

Black Bear Biologist Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

Welcome to the black bear biologist group. With so many states experiencing more black bears than in the past 100 years, you stand a good chance of getting a job.

However, you face some unique challenges and rewards with this career. As you'll discover with your online research, black bears present some issues in their interactions with humans. Depending on who you ask, there is rarely a good balance between managing for the biological carrying capacity and cultural carrying capacity of black bears. They are one of the big game species that are managed for hunting-harvest opportunities which is controversial in the eyes of animal rights groups. So your research should include what bear biologists face in trying to balance the "biological carrying capacity" along with the "cultural carrying capacity" of society (people tolerating living with hungry bears as neighbors).

Your goal is to research what it takes to become a bear biologist, consider the personal rewards of this work, then develop a **Wildlife Biologist Career Path Plan** that will offer a logical pathway in education and experience to becoming a bear biologist.

On a separate sheet of paper or on your computer, develop your black bear career path plan that should include:

- Why have bear biologists become so important in many states over the past 60 years?
- How do bear biologists balance the voices of agriculture, communities, public safety and bear hunters when developing a bear management program?
- What are the personal characteristics, dangers and rewards of someone becoming a black bear biologist?
- What high school and college courses would be part of a career path in becoming a black bear biologist?
- What personal experience would help in this career path?