



# Bears In Your Backyard

You're on a Quest!

Explore the population of black bears in New England! By collecting data from your family and friends, you may find out about some places in our neighborhoods, towns, and in our counties that harbor black bears. And, in some cases, you may find that black bears are living right in your own backyard!

**Materials needed:**

- Computer with Internet access
- Pen and paper for notes
- Local map showing mountains and foothills

**Investigate with your family!**

- Where do bears exist in your state? Visit your state's Fish and Wildlife Web site and search for reports about black bears within the state. Have there been black bears reported in your area?

Here is a list of helpful Web sites on New England's black bear natural history and management issues:

- New Hampshire Fish and Game Department** <http://www.mefishwildlife.com>
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife** <http://www.state.me.us/ifw/index.html>
- Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife** <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/fw/fwhome/index.htm>
- North American Bear Center** <http://www.bear.org/index.html>

- Talk with family members, friends, neighbors and community members about black bears in your area. Identify as many individuals as you can who have seen bears in your town or county.
- Using a local map, place a dot on your map to indicate each sighting you have recorded.
- Record each person's name and data about their bear sightings in the chart below.

NAME	LOCATION OF SIGHTING(S)	YEAR & SEASON SIGHTED	NUMBER OF BEARS SEEN

Compare your information and the dots you placed on your local map with the information you learned about the entire state!

Visit <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Somethings%20bruin.htm>  
and read the article *Something's Bruin in New Hampshire*.  
You will find some helpful ideas about what you and your family might do to avoid  
confrontations with bears if one should unexpectedly appear in your backyard!



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