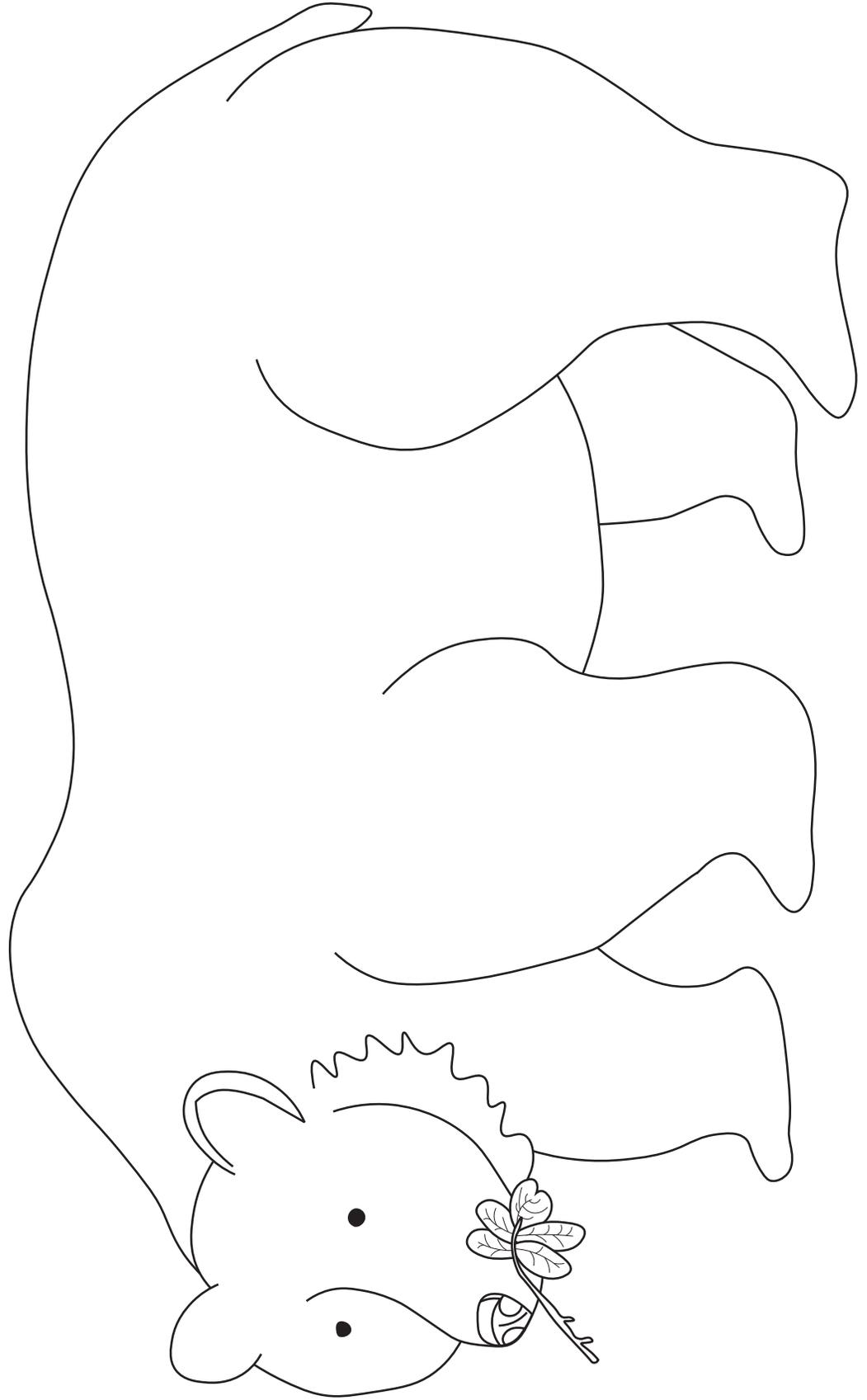


# Grizzly Bear



# Grizzly Bear (*Ursus horribilis*)

The Grizzly Bear was named the official State Animal of Montana on April 7, 1983. The Grizzly Bear is currently listed as a threatened species in the contiguous United States. There is an estimated grizzly population of ~1,500 bears in the contiguous US; 800 of which can be found in Montana.

Grizzlies, a subspecies of the Brown Bear, got their name from their unique coloring. Their fur is generally brown and the tips can range in color from blonde and silver to white. This two-tone hair gives off a “grizzled” appearance, much like that of a man with a greying beard.

## Did You Know?

Montana can be known for its harsh winters, especially in places like Glacier National Park where the temperatures consistently fall well below zero. In order to deal with these harsh conditions, some animals – like the Grizzly Bear, hibernate.

What happens during hibernation? Prior to hibernation, bears eat a large amount of food to store body fat for winter. When winter arrives the bear builds a den where they will stay put for 5 to 7 months as their heart rate decreases to around 9 beats per minute.

## Fun Facts

**Weight:** 300 – 1600 lbs

**Length:** ~6.5 ft

**Height:** 3.5–4 ft on all fours  
or 10 ft on hind legs

**Speed:** Up to 30 miles per hour

**Life Span:** 20–25 years

## More than a State Animal

In Montana, Grizzly Bears are more than just the State Animal – they represent one of the two large public universities in the state as the mascot of the University of Montana – Missoula.



## How To Spot the Difference

In Montana, both Black and Grizzly Bears are common. This often leads to the question: how do you tell the two species apart? We've put together a chart and a couple images to help you tell the difference!

### Grizzly Bear

- Long Claws (2-4in) for digging
- Curved Face
- Short Rounded Ears
- Prominent Shoulder Hump

### Black Bear

- Short Claws (1.5in) for climbing
- Straight Face
- Tall Pointed Ears
- No Shoulder Hump



Grizzly Bear



Black Bear

**NO MATTER WHERE YOU TRAVEL IN MONTANA, REMEMBER TO ALWAYS BE BEAR AWARE!**