



BC Parks



AGES 9-11

WEAVING ^{INTO THE} WEB OF LIFE

- » EXPLORE THE WEB OF LIFE
- » LEARN ABOUT RESPONSIBLE RECREATION
- » GET TO KNOW THE BEARS OF BC



WELCOME TO BC PARKS

Weaving into the Web of Life

Welcome to BC Parks! We protect and manage our beautiful provincial parks for future generations, and we're so happy you're here!

JERRY'S RANGERS

Do you want to learn more about BC Parks and how to care for them? Check out the Jerry's Rangers program, an interpretive program for children ages 5+ available in select provincial parks. The program encourages participants to connect with the land around them, fostering the next generation of park stewards. You can earn a Jerry's Rangers certificate by completing different activities to collect 6 stamps. Find the certificate at the back of this booklet!

For more information and to find out where the program is offered, check out bcparks.ca/jerrysrangers



All living things have a role to play in the web of life. Grizzly bears might be eating salmon and berries at the top of the food chain, but they're also connected to tiny insects like the mosquitoes who collect their blood, and to the fungi and bacteria that help decompose their bodies when they die. So many connections in the web! Let's go on an adventure and find out where we weave into the web of life!

For parent/guardians:

This booklet is designed to help guide your child's experience in a provincial park. It provides activities and ideas to enrich your visit, while leaving space for your child to take the lead. As an adult, enjoy the role of a co-learner and wear the hat of a "gentle guide", rather than an "expert". Child-led adventure is where the magic happens - follow where your child's interests are, and you may be amazed at the connections you make in the park today!

If you don't finish the booklet, don't worry! Save it for your next park visit - the activities can be done in provincial parks and protected areas across BC.

WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS

Grizzly bear cubs are born in the winter, in dens dug into the ground or hillsides. Females can care for their cubs for up to 3 years.

When we grow up, we tend to be solitary creatures, which means we live on our own. Sometimes groups of grizzly bears will gather together along rivers during the salmon run.

We grizzly bears are large, measuring just over a metre at shoulder height, and up to 2 metres in length. We can be brown to blonde, and have long, curved claws. One of our most well-known features is the large hump on our shoulders. This is actually a large muscle which powers our forelimbs in all the heavy digging we do daily.

Grizzly Bears

Did you know that grizzly bears like me can eat up to 90lbs of food in one day? That's like eating 270 apples!

What do YOU have in common with a grizzly bear? (e.g. I pick berries with my family in berry season, I am also a mammal, etc.)

What is a question you have about grizzly bears?



WHERE ARE YOU?



Earn the Storyteller Stamp for your Jerry's Rangers certificate by completing these activities!

Acknowledgement & Gratitude

We are so happy you are here to enjoy BC Parks' many natural and cultural features.

Take a deep breath. Look around you. What are you grateful for today? What is something that makes you happy here in the park?

Draw a picture of or trace something in the park that makes you happy.



I feel grateful for:



BC PARKS



Family Fun:

Consider visiting maps.fpcc.ca to hear pronunciations and greetings in each of the Indigenous languages spoken by First Nations peoples across the province when you get home.

Learn more about the Traditional Territory that the park is in by visiting Native-land.ca

In honour of traditional Indigenous place names, some BC Parks have been named or renamed, collaboratively with the Indigenous peoples who share their territory with those parks.

Tā Ch'ilā Park, pronounced Ta Chill La (formerly Boya Lake Park). The park's new name means "holes in a blanket".

ACTIVITY: BC is a big province! Where are you? Draw an 'X' in the area of the park you are visiting.

Can you trace your journey? Draw a line from the park you're visiting to (or in the direction of) where you came from today!

Ancient Forest/
Chun T'oh Whudujut, pronounced Chun Toe Wood-yu-jud, is nestled in the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh.

Tsútswecw Park, pronounced Choo-chwek (formerly Roderick Haig-Brown Park). This park's new name means "many rivers".

M9uq^win Park, pronounced Mook-Queen (previously Brooks Peninsula Park), was renamed to be called "The Queen" in the Nuu-Chah-Nulth language.

ŁÁU, WELNEW, pronounced Tlay-will-nook (previously John Dean Provincial Park) means "place of refuge".

Golden Ears Provincial Park, British Columbia

WEAVING INTO THE WEB OF LIFE

PACKING THE ESSENTIALS FOR A GREAT HIKE

Our parks are special places to visit, with lots to see and discover. To make sure we all have fun, we need to know how to stay safe!

Activity: Pack the Essentials

Yikes! You're about to head out on a backcountry hike, but your backpack is way too heavy. Heading into the backcountry means you will be far from roads and facilities (running water, etc.), so you have to carry everything you might need.

But you've packed too much! You need to repack it before heading out.

Take a look at the items unpacked from the backpack. Can you identify 10 of the essential (absolutely necessary) items to take with you?

Use the pictures of packed items and the clues below to decode the items. Circle or colour 10 items in as you solve the clues!

(Careful - Some items pictured may be helpful but are not essential!)

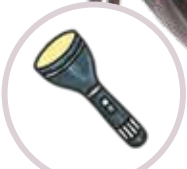
1. This is definitely needed to keep you warm and fed.
2. You need this item to cut.
3. In case of an emergency, it's important to have packed a bit extra of each, to keep energy going and spirits up.
4. This will keep you warm and dry in a pinch.
5. This item helps at night or in the early morning when the sun is still down.
6. This is important to have along in case you get cold or wet.
7. This item will help you be spotted and found if you are lost or stranded.
8. This helps with planning beforehand, as well as keeping you on track as you go.
9. A must-have item in any backpack, to help protect and heal.
10. This protects you from sunburns.

Extra Challenge:

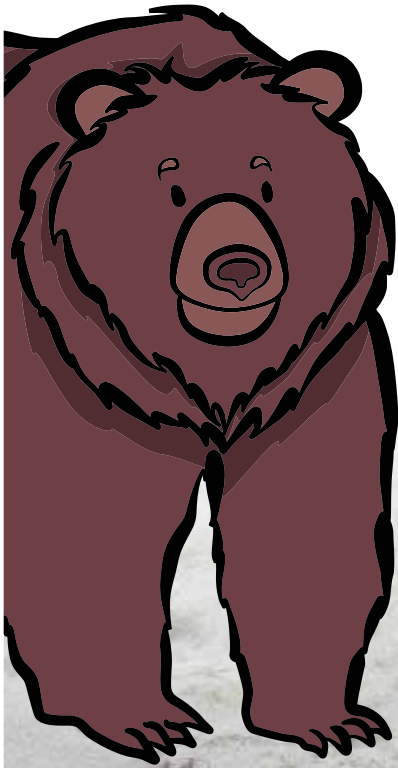
Take a look in your own bag. If possible, unpack your pack and spread out all the items on the ground. Make a pile of what is essential (and check how many of the essentials you have!) and a pile of what is extra. These extra items can be left at the campsite, in the car, or logged away in your mind as things you might not bring for your next hiking trip.

If you could bring only the essentials AND one extra item along with you in your pack, what would your extra item be?

Why would you bring it?



GIVE WILDLIFE THEIR SPACE & STAY SAFE



How did/can you prepare for safe wildlife encounters before coming to the park?
(e.g. telling someone where you're going before you leave, bringing a bag to pack out garbage)

What facilities does the park have in place to protect wildlife as well as park visitors?
(e.g. cleared trails, important signs)

Principles of Bear Safety:



Scat & Signs Watch for signs letting you know a bear is in the area: Scat (animal droppings), tracks, overturned logs, claw marks on trees, etc. Noticing these will help you know where to give bears more space.



Travel in Twos Never travel on your own in bear country. Hiking and camping with a group of at least two will help prevent a bear encounter.



Avoid Attractants Pack out what you pack in, compost too! This helps keep wildlife wild, so bears don't get a taste for human food.



Water & Wind Be aware around running water or on a windy day that bears might not be able to hear you coming. Make some extra noise.



Berry Bushes If you are planning to hike in an area with a good berry crop during berry season, or along a river during spawning season, remember that bears are there too. They are doing what they need to do: bulking up for winter! Travel through the berry area or along the river at the hottest point of the day, when bears are more likely to be sleeping in a cooler spot.



Sing Along Sing a song or talk to let bears that know you are in the area.



Be Prepared Make sure an adult in your group is carrying bear spray with you (and knows how to use it!) when visiting bear country.

ACTIVITY: A Bear Aware Composition

Imagine you have to teach your friends the steps to being bear aware. Create a short rap, poem, or song to share the information:



ENJOYING BC'S BEAUTIFUL BIODIVERSITY - IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Here in BC there are...

- ▶ 18+ reptile species
- ▶ 23+ amphibian species
- ▶ 142 mammals
- ▶ 468 species of fish
- ▶ 488 bird species
- ▶ 35,000 insects
- ▶ 10,000 species of fungi

Source: www.biodiversitybc.org

It's All Connected - From Bugs to Bears

In some way, every living thing is connected to the other living things around it. Even the smallest critters rely on the largest for survival, and vice versa. For example, when a salmon dies, its body provides nutrients for plants and microorganisms.

Activity:

Can you imagine how a grizzly bear is connected to a mosquito? How a mosquito is connected to salmon? What about the connection between a salmon and a grizzly bear?

Take a moment to see if you can connect these three living organisms in a food chain. Explain how each organism is connected to the others shown here.



Did you know? British Columbia is the most biologically diverse province in Canada. From rich coastal ecosystems to rainforests, interior deserts and grasslands to snow-capped mountains, each ecosystem contains many interwoven connections between all living things.

Family Fun

Have you ever considered becoming a Citizen Scientist? With the iNaturalist app, you can!



What: Identify wildlife and plants, learn fun facts about the organisms all around you, and help scientists learn more about the living things in parks, too!

How: Consider using the iNaturalist app to photograph and share the biodiversity you see in BC Parks and protected areas! Someone who is 13 or older will need an account for this, and then you can become citizen scientist. Or perhaps you can become a family of citizen scientists together!

iNaturalist also has an app called Seek that you can use to learn more about the living things you see, without having an account and sharing.

Where: Look for iNaturalist or Seek by iNaturalist in any App Store

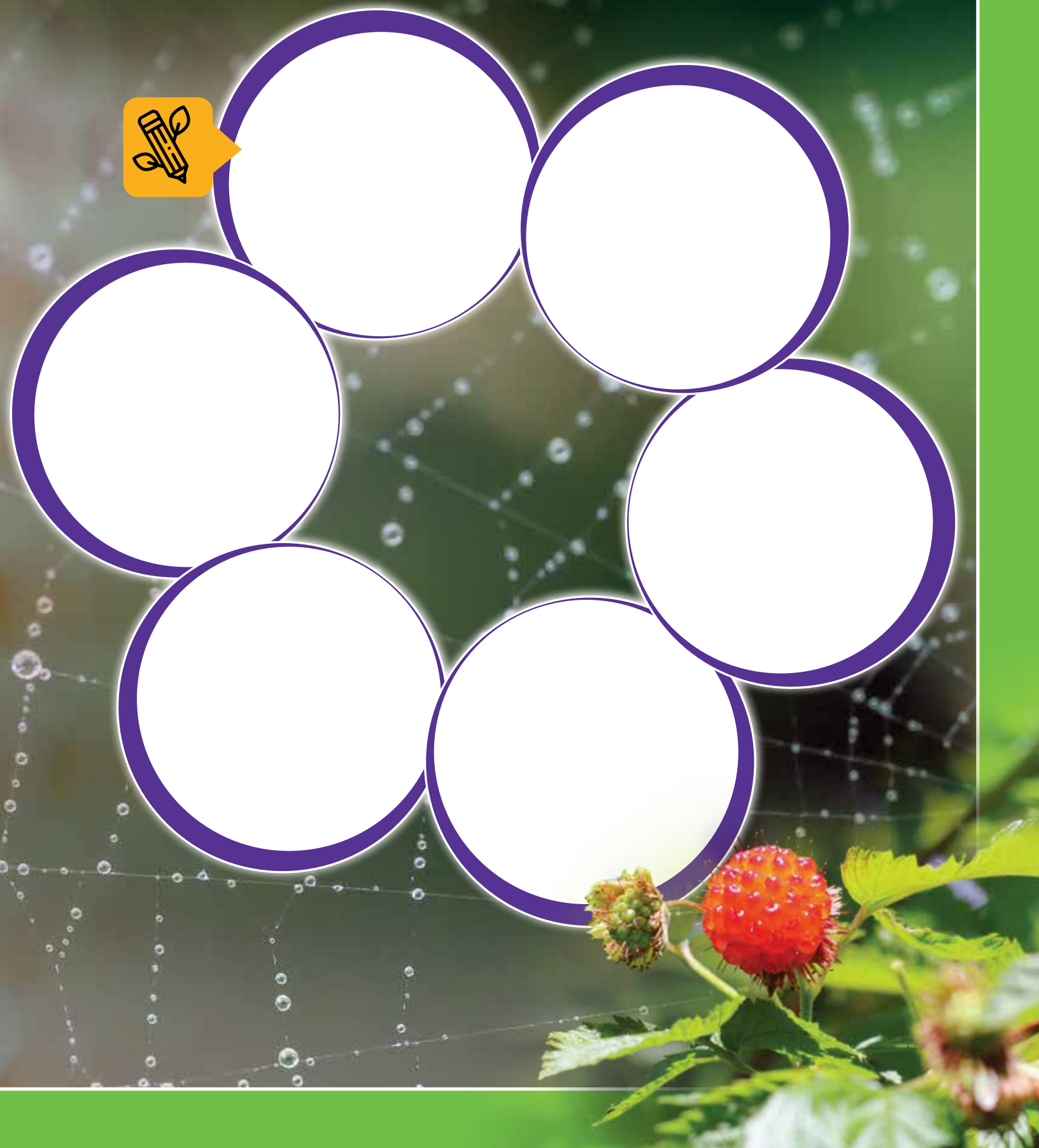
For more information go to naturechallenge.ca

The BC Parks iNaturalist Project is a collaboration between BC Parks, the BC Parks Foundation, the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University.



Weaving into the Web of Life

Now choose six living things that you might find in the park you're visiting. Draw or write the names of these living things in the circles below. Draw lines between the circles every time you find a connection between the living things in your web of life. Label the lines to describe the connection. Where do humans fit in?



GETTING TO KNOW THE BEARS IN BC



Earn the Naturalist Stamp for your Jerry's Rangers certificate by completing these activities!

Going camping? Remember to keep a bare campsite for bears and other wildlife!

- Don't leave garbage lying around, it attracts wildlife!
- Store all food and scented items (like deodorant and toothpaste) in a hard-sided vehicle, trailer, bear cache or bear hang.
- Pack out all of your garbage, recyclables and organic matter. This organic matter can attract wildlife.

If you were a bear, what would be something you really love about BC Parks? What would you want visitors to keep in mind when visiting your home?

One of our BC Parks, Khutzeymateen Provincial Park, pronounced Kutz-ee-ma-teen (a.k.a. Khutzeymateen/K'tzim-a-deen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary) was the first park in Canada established specifically to protect grizzly bears and their habitat!

The Bear Essentials: A Field Study

Grizzly bears and black bears are ecologically and culturally important across BC. Using the information below, create a field sketch* of BC's bear species.

**A field sketch shows and labels the important features of a living thing.*

Use the checklist for your chosen bear to include its distinguishing features:

Know Your Facts and Features

Many Indigenous peoples in BC are deeply connected to bears, believe in the importance of coexistence and respect, and feel a responsibility to protect them.



Grizzly Bears

Appearance:

- ☐ distinctive shoulder hump
- ☐ rump lower than shoulder hump
- ☐ short, rounded ears
- ☐ long front claws (5-10 cm) usually visible in tracks
- ☐ Brown to blonde in colour, often with white or grey tips to fur

Weight: 500 kg or more! (adult males)

Height: 90-110 cm (adult males)

Diet:

- ▶ These bears are omnivores. Their diet includes plants (mainly roots and berries), as well as fish, insects, small rodents, and carrion (dead meat).
- ▶ Grizzly bears sometimes eat larger game too and can run fast enough over short distances to hunt and catch large ungulates, like moose and caribou.



Black Bears

Appearance:

- ☐ rump higher than front shoulders (no distinctive shoulder hump)
- ☐ tall, pointed ears
- ☐ shorter front claws (4 cm or less) not usually visible in tracks
- ☐ Colour can vary from black to brown, or cinnamon to blonde

Weight: 80-300 kg (adult males)

Height: 60-90 cm (adult males)

Diet:

- ▶ Black bears are omnivores. Vegetation makes up 80% or so of their diet.
- ▶ The remainder of their food comes from small rodents, fish, insects, carrion, and sometimes young deer, elk or moose.

Did you know?

Some black bears are white, blonde or blue-coloured! Light coloured black bears are called Kermode or spirit bears. Blue-coloured black bears are called glacier bears.

A WEB OF WORDS



Consider a web of life, like the one you drew earlier. Everything is connected to everything else. So, it makes sense that what we as humans (and as part of that web) can have a real impact on the land. Together we can make sure these parks are here for future generations!

The BC Parks Foundation is leading an expedition to create the best parks system in the world. They help British Columbians like you connect with your favourite outdoor spaces.

ACTIVITY: Hidden below are words connected to the work of the BC Parks Foundation, and connected to the web of life. Can you find them all?

e y j z e n n r g p z i d d a
l n m d o n e u r o n a e a n
f y o m e v h e r s l t i w v
h u l y o c d a p s c r e a s
d a t c r a o i n e e o e r u
s g s u t e r m n c q p f e s
l i t o r e v n p j e p i n t
d p r s g e o e m o u u l e a
p r o t e c t a d r s s d s i
g e n e r a t i o n s e l s n
b y b e o t i u q s o m i q b
j n t c e n n o c f u l w e d
w n s y s t e m d l i w a m v
i h t l a e h n a t u r e v s
o y r p r p y f s y u j j r o

awareness	mosquito
bear	nature
connect	nurse
decompose	predator
discover	prey
enhance	protect
everyone	salmon
future	support
generations	sustain
health	system
inspire	wild
interconnected	wildlife
log	

ACTIVITY: Write a postcard to a friend reflecting on a special creature or feature of the park.

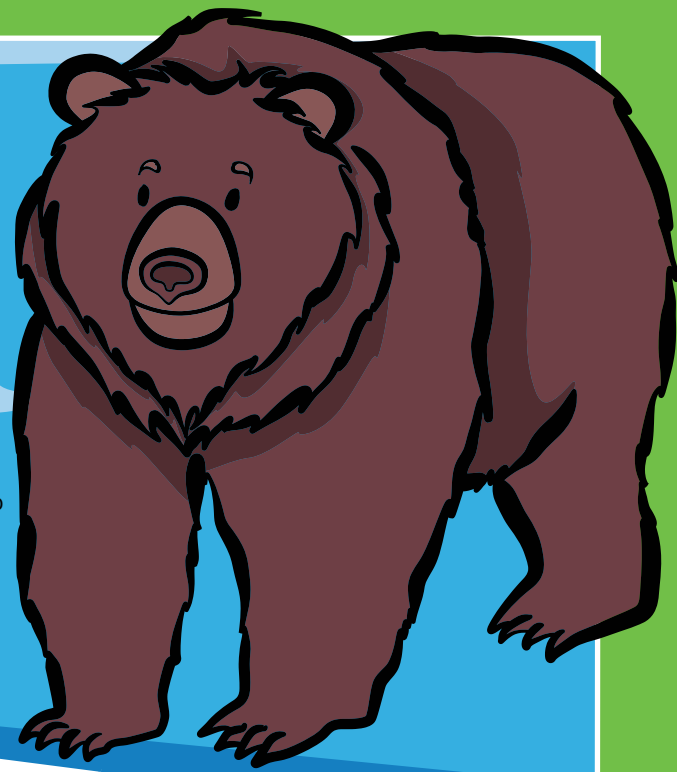
EVERYTHING'S CONNECTED - BINGO!

Giving Back to the Forest

Did you know salmon help feed the forest? Bears play a key role here - by eating salmon swimming up the river bits of uneaten salmon (or salmon that's been digested and passed out in poop!) get spread deep into the forest by bears, feeding the trees and giving life to new species.

Activity: Web of life connections are all around you! Use the bingo card below to see how many different 'strands' of the web of life you can track down.

CHALLENGE: *Can you complete the whole card?*



Something with leaves smaller than your fingernail	A source of water	Something an insect might eat	Something younger than you	Something that has more than one colour
A group of plants growing together	Something that smells gross	Something rotting or decaying	Something older than you	Something wider than your "wingspan"
A tree smaller than you	Something taller than you	Bonus!	Something that is home to two species	Something that might eat an insect
A sign of new life	Something that smells fresh	Something that a bear could eat	Something with a pattern	Signs that a small animal was nearby
Something that makes a sound	Something that is camouflaged	Two types of cones from trees	Something a bird could eat	Something with wings

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Do you usually draw things in detail like the petals on a flower? Or draw the big picture like the whole habitat? Let's investigate and draw an object in two scales (sizes) to observe how features move into and out of focus at each scale.

ACTIVITY: Biosketching

Choose a plant near you. Step back and stand at a distance from the plant so you can see it in its habitat. Notice what you can see around the plant. Draw what you see.



Now walk up to the plant. What do you notice when you get close up? Draw what you see.

Why is it worthwhile to change our levels of focus when learning about a living thing?

What can we learn about the living thing within the web of life when we view it up close?

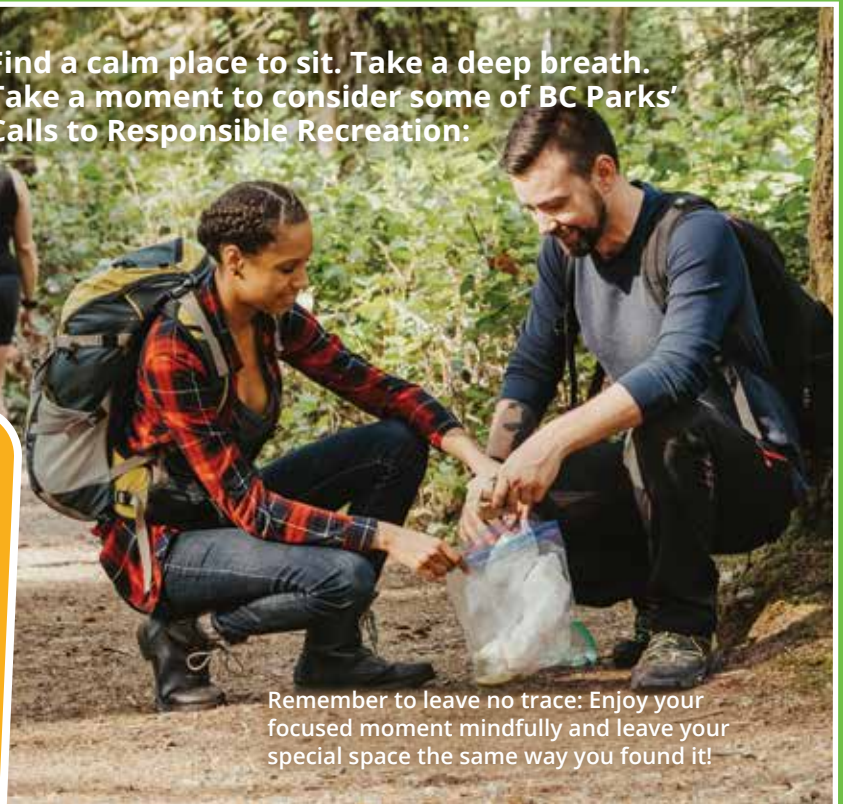
From far away?

TAKING A FOCUSED MOMENT

Find a calm place to sit. Take a deep breath.
Take a moment to consider some of BC Parks' Calls to Responsible Recreation:

Calls to Responsible Recreation

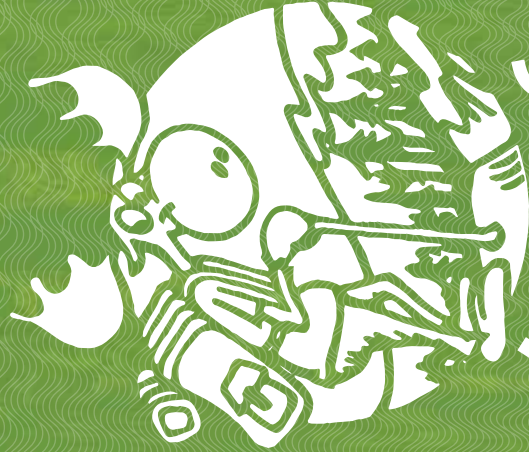
- ▶ **Nice people make nature nicer** - Stay on the trail.
Why? Staying on the trail helps protect plants and animals alike. Some animals and plants are very sensitive, and could take years to recover from feet that step off the path!
- ▶ **Wild animals are supposed to eat wild things** - They don't want your food.
Why? Wildlife can be attracted to the smell of garbage. They can eat it and get sick! Eating garbage can also mean that wildlife start to connect humans with food, and wild animals are meant to eat wild things!
- ▶ **If everyone took something, there'd be nothing left.**
So? The beauty of BC parks is there for everyone to enjoy. Leave flowers and other plants to grow after you go!
- ▶ **Wildlife is meant to be wild** - Give them space.
Why? Remember that the parks are wildlife's home. Keep yourself and wildlife safe by giving them space - make noise and travel in groups to let wildlife know you're coming.
- ▶ **Forests are not firewood** - Use supplied firewood only in designated areas.
Why? Dead wood is an important part of the habitat for many plants and animals. It will also break down and add important organic matter (think garden mulch) to the soil.
- ▶ **The best thing to inhale is fresh air** - Smoking is not permitted in BC Parks.
- ▶ **Keep nature serene** - Let the sounds of nature prevail.
- ▶ **The best thing to inhale is fresh air** - Smoking is not permitted in BC Parks.



Remember to leave no trace: Enjoy your focused moment mindfully and leave your special space the same way you found it!



ACTIVITY: Choose one or two from the list above. Draw a picture or write a poem to let others know about the Calls to Responsible Recreation in BC Parks and why they are important.



JERRY'S RANGERS

We ♥ BC Parks!

CERTIFICATE

Once all six stamps have been collected, this certificate signifies that

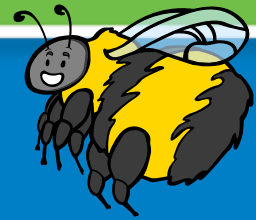
_____ is part of the BC Parks Jerry's Rangers team!

Jerry's Rangers are always working towards becoming better stewards for the beautiful natural parks spaces across British Columbia.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____





*"Thank you for visiting!
There's always more to see and
experience in the provincial
parks - see you again soon!"*



BC PARKS LICENCE PLATE PROGRAM

Show your pride in British Columbia's natural beauty with a park-themed licence plate! Each BC Parks license plate supports our provincial parks and protected areas. All net proceeds from the sale and renewals of BC Parks plates are reinvested back into provincial parks to support programs and projects related to conservation, community engagement, and Indigenous relations.

This project was funded by the Licence Plate Program.



BC Parks

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