



Student Activity

Yellowstone Bears' Ecosystem **NATURE Science Education Series**

Vocabulary:

predator, conservation, ecosystem, tranquilize, euthanized, carnivore, endangered species, refuge, aggression, peaks, army cutworm moth, Indian paintbrush, lupines, sustains, Clark's nutcrackers, caching, larders, white bark pine, hibernation, resilient, resourceful, marauding, brucellosis, cutthroat trout, pathogen, blister rust, backcountry, icon, delisting

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Where are grizzly bears found in North America? Are any of our national parks renowned for their grizzly bear populations?

Why are most people afraid of grizzly bears? What stories have been told about the ferocious nature of these animals? Do you think the stories are true?

Why would grizzly bears attack people?

Do you have any real-life stories of grizzlies to tell?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

How did wildlife biologists provide valid studies of Yellowstone's grizzly bears?

Why were Yellowstone bears once an endangered species? How have their numbers been restored?

In July and August why do the bears head for the high country? How could diseases of the white bark pine or the army cutworm moth affect grizzly bear populations?

What groups of people believe that grizzlies are a threat to their lifestyles? Do you think they have a right to kill grizzly bears? Why or why not? Do you think that grizzly bears should still be listed as endangered?

Further Activities:

Investigate the polar bear problem in Churchill, Manitoba to discover how this problem is managed today.

Investigate how global warming may negatively affect worldwide bear populations.

Investigate bear conservation efforts taking place in other countries.

Further investigate why hunters feel they have the right to hunt grizzlies or other bears that may be endangered.