

# Don't Feed the Animals

Wild animals and humans share many things - the environment and planet, food sources, and land. However, with as much as we share, it is important that humans respect wild animals. While humans often mean well, the things that we do to "help" can often negatively impact wild animals around us. One example is feeding wild animals.

Feeding wild animals can be detrimental to their life and habits. For example, feeding wild animals can cause animals to become reliant on humans for food. Once an animal is reliant on humans for food, the wild animal can actually lose its instinct and skill for foraging for their own food. This means that once the human goes on vacation or stops feeding the animal, that animal can no longer get their own food from the wild. Without the skill to forage for his own food, the animal will die.

Secondly, when humans feed wild animals it can cause the animal to lose its fear of humans. It is healthy for animals to fear humans. We are bigger and at the top of the food chain, so animals are naturally afraid of us and will not approach us until provoked. However, if a raccoon is used to getting food from your neighbor Martha, that raccoon will start to think that all humans have food on them all the time. The raccoon might approach your mom when she is getting into her car to go to work. But, raccoons aren't known for approaching humans unless they are sick. You mom might call animal control because of the raccoon's suspicious behavior.

Finally, wild animals are genetically programmed to eat food in their environment that is nutritious and healthy for their bodies. Human food is not the best source of nutrition for these animals, and can end up causing animals to have full bellies but empty nutrients and not fully functioning bodies. A free meal is simply too good to resist for these wild animals, but their bodies need other nutrients that human food isn't always full of.



Feeding animals in your yard or at your local nature preserve might seem like a great idea, but that simple action has often dire consequences for the animals. Be responsible and choose to not feed wild animals.

# Hungry Bear on the Loose

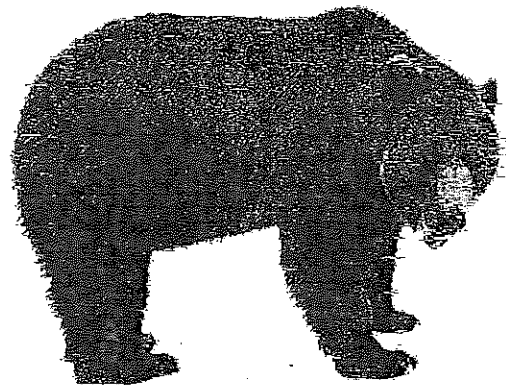
You guys, there is a bear outside my sliding glass door right now! I know that sounds unbelievable, but I promise I am staring at a black bear right now. Sure, there is a glass door between us, but he is just chilling out on my patio, knocking over the chairs and table as he walks around. My mom is calling the police right now, and she told me to stay put. It's not like I would have went outside if she wouldn't have told me to stay put, because this is a big bear and I've never seen one this close before. But, I told her that I would stay put, so here I am.

I live in Florida, and so do black bears. When we first moved here from Illinois, my dad said that his boss told him to build a shed to keep our garbage cans in. I guess that bears can get more calories from eating out of one garbage can than they can in a whole week. I read that bears would need to eat 674 acorns to get as many calories as from a bag of potato chips from our garbage.

It is important that all of our neighbors keep their garbage cans away from where bears can get them. Once bears know that they can just stroll on over to our neighborhood to empty a few garbage cans, the bears will be here all the time. Kind of like this one is here right now.

Our neighbor three doors down hasn't built a shed or anything for his garbage and he doesn't even keep his cans in the garage. I hear my mom and dad talking about it at dinner time, and it makes my parents worried. My mom says that it is irresponsible for the neighborhood and for the bears. I'm not sure how it would be not good for the bears, because the bears are getting plenty of good human food. But, my dad says that if bears wind up in our neighborhood that the bear might have to be relocated to another area of the state. But relocated bears get confused to their new surroundings and can wander through busy roads and get hurt. That makes me feel a bit depressed for their sake.

I've got to go now because my mom says that people are coming to help the bear and I don't want to miss this. Build a shed for your garbage cans, or you might end up with a bear on your patio!



# DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS

Set 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer each question using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. In paragraph 1, why did the author put the word help in quotation marks?

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2. According to the text, what could cause an animal to lose its instinct to hunt?

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3. Using details from the text, explain why it is healthy for animals to fear humans.

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# Paired Comprehension

Set 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer each question using evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. What information does the narrator not know about the food the bear is eating from the garbage can that the reader knows after reading *Don't Feed the Animals*?

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4. Compare and contrast the bear in *Hungry Bear on the Loose* with the raccoon mentioned in *Don't Feed the Animals*.

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# Hungry Bear on the Loose

Set 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer each question using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. Summarize the problem of the passage. How will the problem be solved?

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2. Using details from the text, infer why bears choose to eat food and garbage from cans.

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3. According to the text, why should the residents of that particular neighborhood build sheds?

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# Hungry Bear on the Loose

Set 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer each question using evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. Determine the meaning of the phrase "chilling on the patio" as used in paragraph 1 of the text.

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5. According to the text, why is a bear being relocated potentially dangerous to the bear?

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6. Make a prediction about how the people coming to help might attempt to help the bear. What details from the text helped you make that prediction?

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# Paired Comprehension

Set 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer each question using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. How is the information presented in *Don't Feed the Animals* connected to the problem in *Hungry Bear on the Loose*?

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2. Discuss the differences in the genres of each passage. Then compare and contrast the authors' messages.

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# DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS

Set 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer each question using evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. Determine the meaning of the phrase "genetically programmed" as used in the text.

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5. According to the text, how can the food the animals eat from humans be harmful?

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6. Determine the main idea of the passage. Explain how you know this is the main idea.

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