

Black Bear



Black Bears in Yellowstone National Park

Black bears are not always black. They can also be brown or blonde. They are smaller than grizzly bears and have smaller, more curved claws. Because of these differences, black bears can climb trees more easily. They would rather run and climb a tree than attack, but have been known to be aggressive. Black bear males are 210 to 315 pounds; females are 135 to 200 pounds. They are all about three feet high at the shoulder and live 18 to 31 years. They will eat anything but like meat such as fish, insects, and rodents best. They hibernate in dens.

In Yellowstone, black bears can be seen by Tower Falls and Mammoth areas. They can be aggressive, so be careful! Never give bears food.

What did you learn about the black bears of Yellowstone?

1. Are black bears always black?

2. Are black bears larger or smaller than grizzly bears? Which ones climb trees?

3. What do black bears eat? Is it safe to share your lunch with them?

