





## **PARENTS:**

*Living with Carnivores* is committed to providing educational wildlife information to Idaho's citizens and visitors from a neutral, non-advocacy position.

The *Living with Carnivores* partnership includes representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, USDA Wildlife Services, Defenders of Wildlife, Governor's Office of Species Conservation, Counter Assault, Idaho Cattle Association, Wolf Education & Research Center, Hornocker Wildlife Institute, and other contributors.

We hope the workshop and this packet of materials will help you and your children learn more about Idaho's carnivores and how to safely coexist with them.

For more information,  
contact 208-378-5796.

*Living with Carnivores* illustrations by Ward Hooper.

Children's illustrations adapted by Erin Ann Jensen.

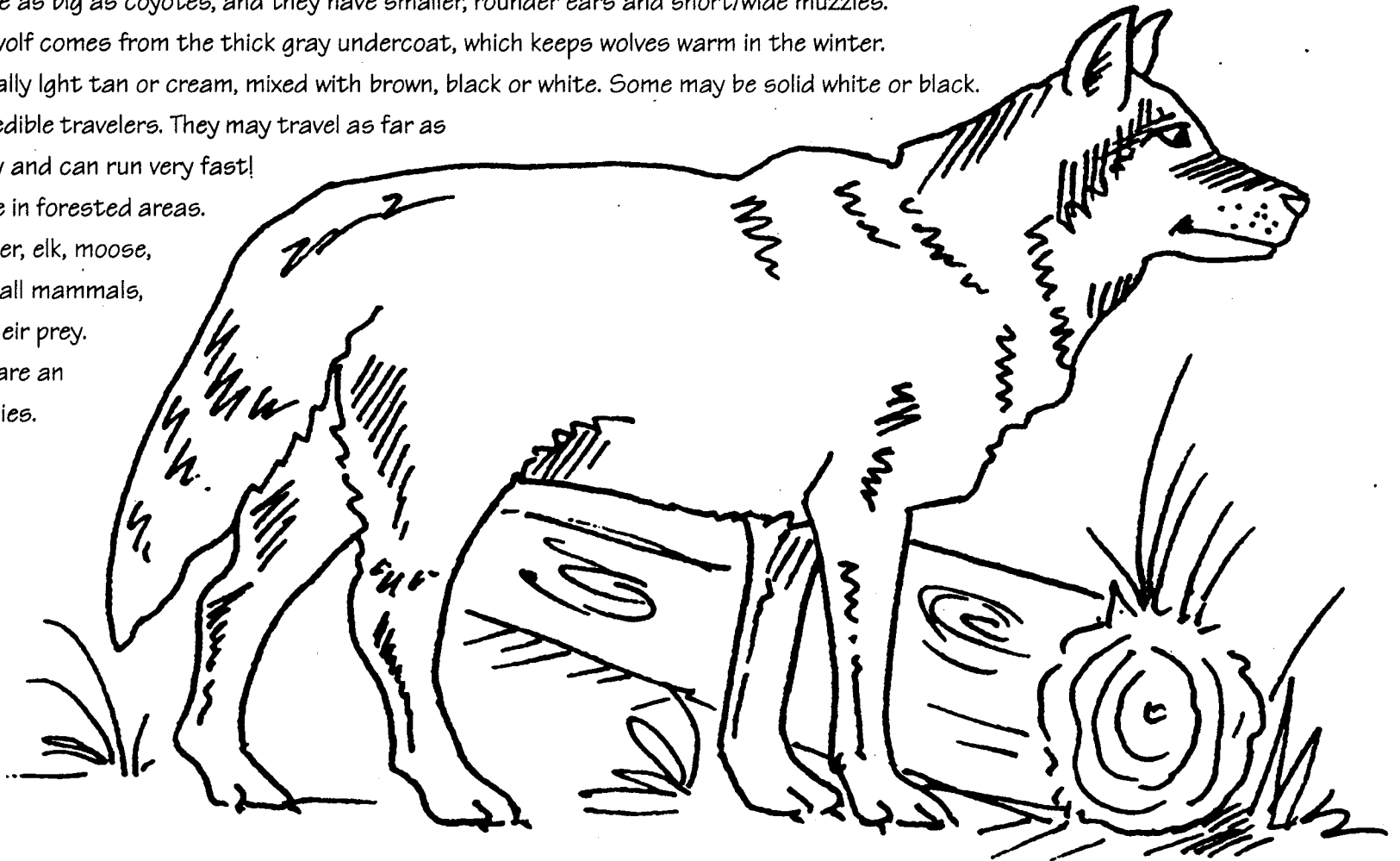
# Coyote.....

- Coyotes are members of the dog family.
- They have pointed ears, slender muzzles and bushy tails.
- Coyotes are very colorful — they may be gray, reddish-brown, or even brownish-gray with a cream-colored belly. Most have dark or black hairs on their back and tail.
- Coyotes eat small mammals, insects, reptiles and plants. They like rodents and rabbits best, but will prey upon young or sick deer, elk, antelope and livestock or fowl.
- These animals are found throughout Idaho, including prairies, desert areas, and forests. Sometimes, they even visit our cities!
- Coyotes have a distinctive howl that can often be heard in the evenings or early mornings when they are most active. The Aztec word “coyotl” means “barking dog.”



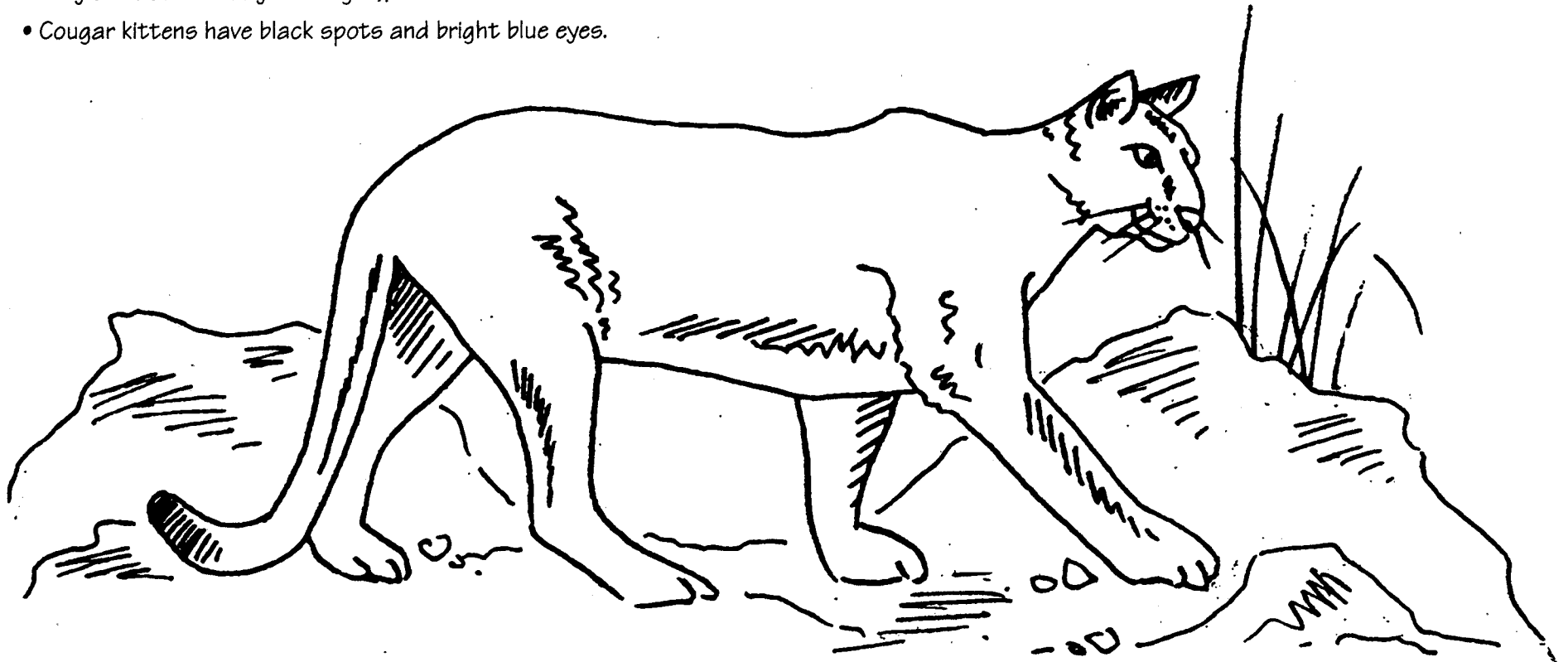
# Gray Wolf.....

- Gray wolves sometimes look like large dogs (German shepherds or Huskies), but they have longer legs, larger feet, and narrower chests than domestic dogs.
- Their tails are straight...and they never curl upward.
- Wolves are twice as big as coyotes, and they have smaller, rounder ears and short/wide muzzles.
- The word gray wolf comes from the thick gray undercoat, which keeps wolves warm in the winter.
- Wolves are usually light tan or cream, mixed with brown, black or white. Some may be solid white or black.
- Wolves are incredible travelers. They may travel as far as 30 miles in a day and can run very fast!
- Most wolves live in forested areas.
- They will eat deer, elk, moose, livestock and small mammals.
- Wolves chase their prey.
- These animals are an endangered species.



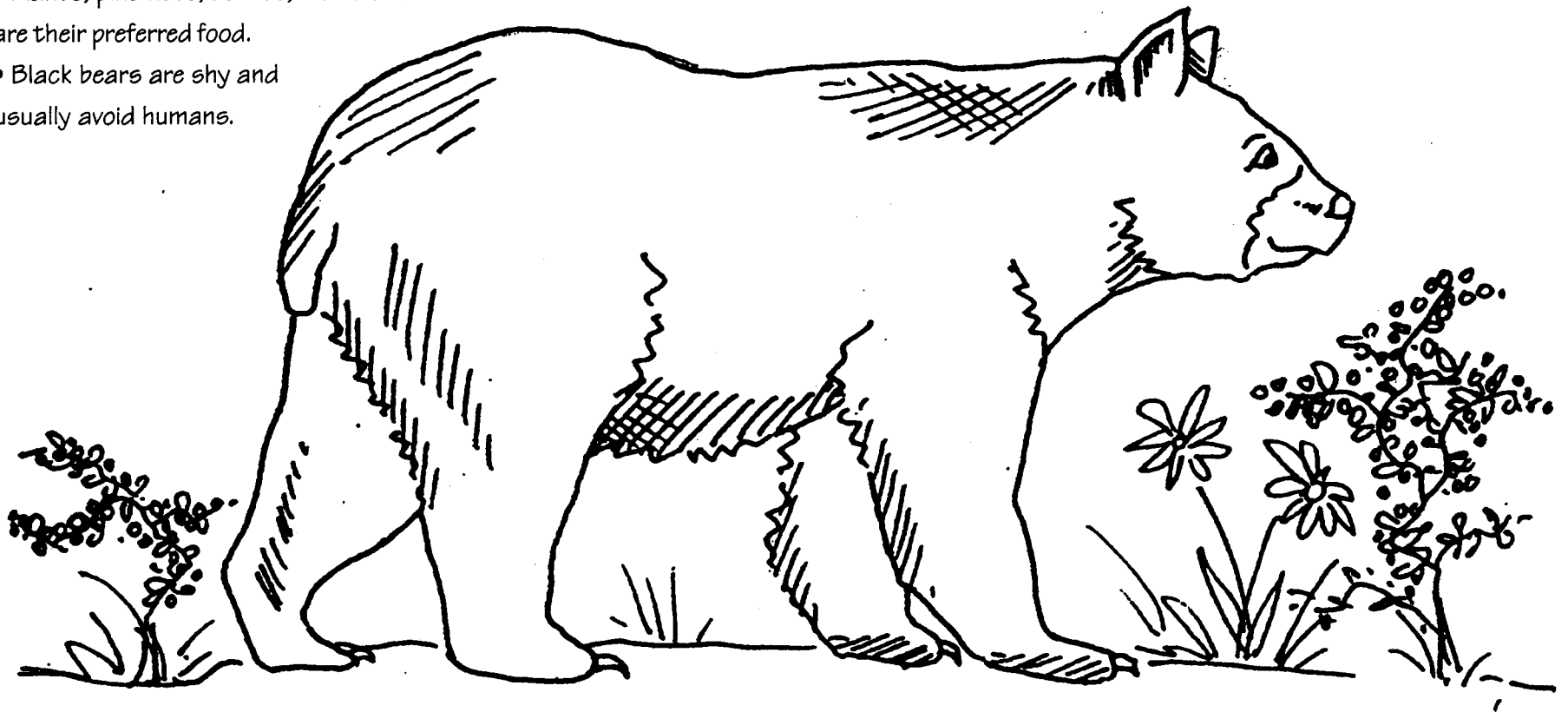
# Cougar.....

- Cougars — or mountain lions — are members of the cat family. They are the largest native cat in Idaho.
- They are very long animals...sometimes as long as 7 feet! Their tails are about 3 feet long.
- Cougars may be reddish-brown to light golden brown or gray, with a black-tipped tail.
- Their diet is mostly meat. In Idaho, cougars will eat deer, elk, bighorn sheep, coyotes, squirrels, rabbits, birds and livestock. They will hide uneaten portions of their kill for later meals, but will not eat it if it is spoiled.
- Cougars like canyons, rocky/steep slopes, cliffs, rocks, dense brush and party-open forests.
- They are active in day and night, but hunt most near sunset or sunrise.
- Cougar kittens have black spots and bright blue eyes.



# Black Bear.....

- Black bears live in Idaho's forests.
  - Black bears are great tree-climbers, and we are most likely to see them at dusk and dawn.
- Black bears are "nocturnal" animals — meaning they are active at night.
- They can be about 3 feet tall at the shoulder, and may weigh from 100 to 300 pounds.
  - Unlike the grizzly bear, the black bear has a straight face, and no shoulder hump.
  - Black bears may be coal black, brown, or even blonde. Their fur is almost always one color, except for a brown muzzle and sometimes, a white chest.
  - Plants, pine nuts, berries, fruits and insects are their preferred food.
  - Black bears are shy and usually avoid humans.

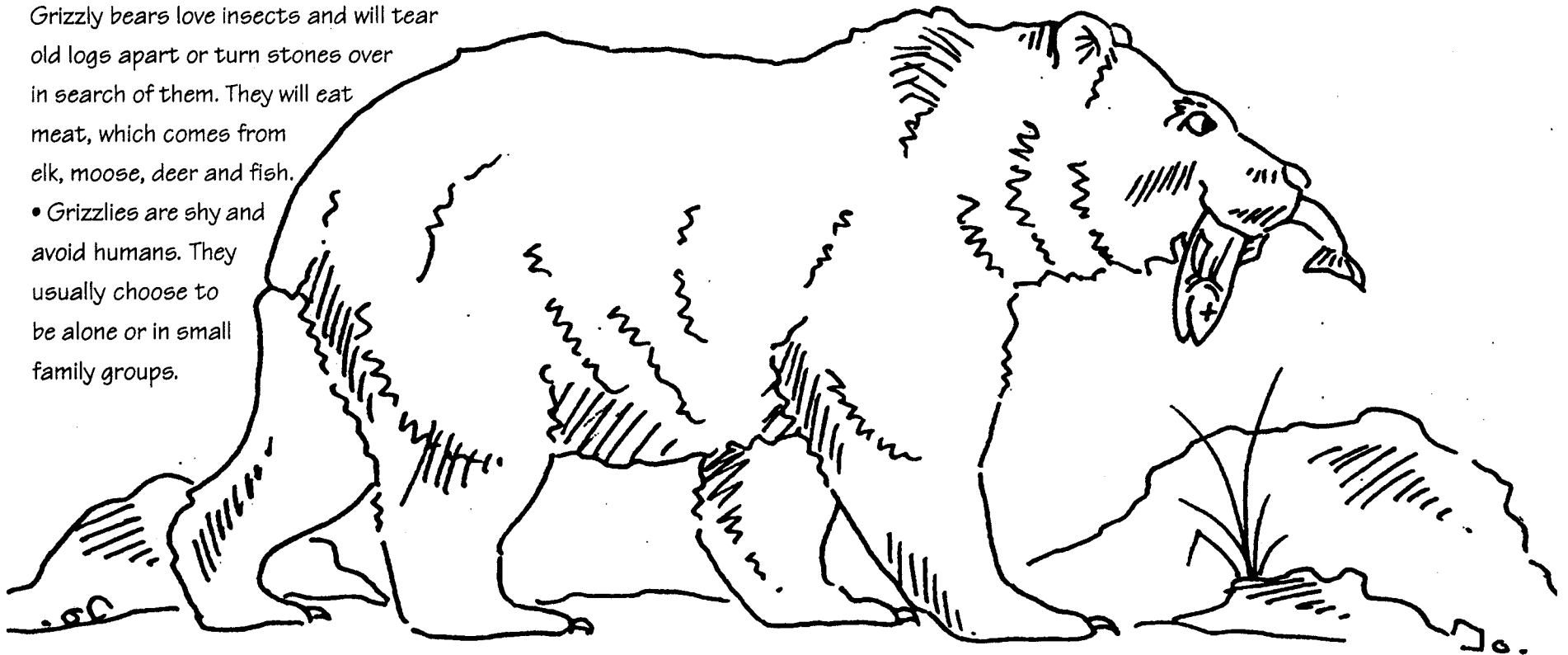


# Grizzly Bear.....

- Idaho has about 75 grizzly bears that live in three areas of the state: the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak mountains, and southeast Idaho's Yellowstone area. They are a threatened species in Idaho.
- Grizzly bears have a "dished-in" face, high-humped shoulders, rounded ears and long curved claws for digging.
- Their coat varies from blondish brown to nearly black, often with silver or blonde-tipped guard hairs that make the coat seem frosted or "grizzled."
- They can be about 3 to 4 feet tall at the shoulder, and weigh from 250 to 500 pounds.
- Grizzlies tend to be most active at dawn and dusk, and less active during the day, but this varies.
- They prefer green plants, tubers, roots, nuts, fruits and berries.

Grizzly bears love insects and will tear old logs apart or turn stones over in search of them. They will eat meat, which comes from elk, moose, deer and fish.

- Grizzlies are shy and avoid humans. They usually choose to be alone or in small family groups.



# Word Search

Circle twelve words that will help you remember a bit about Idaho's most famous carnivores and how we can learn to safely live with them!

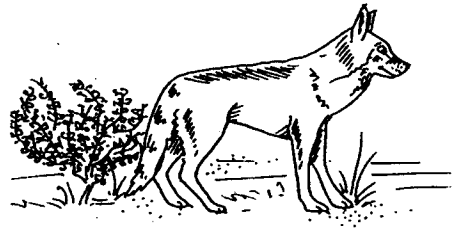
Words may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal and backwards.

1. Bear
2. Camping
3. Carnivore
4. Cougar
5. Coyote
6. Dens
7. Idaho
8. Predator
9. Safety
10. Track
11. Wildlife
12. Wolf

C	A	M	P	I	N	G	O	A
R	A	G	U	O	C	R	S	M
O	D	R	H	V	A	I	A	T
T	R	S	N	E	D	B	F	C
A	Y	R	B	I	U	R	E	O
D	F	C	W	N	V	S	T	Y
E	L	I	D	A	H	O	Y	O
R	O	M	G	K	C	A	R	T
P	W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E

# Carnivore Safety

When you go to the mountains and forests, and sometimes near the prairie, desert or rocky cliff areas, you are in "Carnivore Country."



Some of Idaho's most famous carnivores are coyotes, wolves, cougars (mountain lions), and bears.

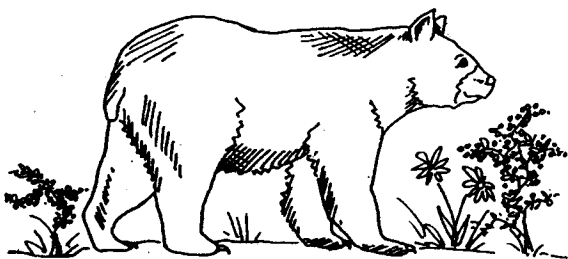
Do not be afraid in "Carnivore Country," but be careful and alert.

Carnivores are shy and usually try to avoid people, so it is hard to see them.

## TIPS

But if you should happen to be near one of these animals, follow these simple tips:

- NEVER get close to the animal, and NEVER feed it.
  - Make noise...talk, whistle, sing, or wear a bell.
  - Stay calm. Make slow movements. Do not run.
  - Hike and explore in open areas,
  - Pets and carnivores do not mix.
  - Keep a clean camp and store food away from where you sleep.
  - Stay away from dead animals.
  - ALWAYS tell an adult where you are going.
  - Do not hike alone.
  - Report any carnivore you see.
- AND...
- Continue to learn more about carnivores!



# Safe Actions

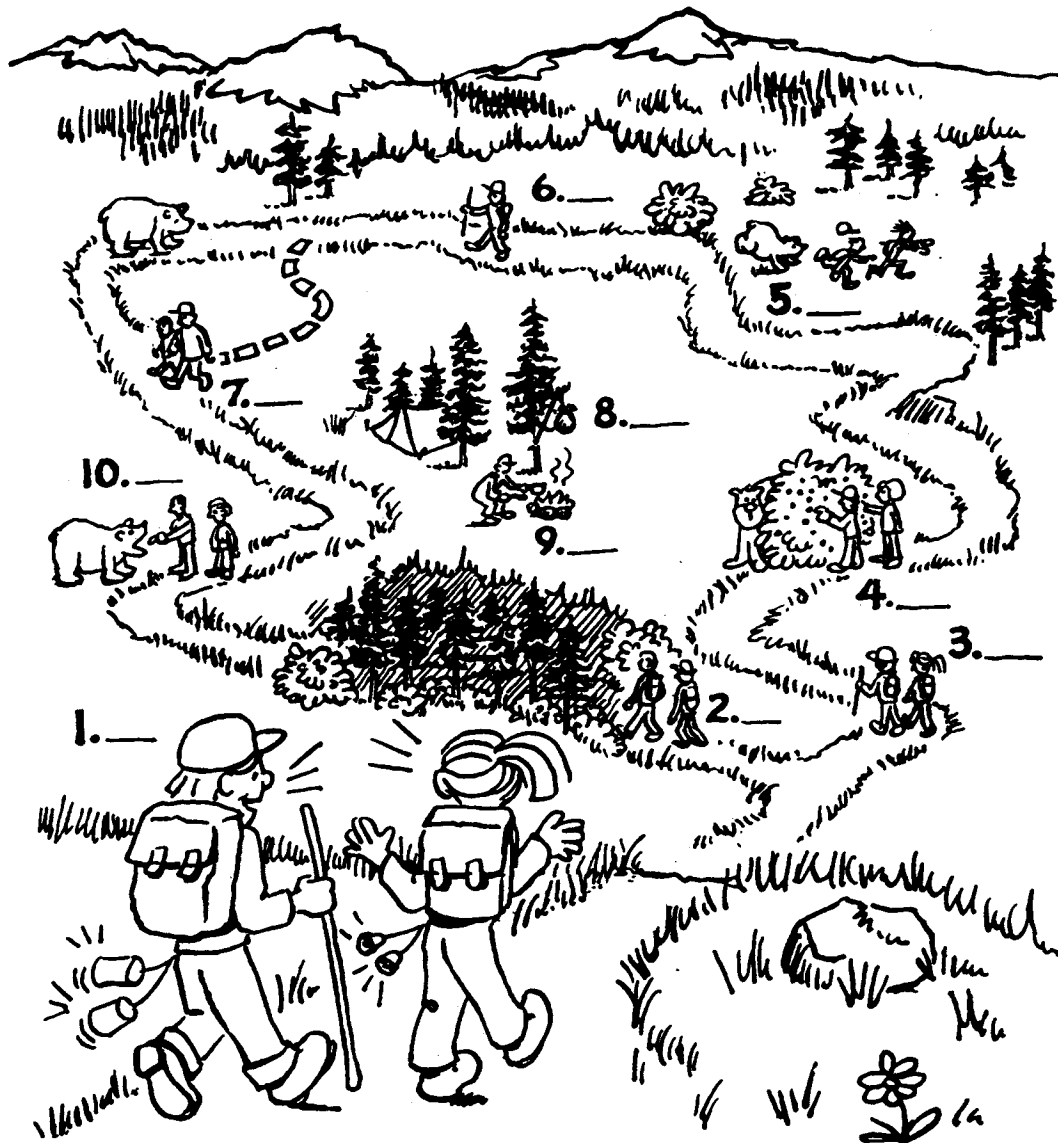
- Do you see actions in this drawing that are safe?

Mark them with a "S" for SAFE.

- Do you see actions in this drawing that are unsafe?

Mark them with a "U" for UNSAFE.

*Answers are on back.*



This children's activity was taken from "Be Bear Aware," a publication of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. The Idaho Living with Carnivores program wishes to thank them for sharing this information with us.

## Answers

1. **S**  
Making noise when hiking.
2. **U**  
Hiking away from open area.
3. **S**  
Hiking into open country.
4. **U**  
Not being careful near berries.
5. **U**  
Turning and running.
6. **U**  
Hiking alone.
7. **S**  
Staying away from the animal.
8. **S**  
Keeping food high in a tree and away from sleeping areas.
9. **S**  
Cooking away from a tent, and keeping a clean camp.
10. **U**  
Feeding the animal.