



Grizzly Bears

Trace the word below and then try it on your own!

Grizzly Bear

Fast Facts to Share

- Did you know that the grizzly bear got its name from its appearance? The grizzly gets its name from the silver tipped hairs that it gets as it grows older. These silver tipped hairs give them a grizzled appearance!
- Grizzly bears are generally found in the Rocky mountains, coastal brown bears are generally found in the costal regions of the western US and Kodiak bears are from Kodiak Island in Alaska. While all of these bears have different names, they are all from the Brown Bear Family, *Ursus arctos*.

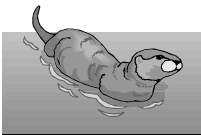
Grizzly bears are brown. Trace the word then try it on your own.

Brown

Fast Facts to Share

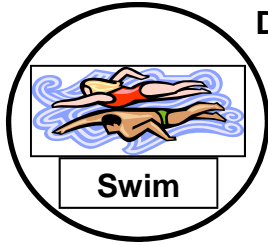
- Grizzly bears are often portrayed as vicious man-eaters in movies, the media and in our minds. While a grizzly bear attack can result in injury or even death, an attack is very unlikely! It is currently estimated that there is a 1 in 1.9 million chance of being injured by a bear in Yellowstone National Park.
- All bears are classified as carnivores, or meat-eaters. While all bears do eat meat, only about 15% to 20% of their diet consists of meat. The remainder of their diet consists of berries, herbs, roots and insects.
- In the late summer and early fall, grizzly bears consume up to 20,000 - yes, 20,000 calories a day in preparation for harsh winter conditions. They turn these calories into an energy rich fat store that also helps insulate them from cold temperatures.

Draw a picture of what you see the bears doing. If you don't see the bears, draw a picture of what you think they look like!



Amazing Otters

How do otters move in the water?
Draw a **O** around the best answer



Fast Facts to Share

- The North American River otter is well adapted to its watery habitat. Shaped like a torpedo, the otter swiftly swims in rivers across America. The feet of the otter are fully webbed and act like paddles, propelling the otter toward food or away from danger. The chubby, yet well muscled tail acts as a rudder and helps the otter steer and maneuver in the water.
- Otters are playful creatures, making slides in the mud and snow. While these behaviors look like all play and no work, they are actually helping the young otters build skills for hunting and defense, as well as helping the older otters mark their territory. No matter what the purpose, it looks like a lot of fun!

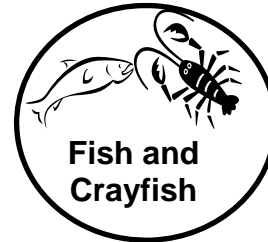
What do otters like to eat?
Draw a **O** around the best answer.



Nuts and Berries



Insects and grubs



Fish and Crayfish

Fast Facts to Share

- North American river otters once lived in nearly all of the USA, except the very arid regions like the Mojave Desert. Today, river otters are considered rare or extinct in much of their traditional territory.
- North American river otters may look cute and cuddly, but in fact can inflict serious wounds! They have extremely sharp teeth and claws and should never be kept as pets. As they reach maturity, they become aggressive and even dangerous. Although they appear clumsy on land, they are swift and can outrun a human!

Draw a picture of two (2) otters playing below.



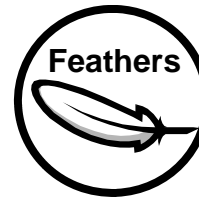
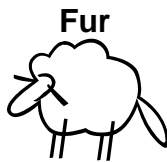
Bald Eagles

Use your binoculars  to look at the feet of the bald eagle. Draw the feet below.

Fast Facts to Share

- The bald eagle is equipped with extremely strong feet and sharp talons. The feet and talons allow the eagle to grasp prey firmly and fly to a safe place to eat it. Bald eagles eat many things; among their favorites are fish, small mammals like rabbits and field mice, and even rattlesnakes!
- The bald eagle usually mates for life and the pair returns to the same nest year after year, adding twigs and sticks. Some bald eagle nests can reach the size of a Volkswagen Beetle! Sometimes the nests become so large and heavy they break the limbs or poles supporting them and the crash to the ground, leaving the birds to start over again.

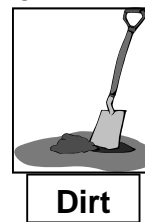
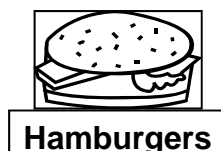
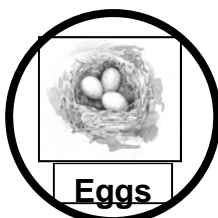
Bald eagles are birds. What are birds covered with?
Draw a around the best answer.



Fast Facts to Share

- The bald eagle has had rough times. In the early part of the 20th century, the eagle was hunted for sport. Later in the century, the eagle suffered negative effects from pollution and the pesticide DDT. DDT caused the shells of the eagle's eggs to be thin and brittle. When the eagle would sit on the eggs' they would be crushed. Fortunately, the eagles are making a come back and were recently re-listed as threatened, as opposed to endangered.
- Did you know that Benjamin Franklin was adamantly opposed to naming the bald eagle as the USA national bird? He said the bird was of bad moral character because it stole food. He lobbied for the wild turkey instead!

What do bald eagle chicks hatch from?
Draw a around the best answer.





Bison

Count the bison.

Draw a ○ around the number you see.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Write the number below

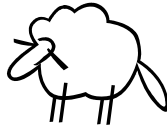
Fast Facts to Share

- Bison once roamed the North American prairie in huge herds, but were eradicated by extreme hunting pressure. There are only two wild herds of bison currently in North America.
- Bison are considered a *keystone species* and greatly contribute to the health of the prairie ecosystem. Since the bison were largely removed from their range, plant communities changed and the prairie you see in small patches today is different than the vast expansive prairies of the past.

Bison are mammals.

Draw a ○ around what mammals are covered with.

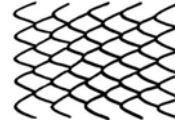
Fur



Feathers



Scales



Fast Facts to Share

- While bison may slightly resemble domestic cattle, they are indeed large, wild, unpredictable animals. They can run up to 25 mph in short bursts. The most common injuries from a bison is goring, and being tossed up in the air with their powerful heads.
- Bison are often called buffalo, but they are not closely related to true buffalo like the water buffalo from Asia and the African buffalo from Africa.
- Native Americans relied heavily on the bison for food, housing materials, clothing, tools and many other items. They made efficient use of the animal and regarded it highly.

Bison have horns. Use the binoculars  to look at the horns and draw them below.



Prairie Dogs

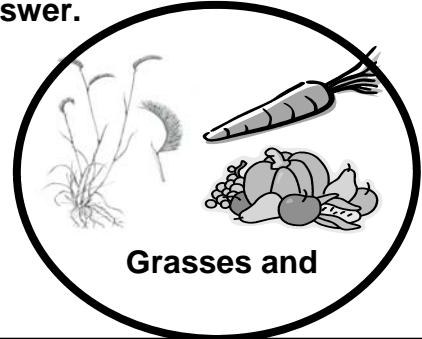
What do you think the prairie dogs
at the Zoo like to eat?
Draw a around the best answer.



Candy



Popcorn



Grasses and

Fast Facts to Share

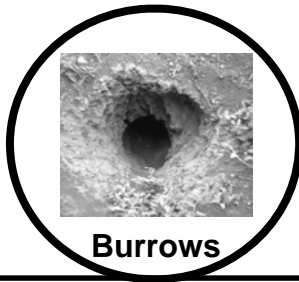
- Prairie dogs are not dogs at all; they are actually rodents that are related closely to squirrels. They got their name from the alarm calls they use to alert each other of various dangers. The call sounds like a short high-pitched bark!
- Research suggests that prairie dogs have a complex language they use to communicate. They can also make new “words” for things they have never seen before!
- Prairie dogs greet each other by what at first glance looks like a kiss! They lock together their long front teeth! This is only done between family members. Members of other families are usually driven away.

What kind of homes do prairie dogs
make and live in?

Draw a around the best answer.



Houses



Burrows



Nests

Fast Facts to Share

- Prairie dog burrows can be up to 15 feet deep and are large enough to accommodate the whole family! Each burrow is different but most have several rooms for nesting, bathroom, yes a bathroom, and a flood room. The flood room holds a pocket of air just in case heavy rains flood the rest of the burrow!
- Prairie dogs can live for as much as eight years in captivity!