

Compare Bears

Yukon Delta Guide School

Levels – Grades 4-8

Time – At least seven 40-minute sessions

Skills – Analyzing, applying, comparing and contrasting, communicating, describing, designing, dramatizing, hypothesizing, illustrating, problem-solving, synthesizing

Materials

- Computer with Internet access
- Paper, art supplies, poster board
- *Compare Bears* Video
- *WebQuest* Instructions
- *Compare Chart*
- *WebQuest* Rubrics (3)
- *Yukon Delta Guide School* Quest
- Bear Range Maps
- *Guide Certificates*
- Journals

Overview

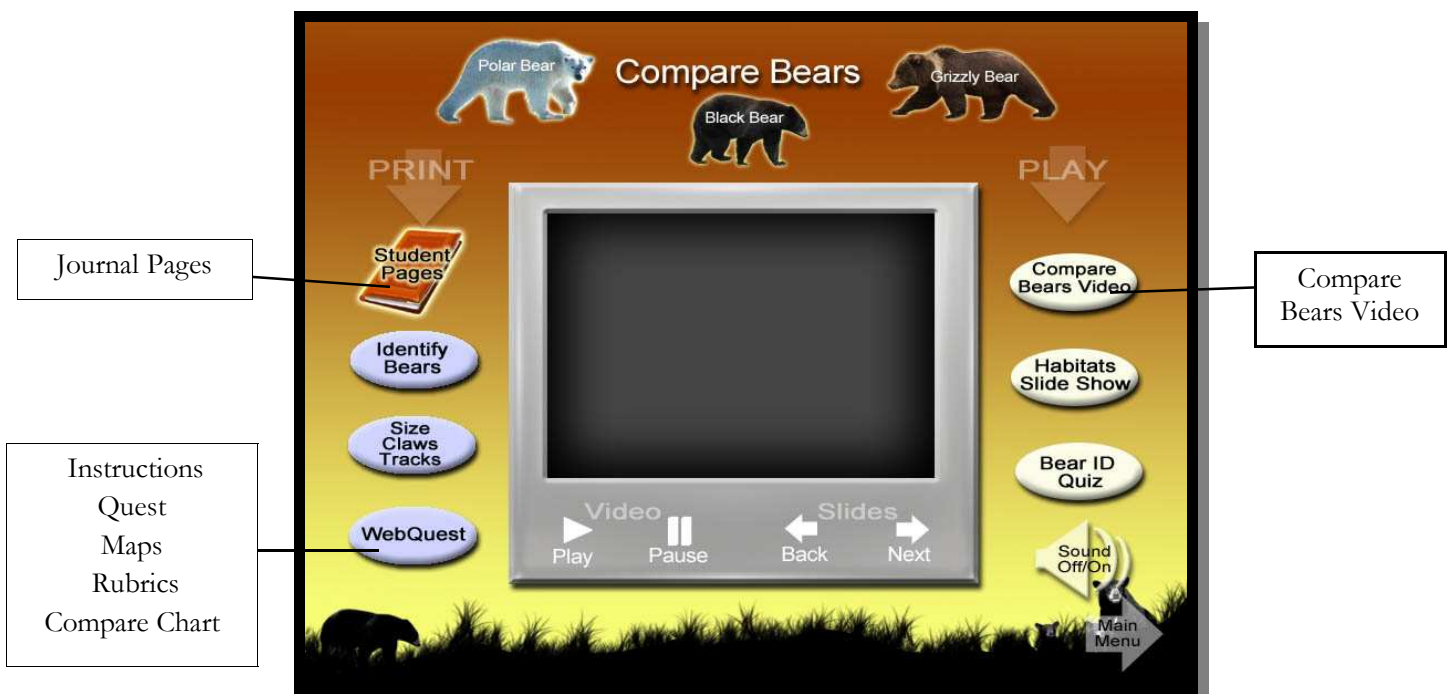
Students participate in a WebQuest where they gather, interpret, and present information on the characteristics and habitats of the three North American bear species. During this WebQuest, students become wilderness guides in training at the Yukon Delta Guide School where they will learn how to safely kayak through bear country at the refuge, as they gather evidence on the characteristics of the bear species within the Yukon.

Concepts

- Living things exhibit unique combinations of physical and behavioral adaptations specific to their environment.
- Living things can be identified by their physical characteristics.

Learner Objectives

- Navigate using maps.
- Identify bear species ranges on maps.
- Identify bear habitats on a map.
- Identify polar bears, grizzly bears and black bears by their physical characteristics.
- Research and design an informational brochure using graphics and text.



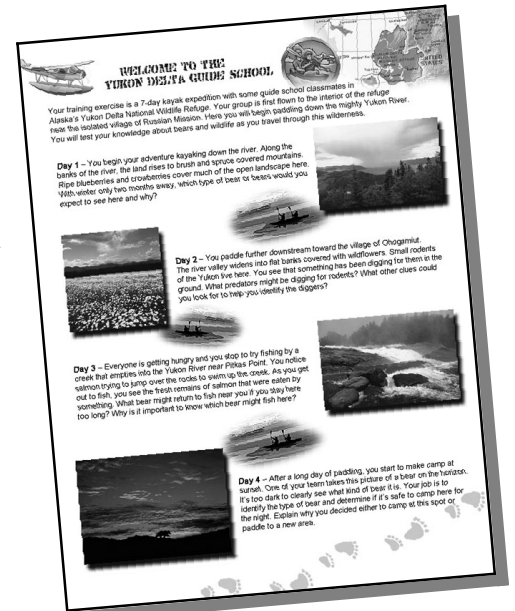
Student Screen

- Begin to identify human behaviors that influence bear-human encounters.
- Write a fact-based creative short story.
- Design and give a presentation using one visual or multimedia tool.

Method

In preparation before class, become familiar with both the **WebQuest Instructions** and the **Yukon Delta Guide School Quest**. The student's Instructions will guide you and them through the entire process.






1. Divide the class into groups of at least three students. Ask them to print and review the **WebQuest Instructions**. Review the instructions with students and respond to any questions before students begin the Quest.
2. Have students view or print the **Yukon Delta Guide School Quest**. Review the instructions with students. As students complete the Quest, monitor their progress and offer guidance to groups.
3. After completion and assessments, sign students' "Guide Certificates" (WebQuest Instructions, Page 3).



Yukon Quest



Assessments

-  *WebQuest Compare Chart* (Quest Instructions, Page 4)
-  Brochure Rubrics
-  Presentation Rubrics
-  Self-assessment Rubrics
-  Yukon Delta Guide School Tasks (Quest, Page 3)
 - Adventure story
 - Journal entries

Footnote: Compare Chart Teacher Key & Guide Certificates on following pages.

WebQuest Compare Chart

Teacher Key

| | BLACK BEAR (BB) | GRIZZLY BEAR (GB) | POLAR BEAR (PB) |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| N. AMERICAN LOCATION | Most of North America. | Currently in remote northwest regions and in isolated pockets in U.S. | Arctic |
| PREFERRED HABITAT | forests and forest margins | alpine and Arctic tundra, forests, meadows | ice flows and Arctic tundra |
| DIET | omnivore - nuts, fruits, insects, grasses | omnivore - nuts, fruits, insects, fish, roots, grasses | carnivore - seals |
| WEIGHT RANGE - MALE | 150 to 500 lbs., can be up to 800 lbs. | 300-700 lbs. , Kodiak bears can range over 1000 lbs. | 770 to 1800 lbs. |
| WEIGHT RANGE - FEMALE | 120 to 200 lbs. | 200-450 lbs. | 330 to 720 lbs. |
| HEIGHT TO SHOULDER | 2.5 to 3 feet | 3.5 to 5 feet | 4 to 5.5 feet |
| HEIGHT WHEN STANDING | 4 to 6 feet | 6 to 9 feet | 7 to 11 feet |
| FUR | black, brown, cinnamon, white, blonde | brown to cream to almost black | silvery-white to light yellow to straw yellow |
| FEET | smaller than GB & PB, note alignment of front toes and distance to print claw marks | massive front feet, note alignment of front toes and distance to print claw marks | partially webbed toes, bottom of paw fur-covered, note lack of print claw marks |
| CLAWS | short front claws, very curved, specialized for climbing trees | long front claws, slightly curved, specialized for digging | thick, sharp, specialized for climbing ice & grabbing prey |
| IDENTIFYING FEATURES | larger, somewhat pointed ears & shorter, thinner muzzle than GB; straight profile; no hump | large shoulder hump; dish-shaped facial profile; long muzzle; short, round ears | white fur; longer head, legs & neck than GB or BB; rump higher than shoulders |
| ATHLETIC ABILITY | excellent tree climber, good swimmer, run at least 30 miles per hour | excellent digger, climb trees short distances, good swimmer, run at least 30 miles per hour | excellent swimmer, climb ice floes, run at least 30 miles per hour |
| BEHAVIOR | aggressive defensive behavior, fierce defense of young | usually timid and shy, mother often sends cubs up a tree when threatened | aggressive behavior, fierce defense of young |
| ENEMIES | humans, grizzly bears, larger black bears, wolves may kill cubs | humans, mountain lions, other grizzly bears, wolves may kill cubs | humans, other polar bears, killer whales, wolves may kill cubs. |



WILDERNESS ADVENTURE GUIDE CERTIFICATE.

FROM THE TRAINING GUIDE OF...
THE YUKON DELTA GUIDE SCHOOL.

This certifies that, _____
has successfully completed their wilderness adventure guide training assignment.



Congratulations on safely kayaking down the mighty Yukon River through a wilderness. Your understanding of bears, other wildlife and the environment will help you and others become valuable stewards of our wild landscapes.

