antlers (ænt • lərz). A pair of bones that grows on the head of a deer.

White-tailed deer have reddish-brown or grayish coats. Their tails are brown on top and white underneath. When they are frightened, they run with their tails up like a white flag.

Male white-tailed deer are called bucks, and females are does. Their babies are fawns.
A newborn fawn is covered with white spots. Its mother hides it in a safe, dark place. The white spots blend with its surroundings. No enemy can see it.

White-tailed bucks have **antlers** on their heads in summer and fall. In the winter, the antlers fall off. The next spring, a new set grows.

Young bucks have small antlers. The next year they are bigger. Bucks that are six or seven years old have the biggest and most beautiful antlers.

Deer eat plants. In spring there is plenty of food. They eat grass, flowers, buds, and leaves. In summer they eat twigs, stems, berries, and acorns. In the winter, they have to hunt for twigs and small branches. Sometimes they have to eat bark.

White-tailed deer eat in the early mornings or in the evenings. They come to the edges of the forest to eat the
Deer do not have top front teeth. Instead, they have a thick, tough pad of skin. When they eat, they use their bottom teeth to tear off leaves and twigs against the pad of skin. They chew with their sharp back teeth.

Deer chew their food only a little before swallowing it. They have four parts in their stomachs. When a deer swallows, the food goes to the first part of its stomach. Later, when the deer is in a safe place, the food comes back to its mouth. The deer chews it again. This time the food goes through all four parts of its stomach.
Write *T* for *true* or *F* for *false*.

1. _______ A white-tailed deer’s tail is white on the bottom.

2. _______ A deer’s stomach has two parts.

3. _______ Only bucks have antlers.

4. _______ Fawns have white spots to help them hide.

5. _______ Female deer are bucks.

**Circle the correct answer.**

6. White-tailed deer eat in the morning or in the **evening, night**.

7. Deer eat **plants, animals**.

8. Deer chew their food **seven, two** times.

9. Deer have a thick pad of **fat, skin** instead of top front teeth.
Lesson 9  Black Bears

**We Remember**

Write the letter of the correct answer.

1. God created more than □ kinds of mammals.
   a. 4,000  
   b. 40

2. Bats know where things around them are by listening to □.
   a. songs  
   b. echoes

3. Deer have □ top front teeth.
   a. very sharp  
   b. no

4. Porcupines like □ things.
   a. sweet  
   b. salty

Black bears live in many areas of North America. They are the smallest of all the bears that live in North America. If a black bear would stand on its hind feet, it would be about five feet (1.5 m) tall.

Bears have thick fur and big heads. Their eyes are tiny, and they cannot see very well.
Even though their ears stand straight up, they cannot hear well. But God gave them good noses. They can smell very well.

Bears have short legs and big feet. When they walk, they look big and clumsy. But they can run fast. They are very good tree-climbers.

Bears eat a lot of things. They hunt mice, ground squirrels, and other small animals. They go fishing in mountain streams. They eat eggs, ants, and grubs. Sometimes they eat acorns, berries, or nuts. One of their favorite foods is honey. They rip apart bees’ nests to get the honey inside. Their long fur helps to protect them from bee stings.

Bears spend much of the winter sleeping. But they do not stay fast asleep all winter. They may come out of their dens sometimes.

During a mother bear’s winter sleeping time, her cubs are born. Usually black bears have two cubs. The cubs sleep and drink milk from their mother. In the spring, the mother teaches them how to get food and how to live in the forest.
Circle the correct answer.

5. Black bears are the **biggest, smallest** bears of North America.

6. Bears **sleeping, hunting** spend much of the winter sleeping, hunting.

7. Bears **can, cannot** see very well.

8. Black bears like to eat **honey, bees**.

9. Black bears usually have **four, two** cubs.

10. Black bears are **good, clumsy** tree-climbers.

Answer this question.

11. What four colors can black bears be?

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Not all black bears are black. Some may be brown or reddish-brown. They are called cinnamon bears. Some may have lovely white fur and even white claws. They are called island white bears. Blue bears are not really blue, but they have gray hairs mixed with the black hairs in their fur. The gray and black hairs mixed make the bear look bluish.