



Art Wolfe photo

The rare glacier or "blue" bear (pictured above) is limited to the extreme north-west of the Province.



Tom and Pat Leeson photo

The white color phase, or Kermode (pictured above) is most common on the north-central coast of B.C.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO HUNT EITHER THE BLUE OR WHITE BLACK BEARS.

ANSWERS TO PHOTO QUIZ:

1. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed; shorter claws; face narrow.
2. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed; face narrow; no shoulder hump.
3. Grizzly bear. Long claws, but little else helps identify this yearling bear!
4. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed; no shoulder hump.
5. Grizzly bear. Face broad; ears smaller, more rounded; coat grizzled.
6. Grizzly bear. Face broad; ears smaller, more rounded.
7. Grizzly bear. Face broad; shoulder hump; ears smaller, more rounded; coat grizzled.
8. Black bear. Ears larger, more pointed; claws not evident; no shoulder hump, just body position.

Who's Who?



Know your Bears!

Can you tell which is a grizzly bear and which is a black bear?



Some bear safety tips:

- Have a plan of action.
- Avoid camping in sites that may be frequented by bears.
- Keep a clean camp and dispose of garbage properly.
- Never feed bears or other wildlife.
- Never approach a bear for any reason.
- Keep a reputable brand of bear pepper spray within easy reach and know how to use it.

Both the [Safety Guide to Bears in the Wild](#) and [Don't Attract Bears to Garbage](#) brochures are available on our website <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/pub/pub.htm>
 For more information contact [Water, Land and Air Protection \(WLAP\)](#)

**Observe, Record and Report
 1-800-663-9453 (WILD)
 to report poaching or other
 violations of wildlife and
 environmental issues.**



P.O. Box 8289, Missoula, Montana 59807
 The Center For Wildlife Information is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
www.bebearaware.org



Grizzly Bear



Black Bear



**Colour and Size can be misleading.
 Look for a combination of characteristics.**

- **Colour** varies from blond to black.
- **Distinctive** shoulder hump.
- **Rump** is lower than shoulder hump.
- Face **profile** appears dished-in between eyes and snout.
- **Ears** are short and rounded.
- **Front claws** are 5-10 cm (2-4 inches) long, slightly curved. Claw marks **are usually** visible in tracks.

- **Colour** varies from blond to black, including white and blue.
- **No distinctive** shoulder hump.
- **Rump** is higher than front shoulders.
- Face **profile** is straight.
- **Ears** are tall and pointed.
- **Front claws** are less than 4 cm (2 inches) long and curved. Claw marks **are not** usually visible in tracks.

All of these characteristics can vary with the sex and age of the bear; for example, a young grizzly's ears may appear larger because they're still growing. Body position, behavior, and light conditions can affect appearance; for example, a black bear engaged in digging may appear to have a shoulder hump.

Size is also not a reliable indicator of species. Most people overestimate the size of bears. A typical adult female grizzly bear weighs 90 - 160 kg (200-350 pounds) and adult males weigh 135 - 275 kg (300-600 pounds). An adult male black bear can easily weigh as much or more than a female grizzly, and definitely more than a young or sub-adult grizzly of either sex.

In order to tell the two species apart it is important to look at shoulders, face, ears, and claws because colour and size alone are not reliable for identification.

Black Bears can be found throughout B.C. Occasionally, Grizzly can be found in the areas mapped as unoccupied.

