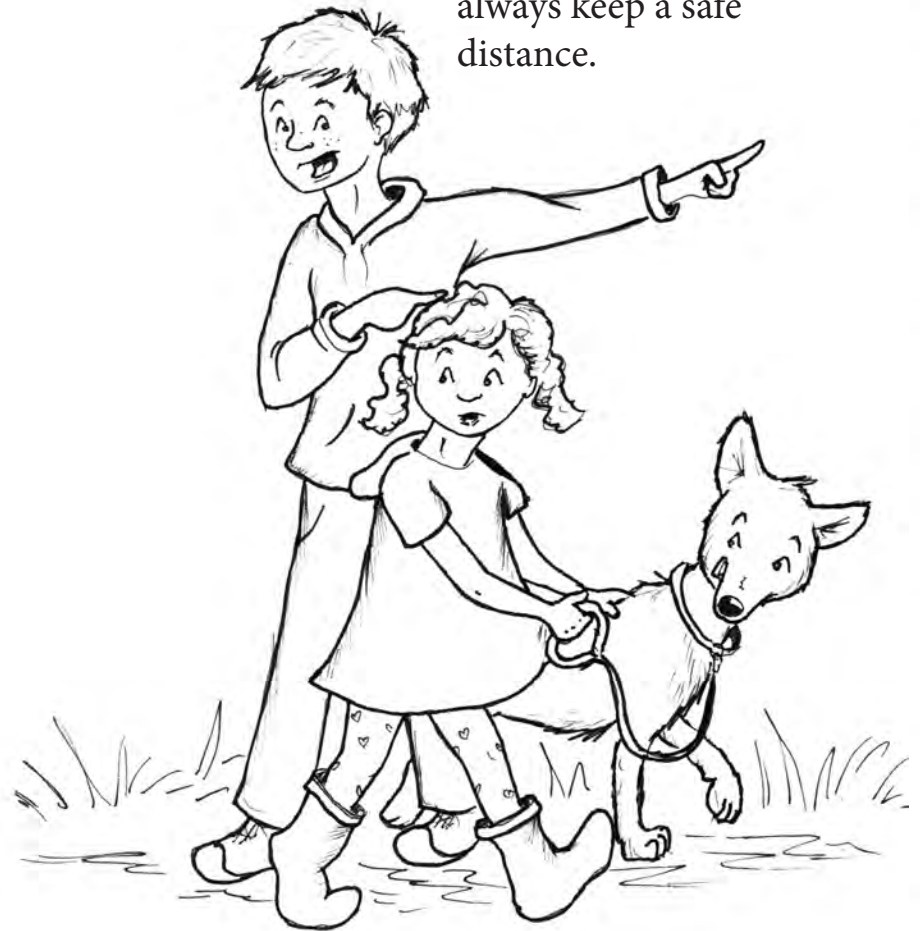
Call your local Alaska
Department of Fish and
Game office if you see a
bear getting into garbage, or
getting too close to people.
For emergencies, dial 911!

Report bears that hang around
people or get into garbage.

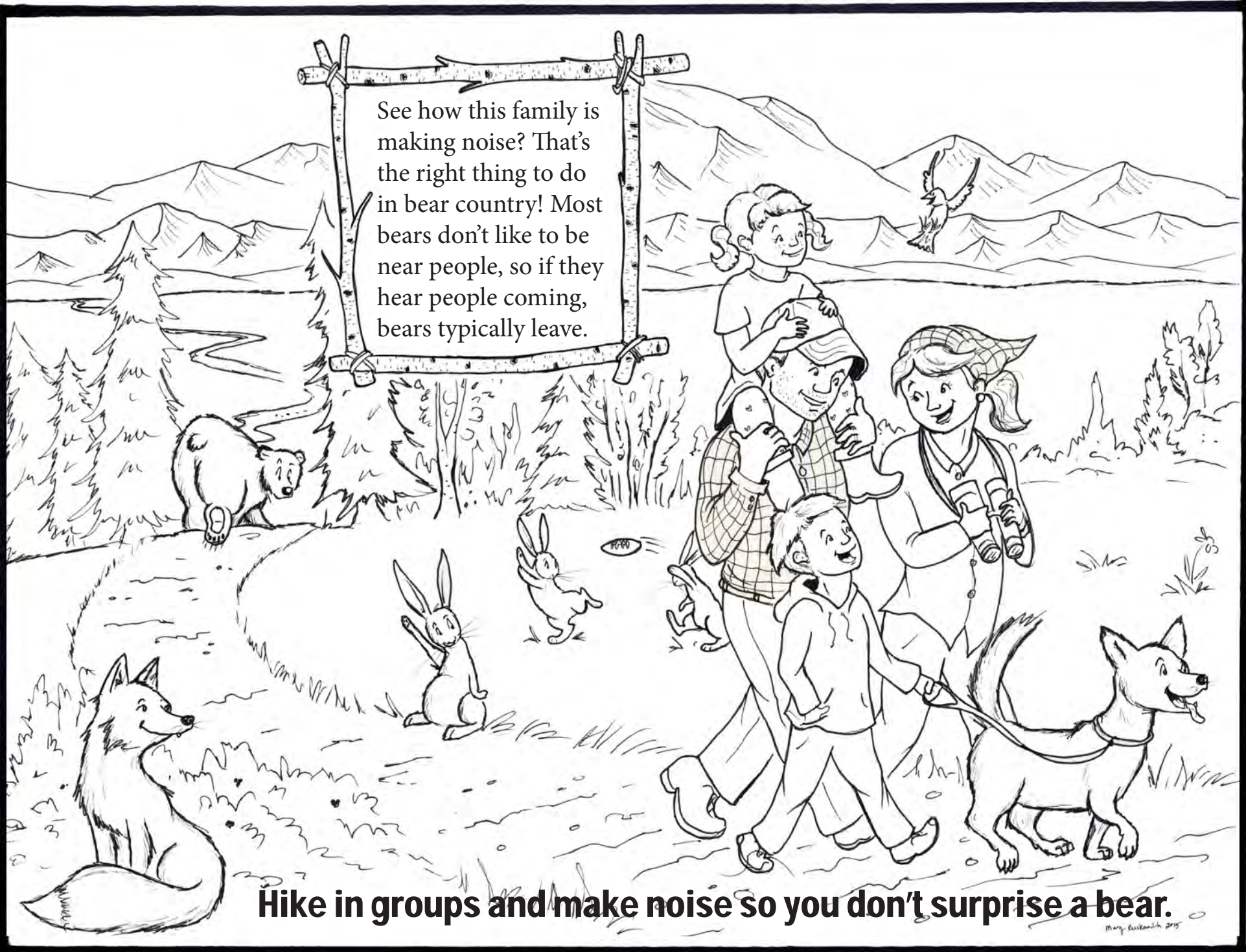


Never get too close to a bear.

These kids are finding another place to walk their dog because they see a bear. They are doing the right thing! Never approach bears; always keep a safe distance.



Draw your own bear in the space above!



See how this family is making noise? That's the right thing to do in bear country! Most bears don't like to be near people, so if they hear people coming, bears typically leave.

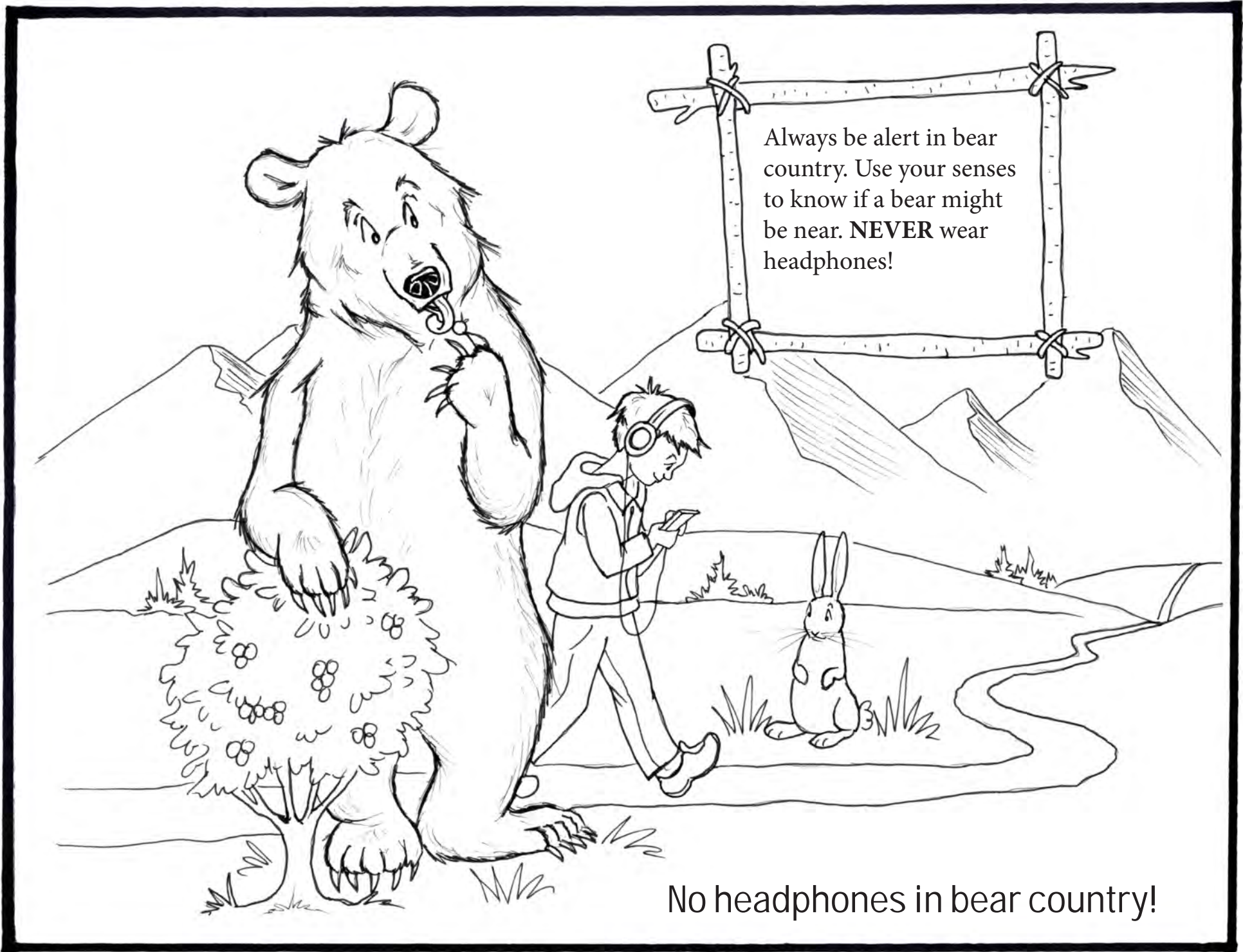
Hike in groups and make noise so you don't surprise a bear.

Mary Buckenich 2015

Watch for signs of
a bear. Be alert!

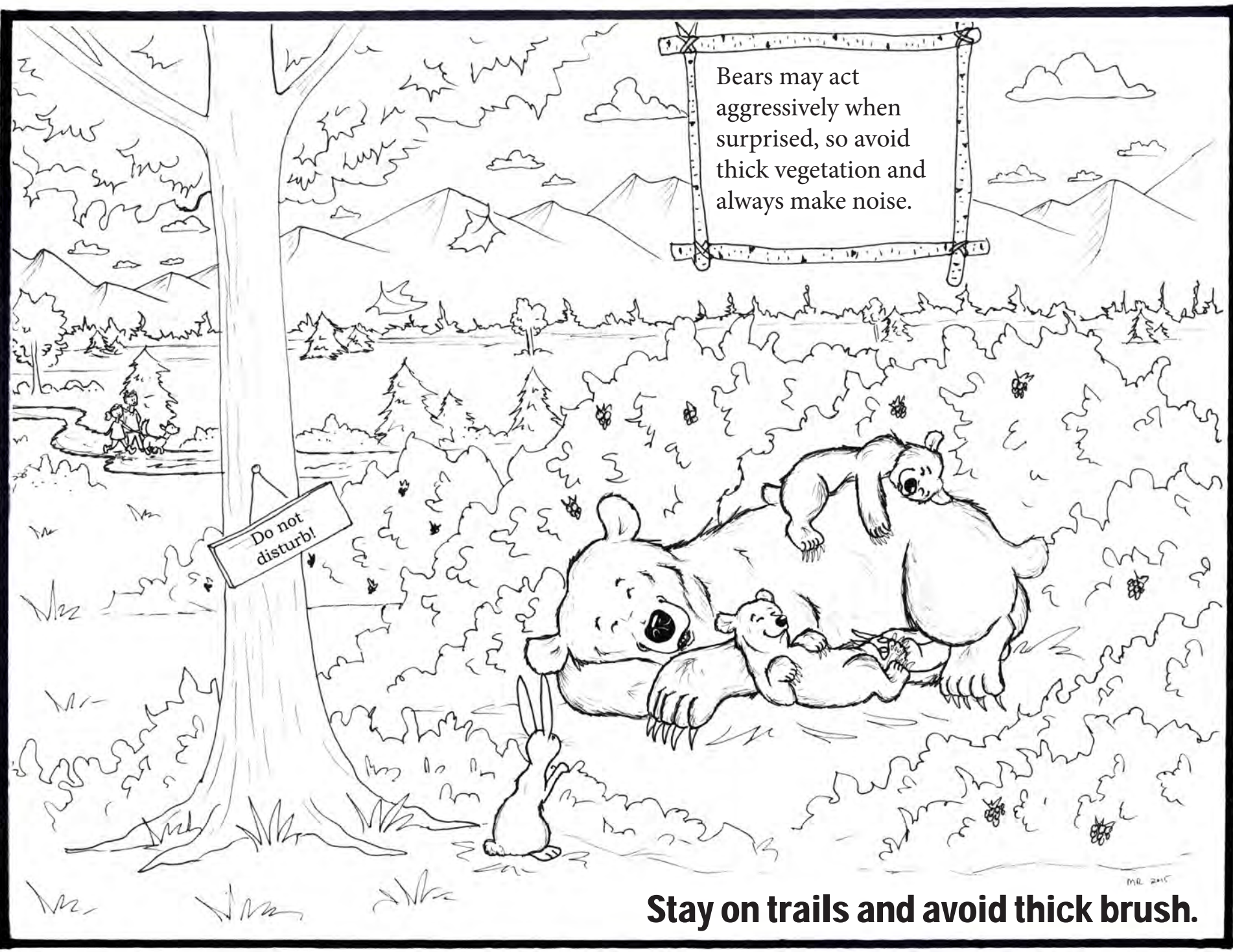


What signs or clues has this bear
left behind that would let you
know it's been here?



Always be alert in bear country. Use your senses to know if a bear might be near. **NEVER** wear headphones!

No headphones in bear country!



Bears may act aggressively when surprised, so avoid thick vegetation and always make noise.

Do not disturb!

Stay on trails and avoid thick brush.

MIL 2015

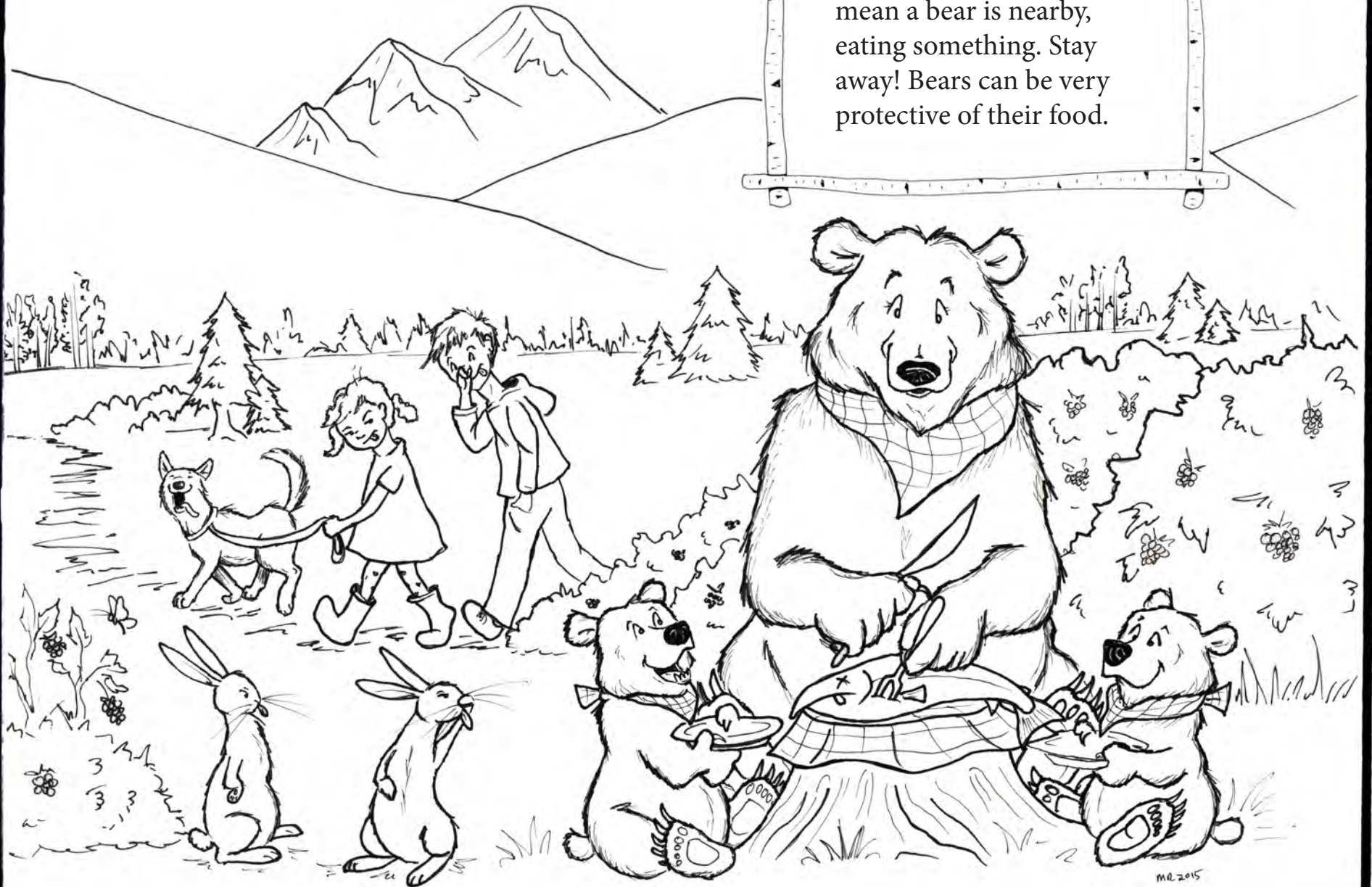
Never get between a
mother bear and her cubs.

These kids should not
go any closer, but should
back away slowly, getting
more distance between
them and the bears.



Never explore a bad-smelling area.

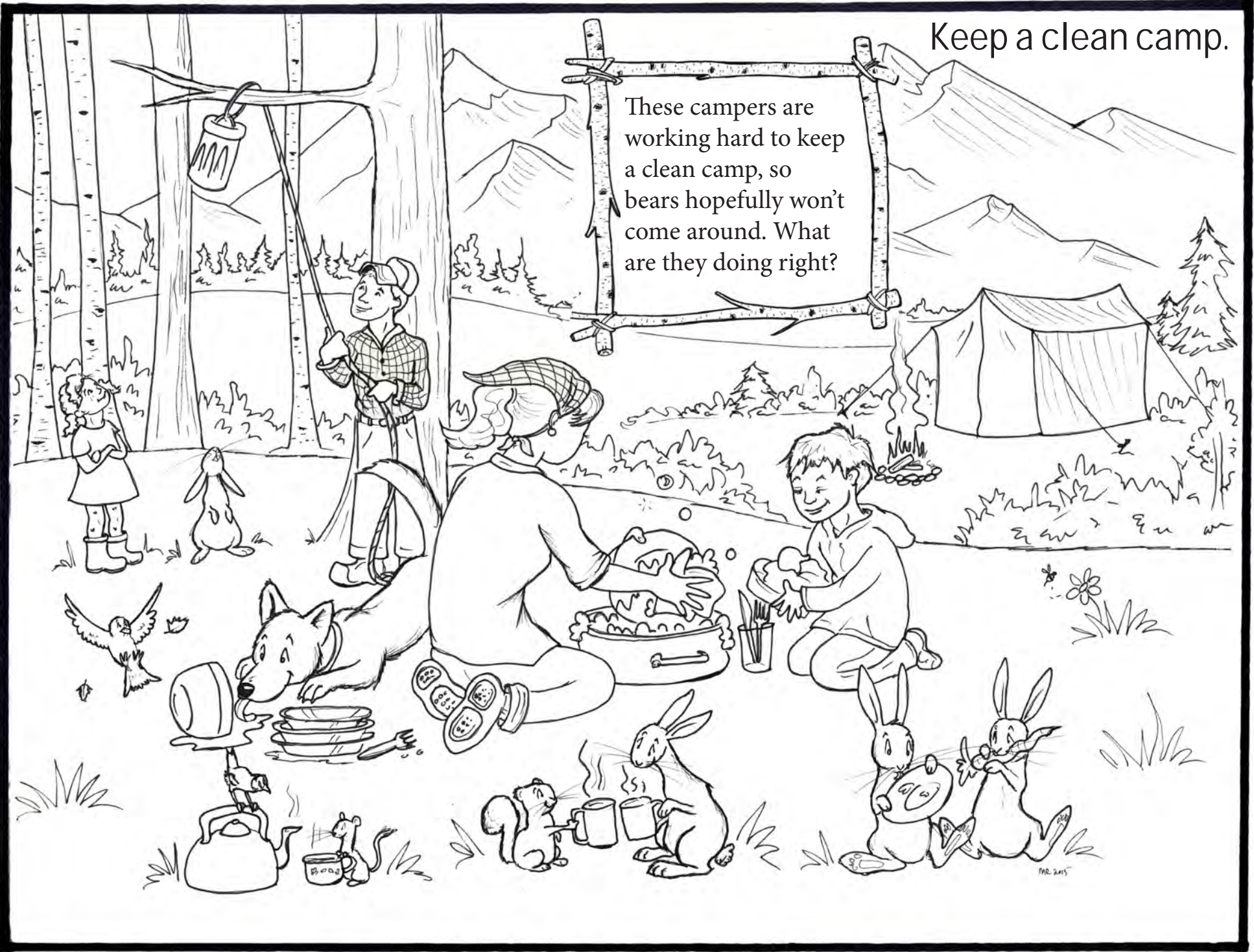
Foul or smelly odors may mean a bear is nearby, eating something. Stay away! Bears can be very protective of their food.



MR. 2015

Keep a clean camp.

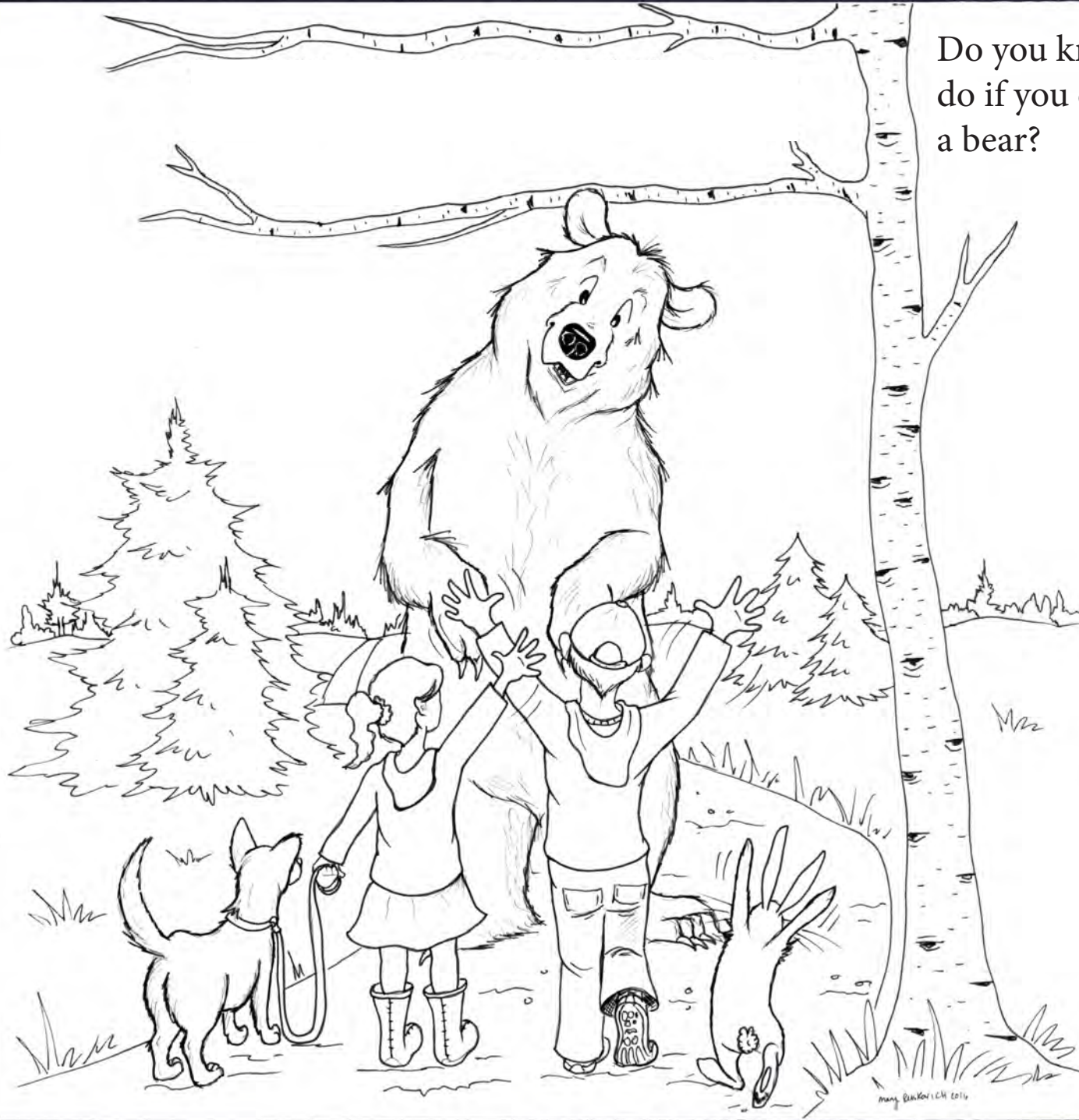
These campers are working hard to keep a clean camp, so bears hopefully won't come around. What are they doing right?



Fix the mistakes... These campers made some mistakes. What would you do to clean up this campsite so bears don't come near? Mark items that need to be cleaned up or moved. Can you draw a way for these campers to safely store their food?



Do you know what to do if you encounter a bear?



If you encounter a bear...

- Don't run.
- Stand your ground and talk to the bear so it knows you're human.
- Move closer to your group, so you look big.
- If the bear is not coming closer, back away slowly, keeping your eyes on the bear. Get more space between you and the bear!

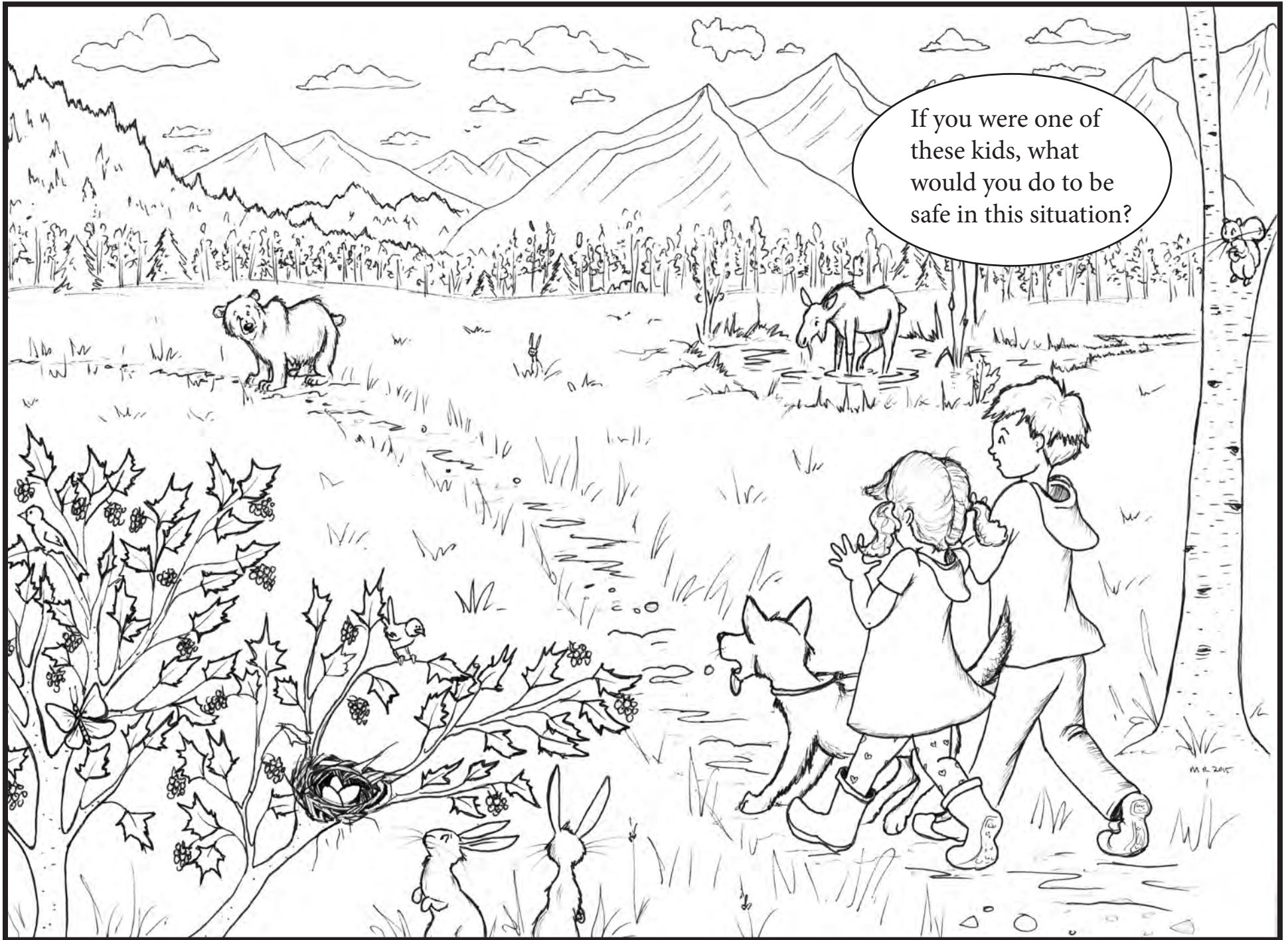




What if a bear comes towards you?

If a bear follows you, stop moving and call for help. Stand tall, get big and be loud. If an adult in the group has bear spray, be ready to use it if the bear comes close. Most bears run away if they are sprayed with bear spray, but it doesn't cause any lasting damage to the bear.





If you were one of these kids, what would you do to be safe in this situation?

Learn more about bears

What are some things you would like to know about bears? Write your questions below, or email ADF&G with your questions – send emails to elizabeth.manning@alaska.gov.



What do you know?

Fill in the blanks using these words....

groups careful cubs surprise calm
signs bears protective clean distance

1. Never approach bears. Keep your _____.
Always tell an adult if you see a bear.
2. Hike in _____.
3. Make noise so you don't _____ a bear.
4. Watch for bear _____. Be alert.
5. Be especially _____ around thick brush.
6. Never get between a mother bear and her _____.
7. Be careful if you smell a bad smell, like something rotting. A bear might eating a dead animal, and bears are very _____ of their food.
8. Keep a _____ camp, so you don't attract bears.
9. If you see a bear, stay _____. Don't run!
10. Keep learning as much as you can about _____.



Be Bear Aware

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Content by ADF&G

This booklet is available on the ADF&G website.
If you would like to download a free copy,
visit www.adfg.alaska.gov.

The History of Bear Aware Coloring Books:

This coloring book was created by artist Mary Ruskovich for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. ADF&G's original coloring book, also called *Be Bear Aware*, is still available on ADF&G's website. That coloring book was adapted with permission from Environment Yukon's *Be Bear Aware* coloring book, which was inspired by ADF&G's original coloring book, *The Bears and You*.

Printed July 2016

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