

Audubon Center & Sanctuary

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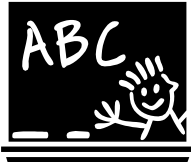
Web: <http://audubonprograms.com>



How Many Bears? Curriculum Integration Guide

Warm up Their Brains Before We Come

- **Pre-visit Activity:** Review the survival needs for an animal: food, water, shelter, and space.



- Play the “Not Enough” game: Tell students that they are all rabbits. In order to survive, they must each get something to eat. Pass out food (carrot sticks or Hershey’s Kisses... anything edible) – but only to 2/3 of the class. Ask the class for ideas on how to handle the food shortage. Possible solutions might be share the food, go get more food, let some of the students die off, or send some to another area where there might be food. What do you suppose would happen in the wild with real rabbits?

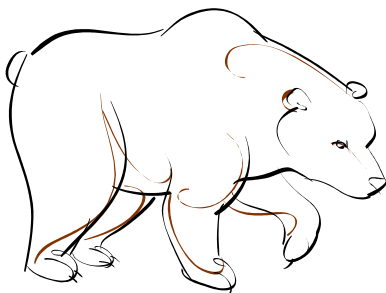
- Review population concepts and definition.

Activities and Ideas for Extending the Learning

- Use the post-visit activity to reinforce the concepts.
- Students sometimes have a negative view of the role hunters and fishermen play in the natural world. Ask them their opinions. Then have students read the article at the link below. Did their opinion change?
- Carrying Capacity applies to humans, too. How many people can this earth support? Have students graph the human population over time, or find such a graph on the internet.
- Have students calculate their Ecological Footprint using the link below.

Other Resources

- Learn about sportsmen and conservation at <http://www.nwf.org/ProtectESA/SportsmenSupportESA.pdf>
- Calculate your ecological footprint at <http://www.earthday.net/footprint/info.asp>



NYS Standard - The Living Environment

Major Understanding: #7.1a-b A population consists of all individuals of a species that are found together at a given place and time. Populations living in one place form a community. The community and the physical factors with which it interacts compose an ecosystem. Given adequate resources and no disease or predators, populations increase. Lack of resources, habitat destruction, and other factors such as predation and climate limit the growth of certain populations in the ecosystem.

PA Environmental Education Standard

EE4.6.7 A.6 Understand limiting factors and predict their effects on an organism.

Objective of the Program

Students will be able to define “carrying capacity”. Students will understand why carrying capacity is important for wildlife and people.