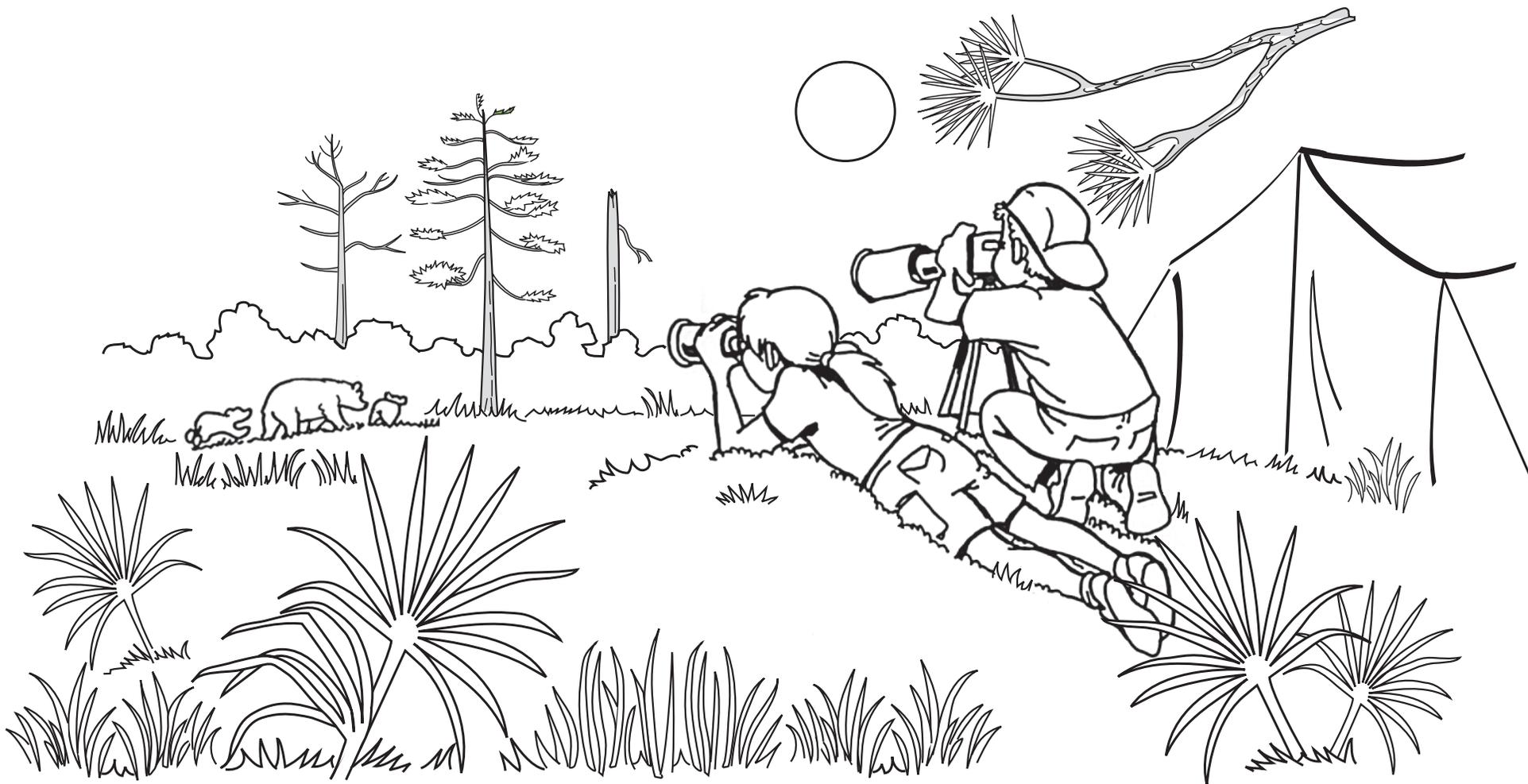
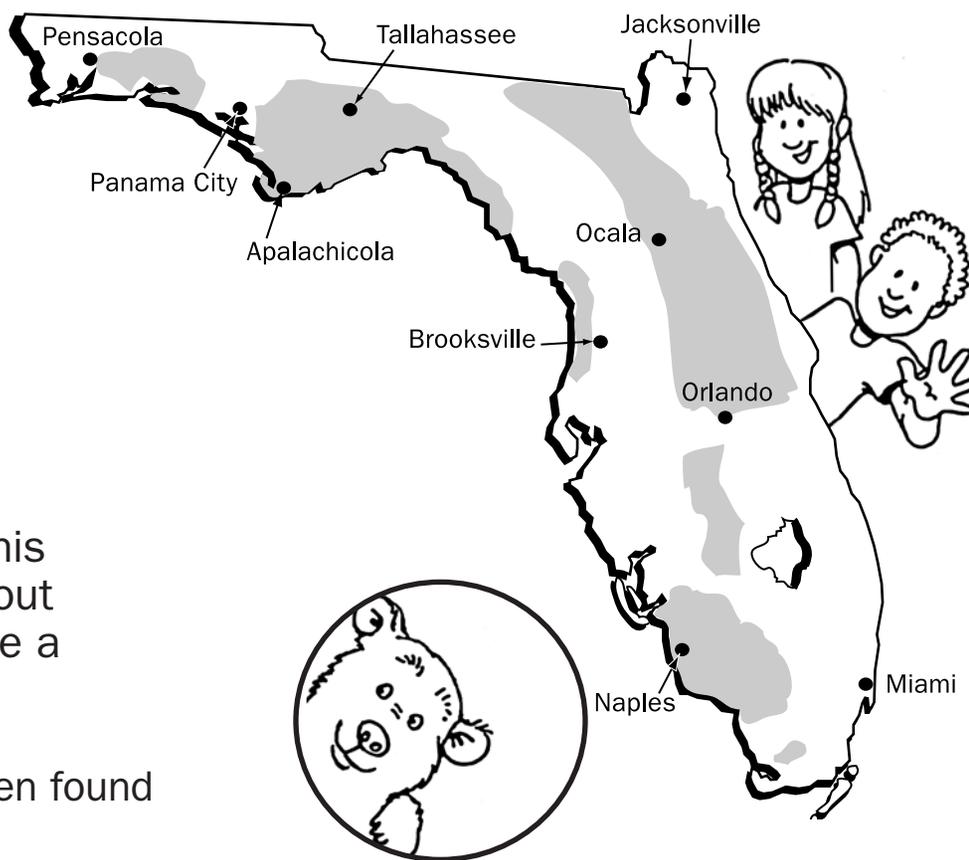


# Bears and You

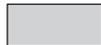


Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
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**There are more people in Florida than bears. You may be lucky enough to live near bears.**

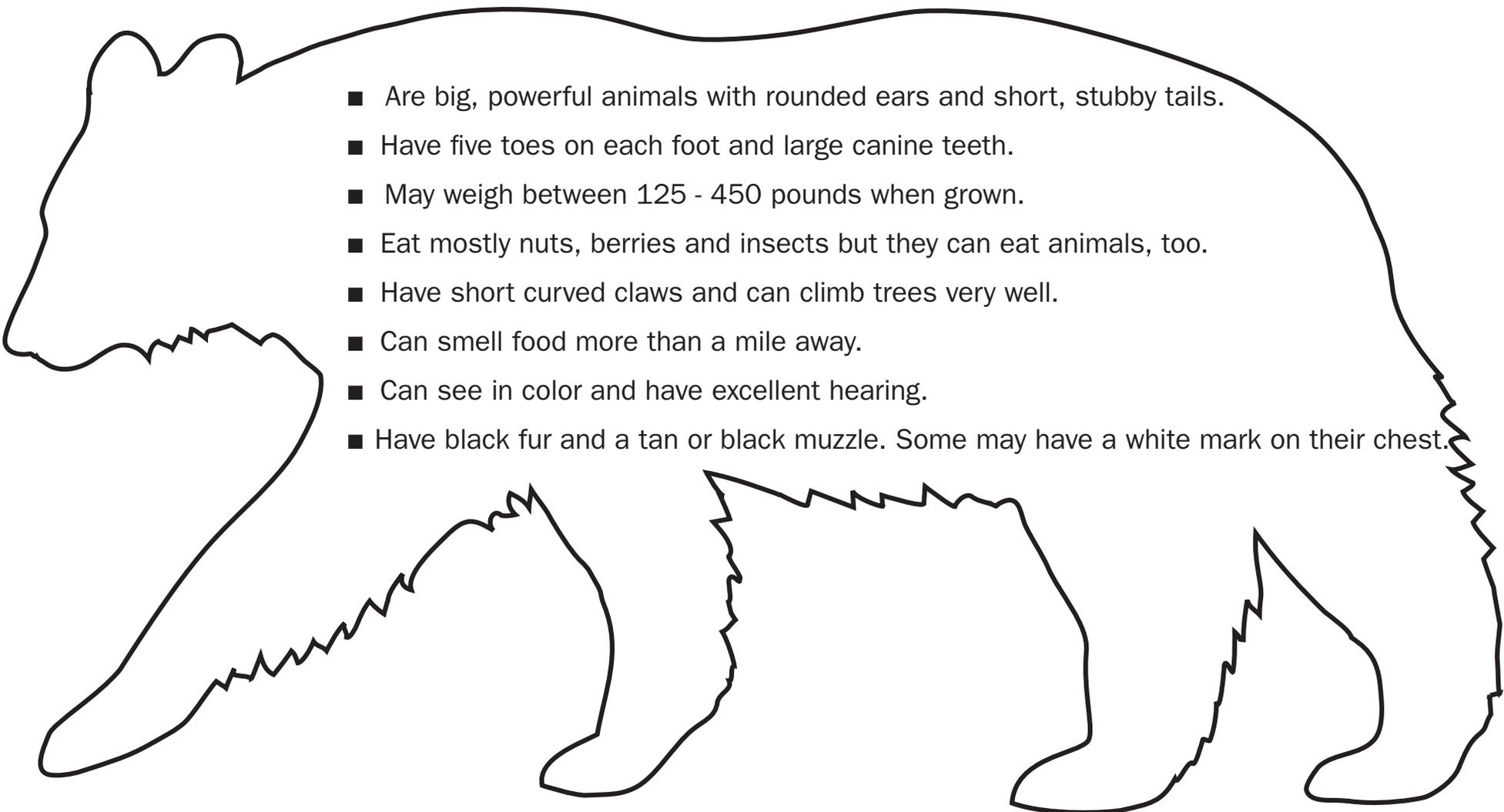


If you do see one, read this booklet to learn more about bears and how you can be a good neighbor to bears.

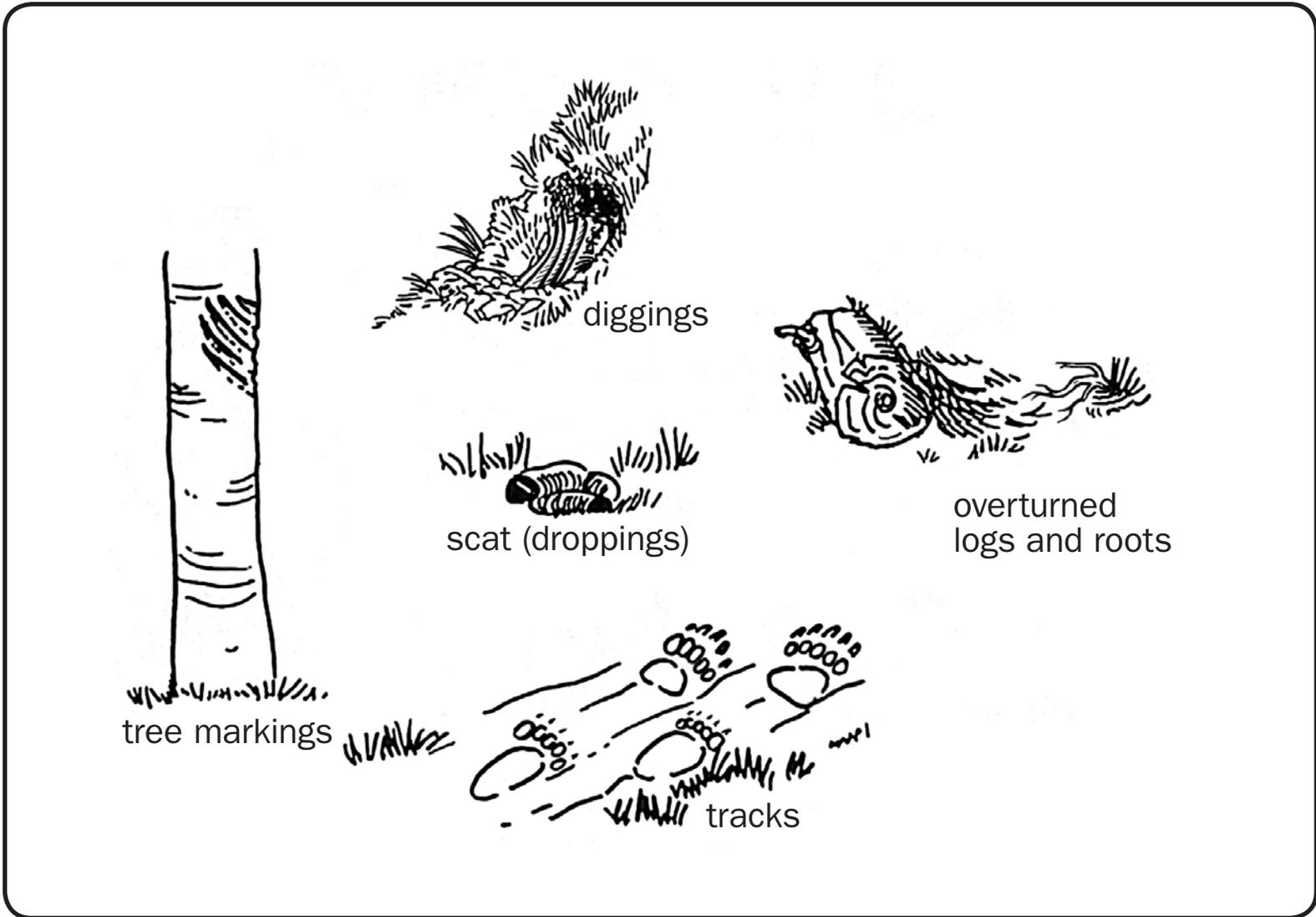
 Where bears are often found

# The bear facts

Black bears...

- 
- Are big, powerful animals with rounded ears and short, stubby tails.
  - Have five toes on each foot and large canine teeth.
  - May weigh between 125 - 450 pounds when grown.
  - Eat mostly nuts, berries and insects but they can eat animals, too.
  - Have short curved claws and can climb trees very well.
  - Can smell food more than a mile away.
  - Can see in color and have excellent hearing.
  - Have black fur and a tan or black muzzle. Some may have a white mark on their chest.

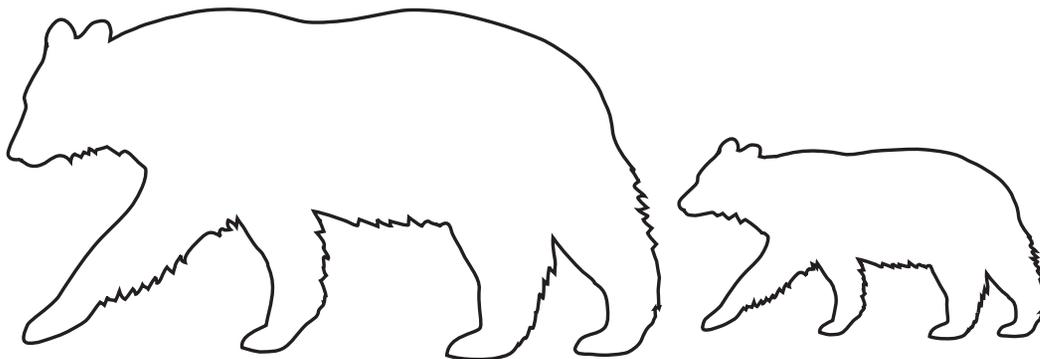
**If you see these signs, a bear has visited the area.**



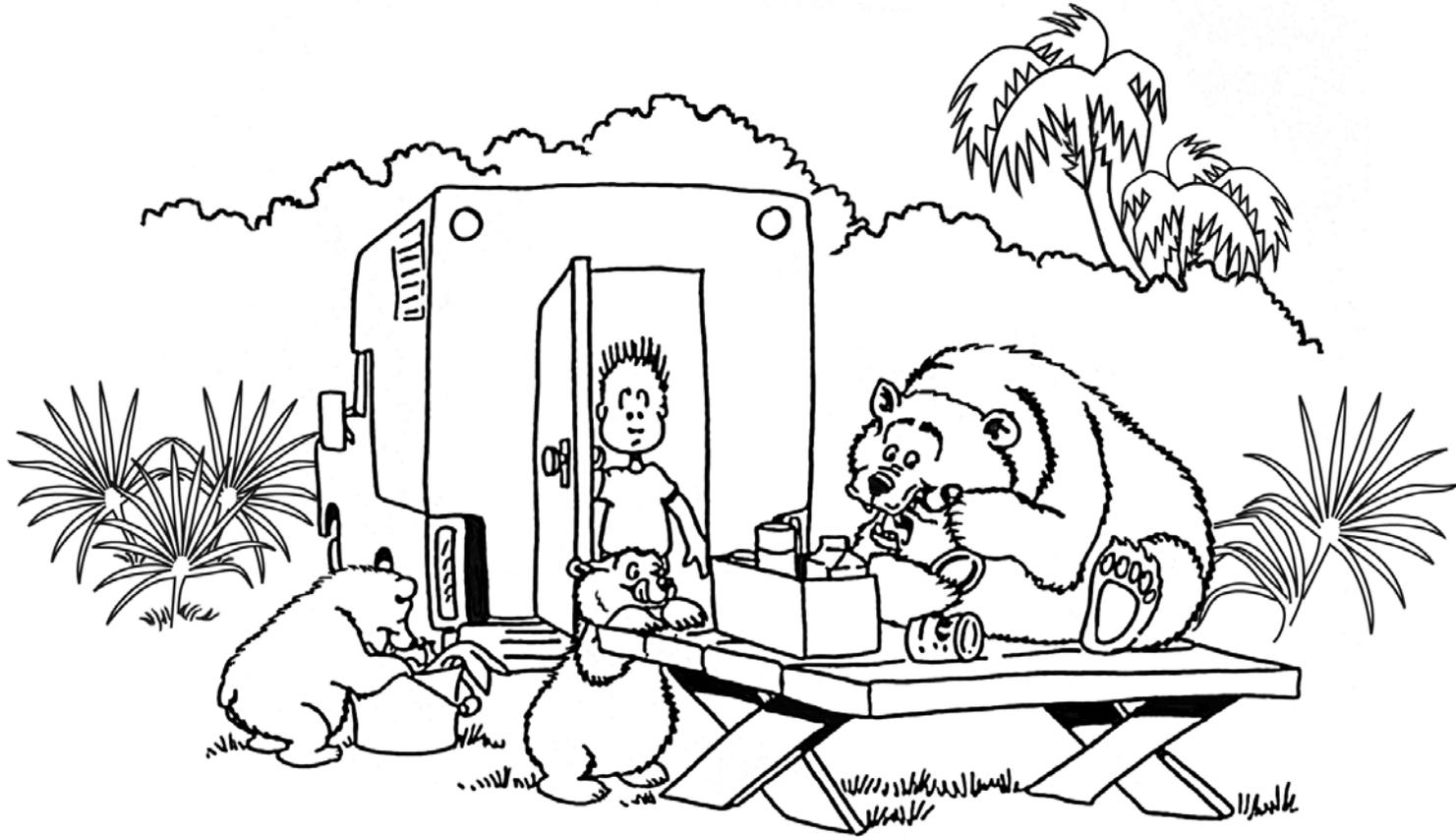
# Be a bear buddy. Do what's best for people and bears.

Here's how...

1. Never feed bears.
2. Keep garbage away from bears.
3. Never get close to bears.
4. Hike in groups and make noise so you don't surprise a bear.
5. Keep a clean yard.
6. Keep your campsite clean.
7. Never play near garbage dumps or dumpsters.
8. Enjoy bears from a safe distance.



# 1. Never feed bears.



When a bear gets food from people, it may become dangerous and have to be killed.

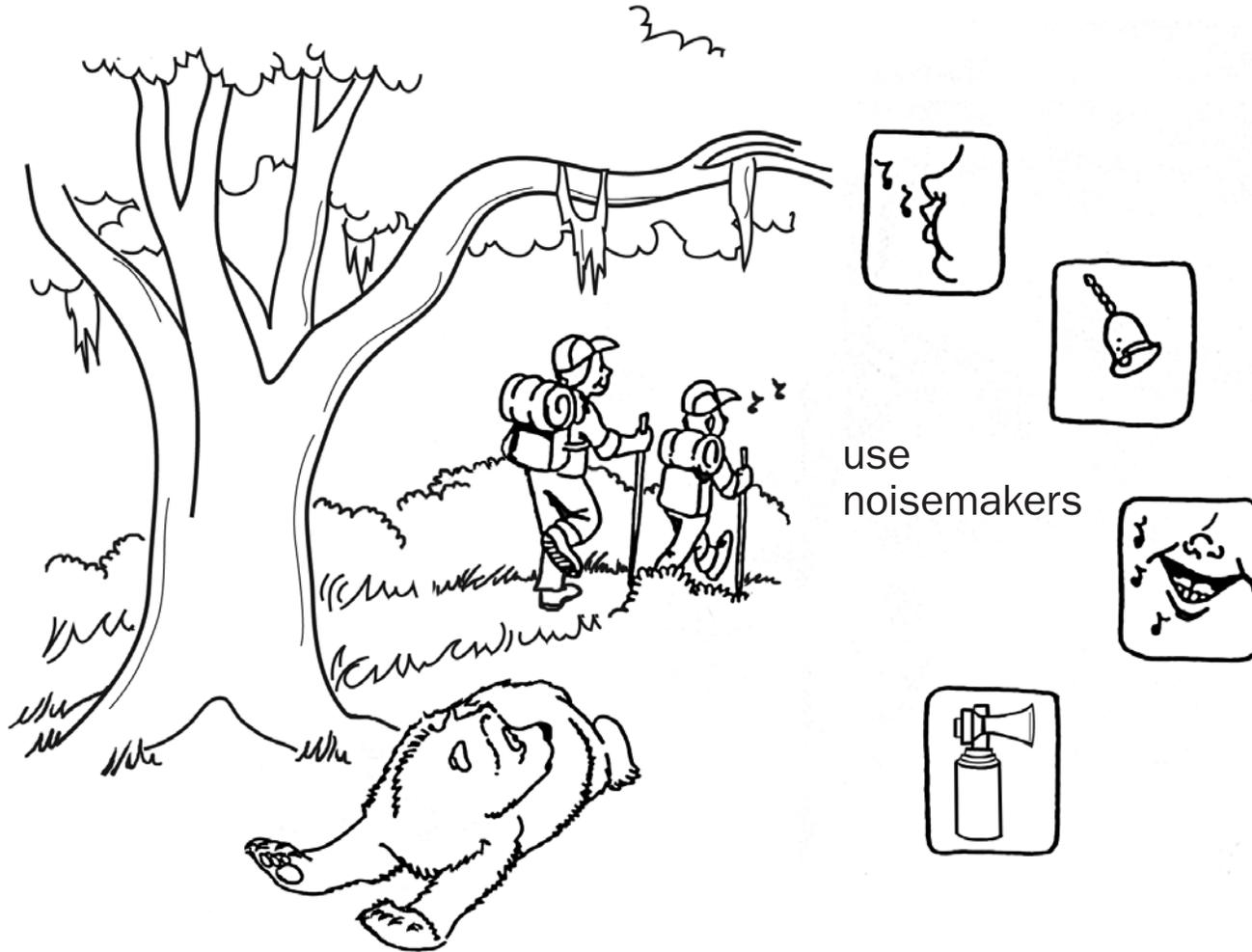
**2. Garbage is bad for bears. Ask your family to keep garbage away from bears. Secure your garbage.**



### 3. Never get close to bears.

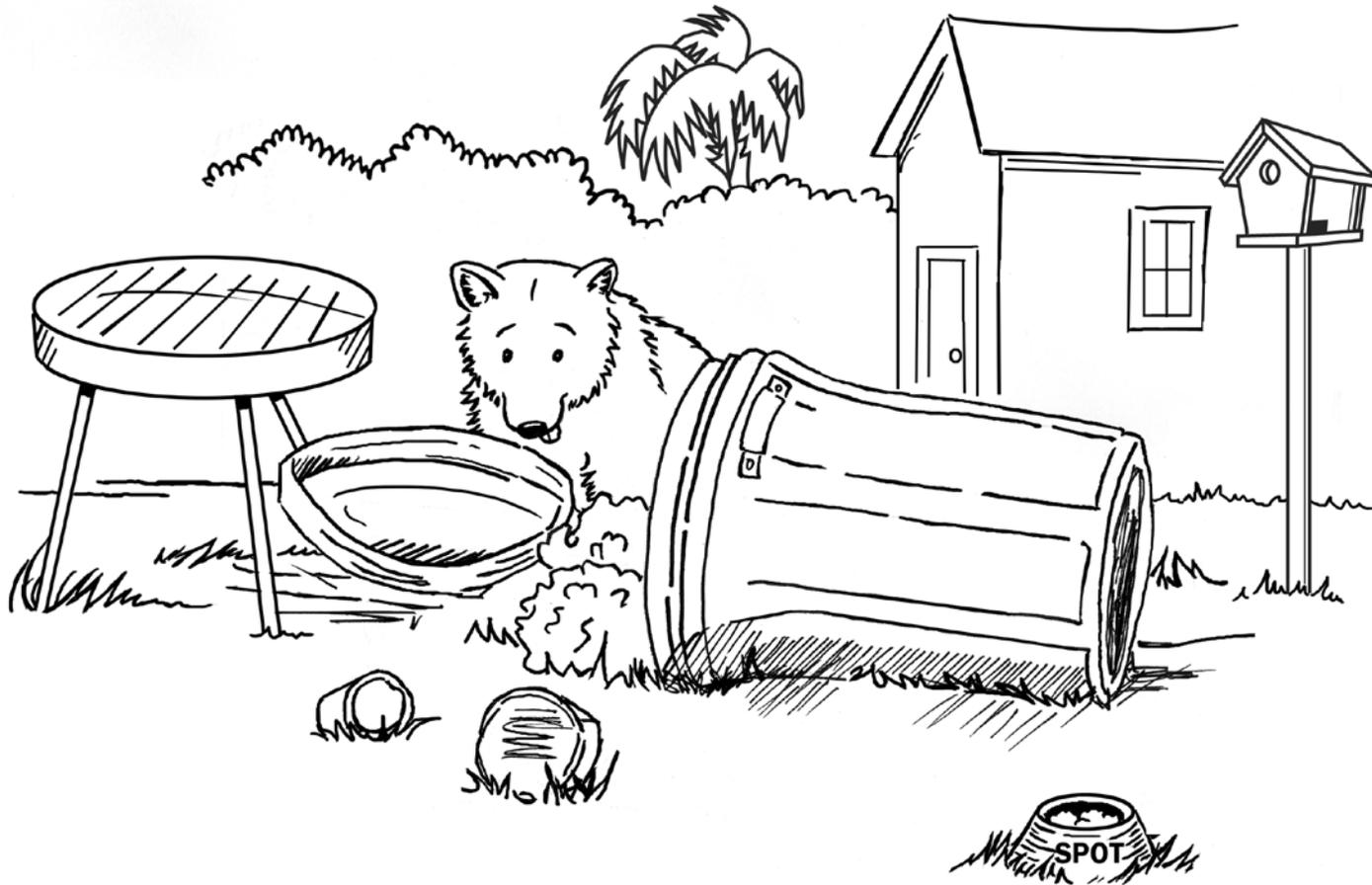


## 4. Hike in groups and make noise so you don't surprise a bear.



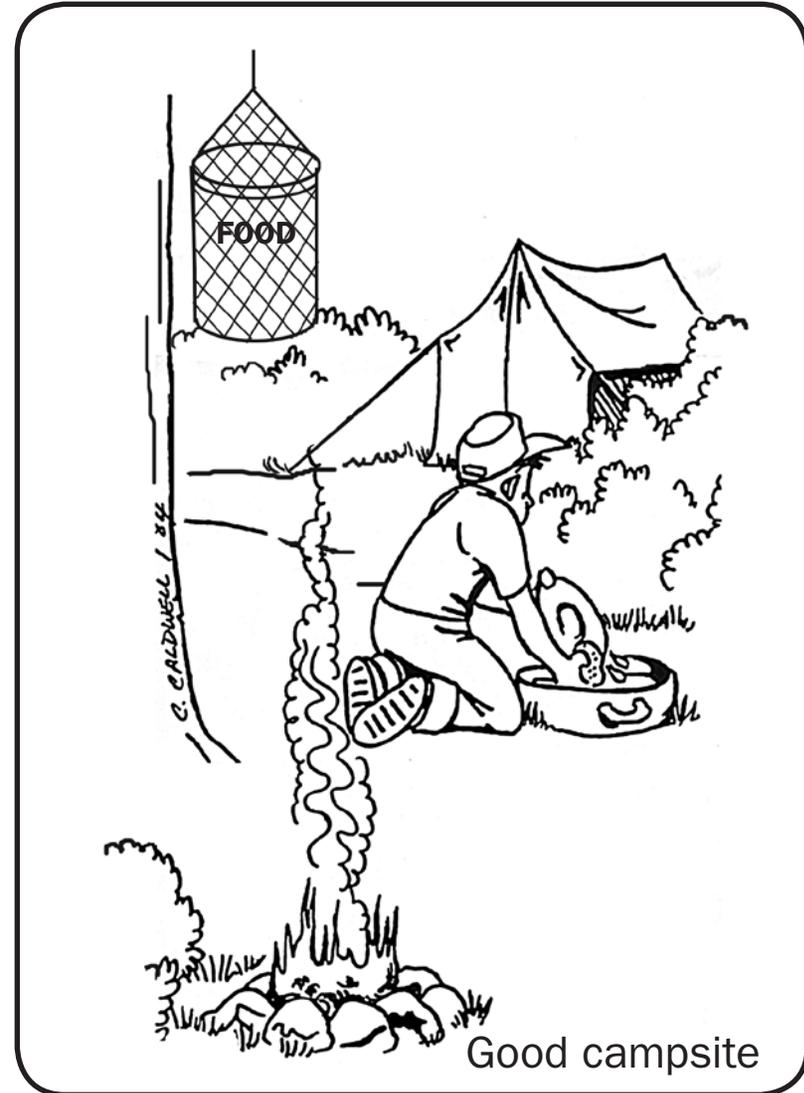
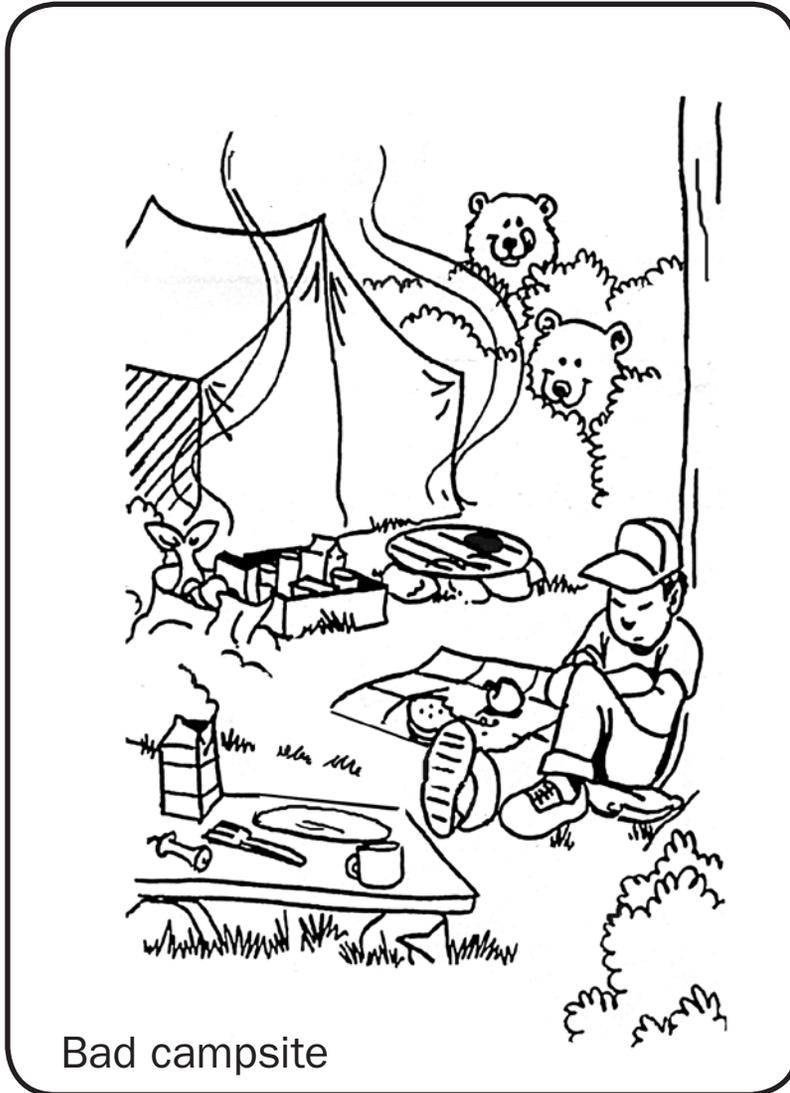
Stay close together on the trail.

## 5. Keep a clean yard.



Never feed a bear by leaving food in your yard.

## 6. Keep your campsite clean.



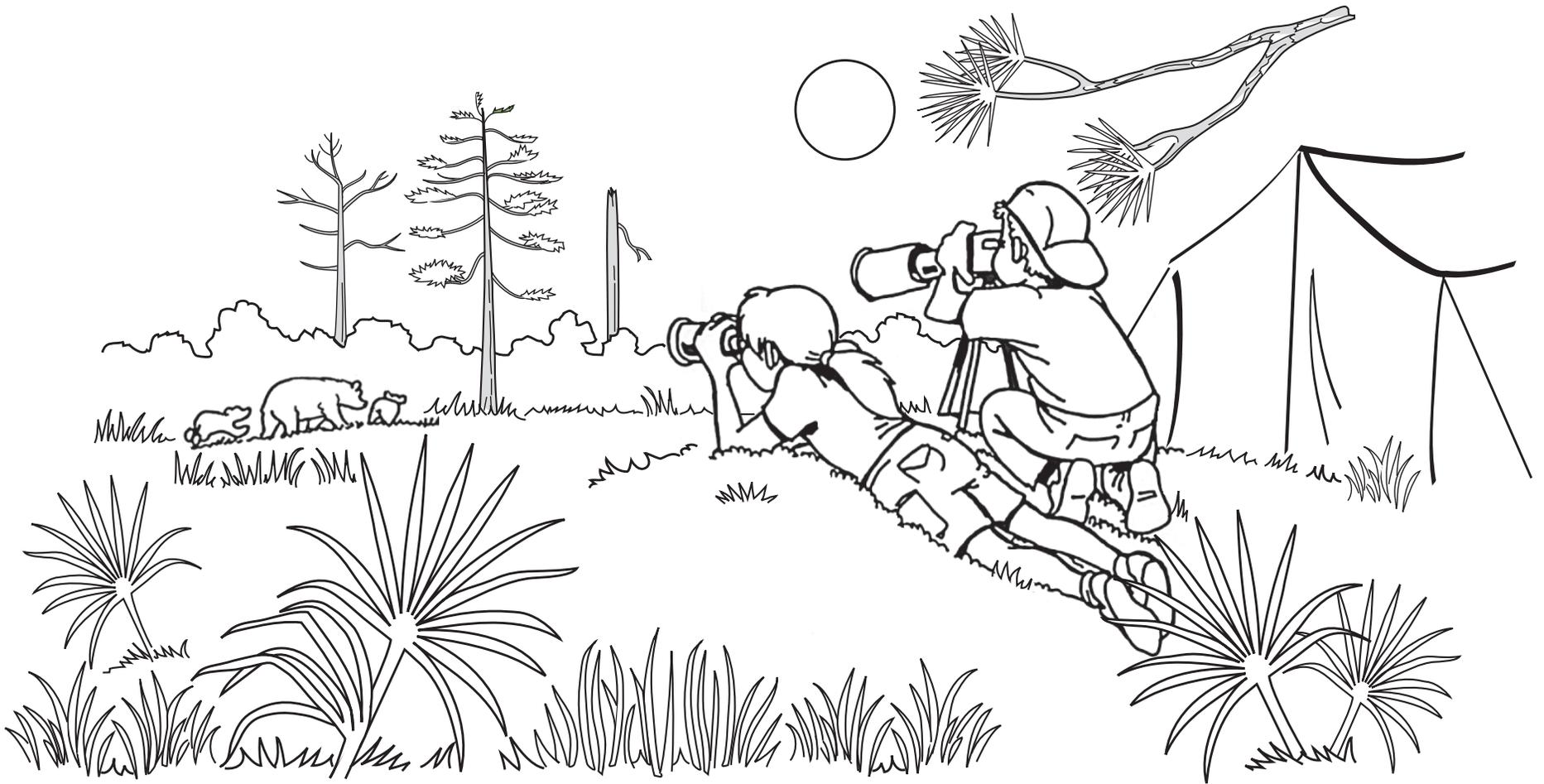
Which kind of camper are you? Always remove food and food smells from your campsite.

## 7. Never play near garbage dumps or dumpsters.



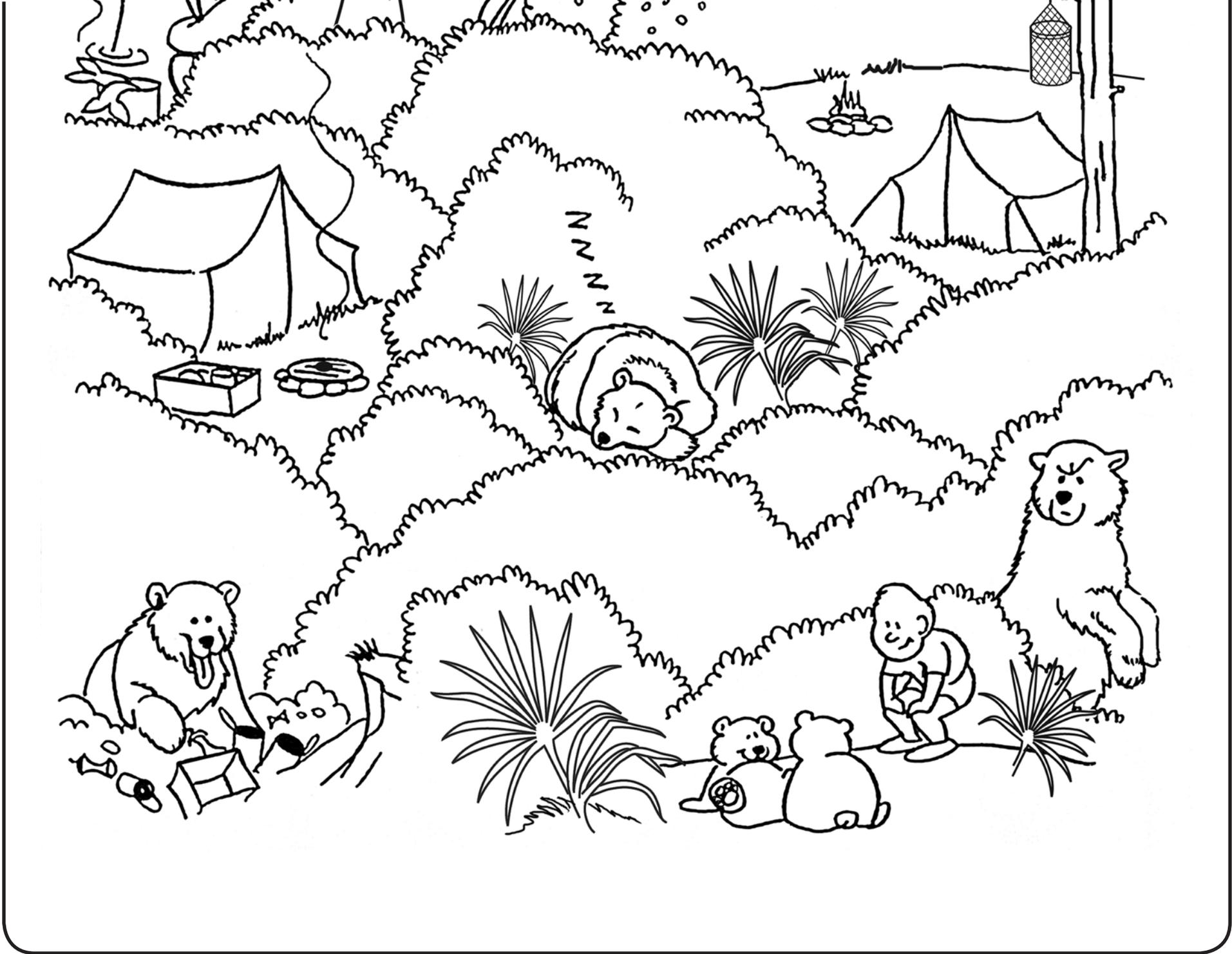
Remember, bears can smell food from a mile away. Garbage smells like food to bears.

## 8. Enjoy bears from a safe distance.



**Color where it's safe. Put an X where you see trouble.**





**If you surprise a bear, don't turn and run. Move back slowly and always face the bear.**



The bear may come closer, stand upright to get a better look or circle around you to get your scent.

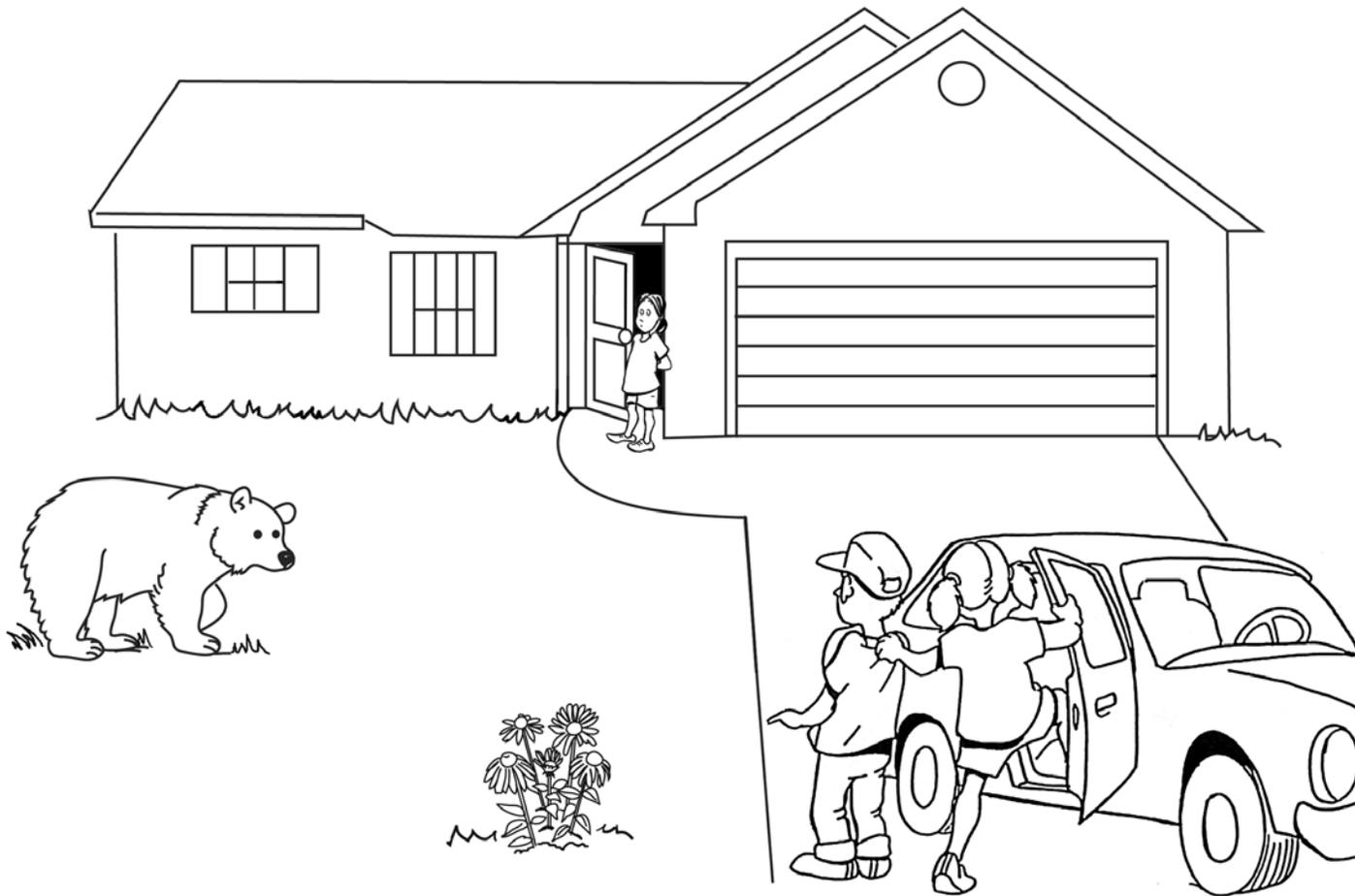
**Wave your arms slowly and talk calmly to the bear. Help it figure out what you are.**

*Whoa bear... easy bear...*



The bear may talk to you in its own language... popping its teeth, huffing and growling... telling you to go away.

**If you see a bear near your home or bus stop, move slowly to a safe place.**



Never run from a bear. Like a dog, it may chase you.

**Stay close to your friend and always face the bear.  
Back away slowly.**



Connect the dots to  
draw a bear.

If the bear follows you, stop moving and call for help.

## What do you remember?

1. Never \_\_\_\_\_ bears.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ for bears.
3. Never get \_\_\_\_\_ to bears.
4. Hike in \_\_\_\_\_ and make \_\_\_\_\_ so you don't \_\_\_\_\_ a bear.
5. Keep a \_\_\_\_\_ yard.
6. Keep your \_\_\_\_\_ clean.
7. Never play near garbage dumps or \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Enjoy bears from a \_\_\_\_\_ distance.

**Fill in the blanks using these words:** groups    campsite    feed  
clean    dumpsters    bad    noise    close    safe    garbage  
surprise

# Bears are cool and there are lots of fun ways to learn more about them.

Look for bear tracks...

and



make plaster casts of tracks.

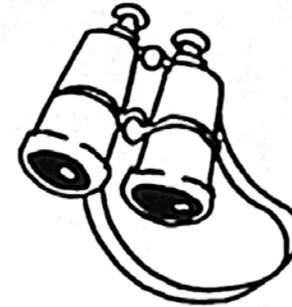
Do a school project or check out books on bears.



Learn more.

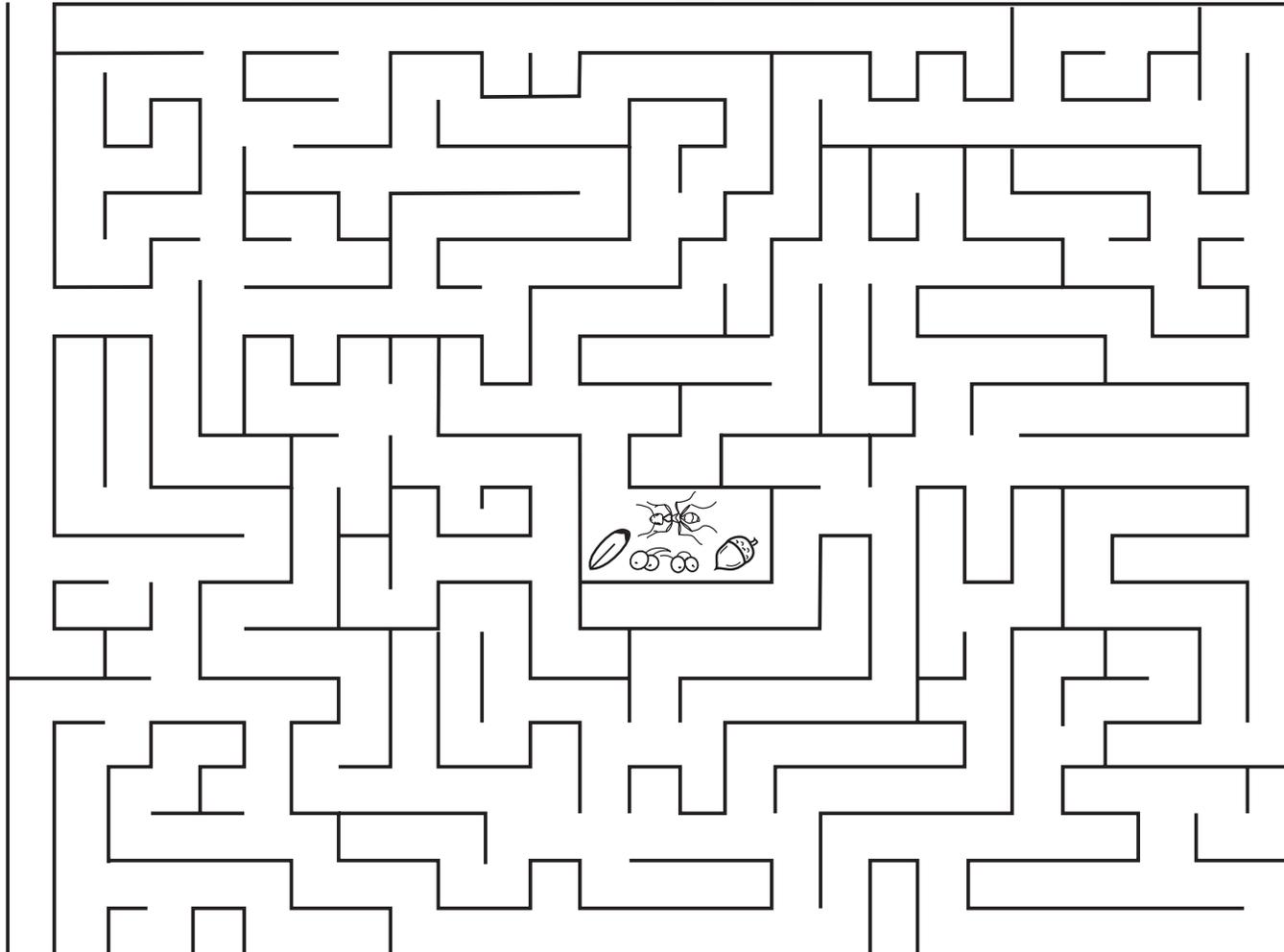


View from a distance or see images online.



To see pictures and other cool things about bears, visit the Cub's Corner at [MyFWC.com/bear](http://MyFWC.com/bear).

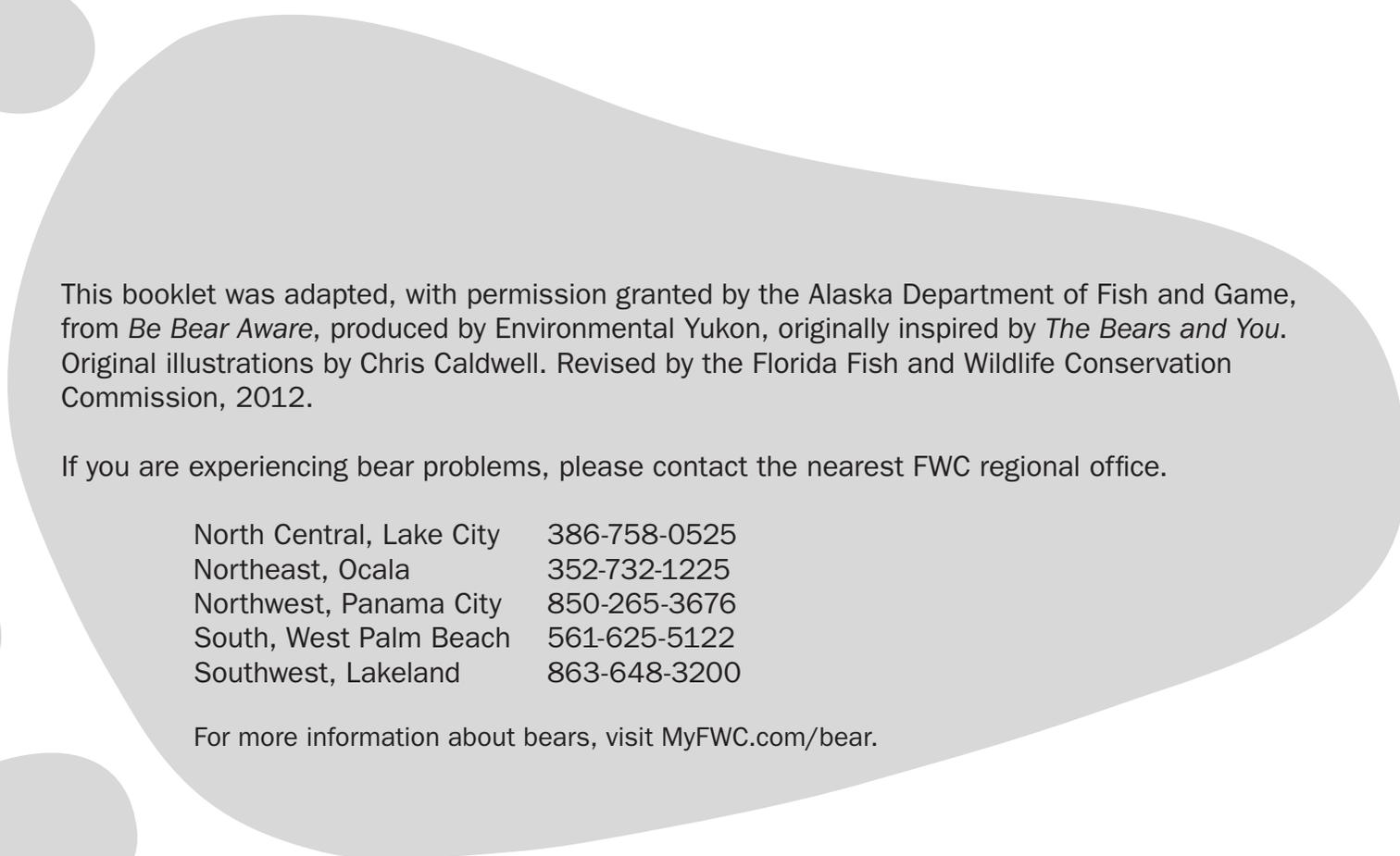
# Help this bear find its wild food lunch.



Black bears will eat almost anything that is easy to find. Keep your food and pet foods away from bears.

**Seeing a bear is cool! Stay indoors and enjoy the view.**





This booklet was adapted, with permission granted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, from *Be Bear Aware*, produced by Environmental Yukon, originally inspired by *The Bears and You*. Original illustrations by Chris Caldwell. Revised by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 2012.

If you are experiencing bear problems, please contact the nearest FWC regional office.

North Central, Lake City	386-758-0525
Northeast, Ocala	352-732-1225
Northwest, Panama City	850-265-3676
South, West Palm Beach	561-625-5122
Southwest, Lakeland	863-648-3200

For more information about bears, visit [MyFWC.com/bear](http://MyFWC.com/bear).



Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
[MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com)



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