

# Bear Essentials – Pre Program

## Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore - Lesson Plan



**Grade Levels:** K-2

**Setting:** Classroom

**Duration:**  
10-15 minute activities

**Materials Needed:**  
Computer  
Internet access  
Paper  
Pencil  
Crayons  
Bear coloring page copies

**Introduction:** Welcome to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore's Bear Essentials Pre-program. The following websites and activities will help your students understand

**Essential Question:** What Do Bears Need to Survive?

**Enduring Understanding:** All animals need shelter, water, food, and space to survive.

**Explore any of the following pre-program activities:**

1. Observe bears on the Brooks Falls Katmai National Park's webcam:  
<https://www.nps.gov/katm/learn/photosmultimedia/brown-bear-salmon-cam-brooks-falls.htm>
2. Check out the NPS bears link packed with information on bears:  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/bears/index.htm>
3. American Black Bear with cubs coloring page.
4. Be an artist and draw a bear paw.  
Materials Needed: Paper and pencils for each student.
5. Create a tree map on what bears can, have, and need.

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All animals have habitat needs. They are Shelter, Water, Food, and Space.

Go to <https://www.nps.gov/katm/learn/photosmultimedia/brown-bear-salmon-cam-brooks-falls.htm>

What do you notice in the webcam view of this habitat that would provide for bears needs of shelter, water, food, and space?

Go to the “Where Are the Bears?” link found on <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/bears/index.htm>

- Uncheck all the boxes on the left.
- Ask your students where they think Polar Bears live? (Click the Polar Bears Box to show then uncheck it).
- Ask your students where they think Brown/Grizzly Bears live? (Click the Brown/Grizzly Bear box then uncheck it).
- Then ask your students where they think Black Bears live? (Click the Black Bear box, then click all boxes).
- You are noticing areas on the map that don’t have bears. Why might that be? (Habitat loss from city and town development).

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**Black Bear**

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American Black Bear Paws look like this artist drawing



Back Paw

Front Paw

Google Images

As American Black Bears place their paws in the mud they will leave behind tracks. Try your best to draw some of these Black Bear tracks.



Google Images

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Build a tree map about bears with your students. Explore things that you and your students think bears can do, what they have, and what they need. You and your students may come up with other answers.

