



Predator That Instils Fear in Bears and Mountain Lions Revealed

Description

The wild regions of North America are known for their potential dangers, particularly from predators like black and brown bears, and mountain lions. However, recent studies reveal that these animals often avoid encounters with humans, suggesting an unexpected dynamic in human-animal interactions.

Research indicates that interactions with these formidable carnivores are rare. For instance, brown bears attack just over 11 people annually, while mountain lions typically attack only four to six individuals each year. In contrast, around 580 people in the US and Canada are struck by lightning each year, highlighting the low likelihood of such animal attacks.

The studies, led by researchers from Yale University and the USDA Forest Service, demonstrate that bears and mountain lions adapt their behaviours to steer clear of humans. One study observed bears in Alaska, discovering they retreated quickly upon hearing human voices—almost ten times more so than when they heard other sounds. This behavioural change suggests that these predators regard humans as significant threats.

Similarly, the mountain lion study, which tracked 36 lions in the Santa Cruz Mountains, found that these animals actively avoided areas where human activity was high. This proactive behaviour further illustrates the impact of human presence on wildlife.

The findings indicate that humans have a responsibility to mitigate potential conflicts with these animals. By being mindful of our activities in natural habitats, we can help foster a safer coexistence for both species. Future efforts should focus on maintaining this balance for the benefit of wildlife and ecosystems alike.

Vocabulary List:

1. **predators** /'predətərz/ (noun): animals that hunt and eat other animals
2. **encounters** /ɪn'kaʊntərz/ (noun): times when people or animals meet
3. **formidable** /'fɔrmɪdəbl/ (adjective): strong, big, or frightening and hard to face
4. **adapt** /ə'dæpt/ (verb): change behavior to fit new places or situations
5. **mitigate** /'mɪtɪ,geɪt/ (verb): make something less bad or less severe
6. **coexistence** /ˌkoʊəg'zɪstəns/ (noun): living together in the same place peacefully

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What are the wild regions of North America known for?
Option: Natural beauty
Option: Potential dangers from predators
Option: Rich biodiversity
Option: Tourist attractions
2. How many attacks do brown bears cause annually?
Option: 1-2
Option: 4-6
Option: 11
Option: Over 20
3. Which university led the studies on human-animal interactions?
Option: Stanford University
Option: Harvard University
Option: Yale University
Option: MIT
4. What animal typically attacks four to six individuals each year?
Option: Black bears
Option: Brown bears
Option: Mountain lions
Option: Wolves
5. How many people are struck by lightning each year in the US and Canada?
Option: 100
Option: 200
Option: 580
Option: 1000
6. Where was a study on bears observing their response to human voices conducted?
Option: Yosemite National Park
Option: Yellowstone National Park
Option: Alaska
Option: Santa Cruz Mountains



True-False

- 7. Black bears and mountain lions frequently encounter humans.
- 8. Bears and mountain lions adapt their behaviors to avoid humans.
- 9. Human presence has no impact on the behavior of mountain lions.
- 10. The studies suggest that both species avoid areas of high human activity.
- 11. Researchers found that bears in Alaska retreated less at the sound of human voices.
- 12. Mitigating potential conflicts with these animals is a shared responsibility.

Gap-Fill

- 13. The wild regions of North America are dangerous because of predators like bears and _____ .
- 14. Bears retreat quickly upon hearing human voices—almost ten times more so than when they heard other _____ .
- 15. Brown bears attack just over 11 people _____ .
- 16. The findings indicate that humans have a responsibility to mitigate potential _____ with these animals.
- 17. Mountain lions actively avoided areas where human activity is _____ .
- 18. Future efforts should focus on maintaining balance for the benefit of wildlife and _____ alike.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Potential dangers from predators 2. Just over 11 people 3. Yale University 4. Mountain lions



5. Around 580 people 6. Alaska

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. mountain lions 14. sounds 15. annually 16. conflicts 17. high 18. ecosystems

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

POST TAG

1. bears
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Level 5
5. mountain lions
6. predator

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