



# The Hatchet Survival Guide

## Chapters 7 & 8

**Recommendations:** For students in Grades 6 to 9. Indoor activities. Adult supervision recommended for students accessing the internet.

**Purpose:** Accompany reading a novel with learning some real survival skills

**Materials:**

- The Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
  - Free online pdf (*contains minor typos*) <https://scotland.k12.mo.us/view/637.pdf>
  - Audio: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MRR9mORcdY>
- Activity Materials will be included with instructions for the specific activities below

**Chapter Summaries:** Still working hard to fill his basic needs, Brian also encounters new obstacles: wildlife!

### Survival Skill 8 –Avoiding ‘Bearanoia’

*“and he heard a noise to his rear, a slight noise, and he turned and saw the bear. He could do nothing, think nothing. His tongue, stained with berry juice, stuck to the roof of his mouth and he stared at the bear....and it was right there.”*

*“If the bear had wanted you, his brain said, he would have taken you. It is something to understand, he thought, not something to run away from. The bear was eating berries. Not people.”*

Bears are amazing! As such they ought to be treated with respect.

Here are a couple of cool bear videos so that you can start to love them as much as I do.

- All Bears: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkbXLdeZ9W8>
- American Black Bear: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsg5vjwchLs>
- Rick Mercer meets Bears: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJRDpTUIrJI>

More often than not, in Eastern Ontario, a bear encounter is just as surprising for the bear as it is for you. To avoid bears, make noise (*chat, sing, wear a bell*) while traveling so that they know you are coming and can move away. Also, it is very important to keep all food and food smells (*toothpaste & toiletries, cooking pots & utensils, sunscreen, etc.*) 100 ft away from where you

are camping. If you do encounter a bear, stay calm and talk to the bear while backing away slowly.

Here is a video of tips and tricks of bear safety:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHZ-prhA7E0>

### **Survival Skill 9** –Overall Critter Management

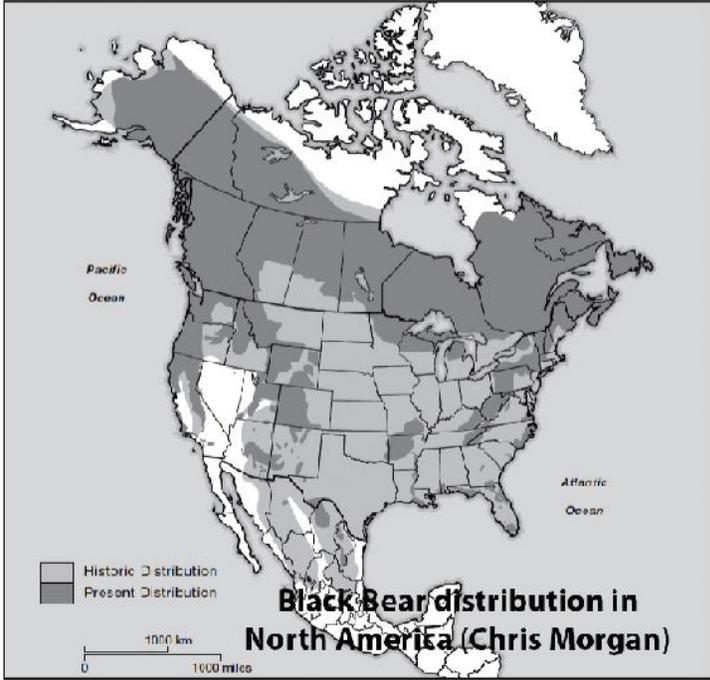
*“His fingers gingerly touched a group of needles that had been driven through his pants and into the fleshy part of his calf. They were stiff and very sharp on the ends that stuck out, and he knew then what the attacker had been. A porcupine had stumbled into his shelter and when he had kicked it the thing had slapped him with its tail of quills.”*

Besides the bear, Brian has many encounters with wildlife such as beaver, porcupine, skunk, fish, grouse, wolf, moose, and many birds. For better or for worse physically, Brian always learns something from these encounters –a new way of seeing, hearing, doing, being, etc.

With all animals it is important to keep food smells away from your sleep area so as not to attract them and, in the event of an encounter, keep calm. There are other aspects to think about that vary from animal to animal such as the time of day it is most active and whether it will run away if frightened.

Choose an animal (*can be from the list that Brian encounters or a different animal that you might come across in your area*) and learn what you can about it. Do research, watch videos, ask people to tell you stories and then copy and fill in a chart like the one below. Last but certainly not least, on the chart is an area to investigate what you would do in an encounter with this animal for both their well-being and yours. I’ve used the American Black Bear as an example:

Animal	Black Bear: <i>ursus americanus</i>
Range ( <i>where does it live</i> )	Seen widely across Canada and much of the U.S.A., the black bear prefers forests but can also live in swamps, brushlands, and mountain ranges.

	
<p>Average Size Male &amp; Female</p>	<p>Adult black bears can grow to 1.4 meters in length. In weight: Female: 40-80 kg (88-175 lbs) Male: 60-300 kg (130-660 lbs)</p>
<p>Diet</p>	<p>Omnivore: black bears eat a wide variety of plants and animals (even roots and bugs!)</p>
<p>Favourite Fact</p>	<p>Their olfactory sense is amazing! The area inside a black bear's nose, called the nasal mucosa, is 100 times greater than ours. They can smell food in the air from miles away and even up to 4 feet through solid ground.</p>
<p>New Fact <i>learned from doing research</i></p>	<p>Female black bears will keep and raise their cubs for up to three years.</p>
<p><b>What would you do in an encounter so that both you and the animal remained safe?</b></p>	<p>Stay calm, talk to the bear, make myself look as big as I can, back away slowly never turning my back to the bear and never running.</p>
<p>Anything else cool?</p>	<p>A co-worker told me a story about a time when he was bluff charged by a bear! Neat, eh? Another co-worker told me a story about seeing some bear traps (<i>to capture bears to be tagged and monitored</i>) that were baited with <b>donuts</b>. Pretty funny!</p>

See “The Hatchet Chapters 9 & 10” on the Gould Lake website for more content!