

# Berries and Animals Collage

Explore how animals depend on berries by creating a collage!



Berries grow in different environments all over Alaska. Many animals, including bears, foxes, voles, grouse, ptarmigan, pikas, and marmots, depend on berries as a main food source.

Left: A Bohemian waxwing feeds on berries on the UAF campus. UAF photo by Todd Paris, 2013.

## Materials Needed:

Berries and Animals Printable, white construction paper, tissue paper, pom-poms, construction paper pieces, craft foam, scissors, glue, coloring supplies. *Optional:* Additional craft supplies (pipecleaners, yarn, ribbons, sequins, etc).

## Instructions:

**Step 1:** Choose an environment in Alaska where berries grow. Look at the pictures on the next page for inspiration. What does the habitat look like? What animals live there?

**Step 2:** Create your habitat collage! Use the provided materials, or add other supplies you have available. Be creative!

**Step 3:** Color and glue berries and animals to your collage. You can use the ones provided, or draw your own.



## Think and Discuss:

How do berry-eating animals interact with each other and the environment?

Many people also depend on berries as a food source. How can we make sure there are enough berries for everyone?

In the far North, springs are coming earlier and summers are warmer. How do shifting seasons affect when berries are available to animals and people?

# Berries and Animals

Berries grow in different environments all over Alaska, including tundras, boreal forests, alpine meadows, and coastal rainforests. Different berry species thrive in different ecosystems.



## Tundra.

*Image: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.*



## Boreal Forest.

*Image: Alaskakids.org*



## Alpine Meadow.

*Image: US Forest Service.*



## Coastal Rainforest.

*Image: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.*

A variety of animals, such as bears, foxes, voles, grouse, ptarmigan, pikas, and marmots depend on berries as a main food source. Many of Alaska's berry-producing plants hold on to their fruits into the winter and spring, and these berries are an important source of nutrition for many animals during the long winter months.



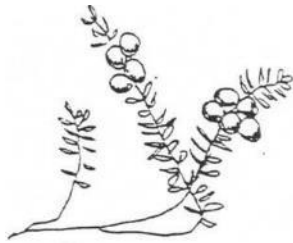
Bears foraging for berries.  
*Image: National Park Service.*

In the far North, springs are coming earlier, summers are warmer, and falls are more variable. Shifting seasons affect the abundance and condition of berries, impacting the animals and people who eat them. As berry availability changes, animals and people must adjust their behavior to adapt. Learn more about these changes and how you can help track berry conditions with the **Winterberry** project: [sites.google.com/alaska.edu/winterberry/home](https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/winterberry/home).

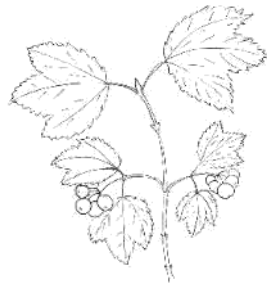
# Berries and Animals Printable



**Bog Blueberry**  
(*Vaccinium uliginosum*)



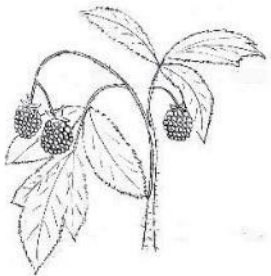
**Crowberry**  
(*Empetrum nigrum*)



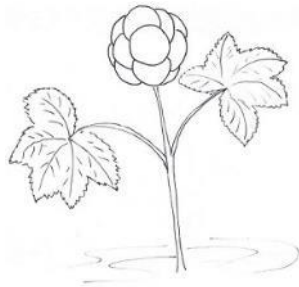
**Highbush Cranberry**  
(*Viburnum edule*)



**Rosehip [Prickly Rose]**  
(*Rosa acicularis*)



**Red Raspberry**  
(*Rubus idaeus*)



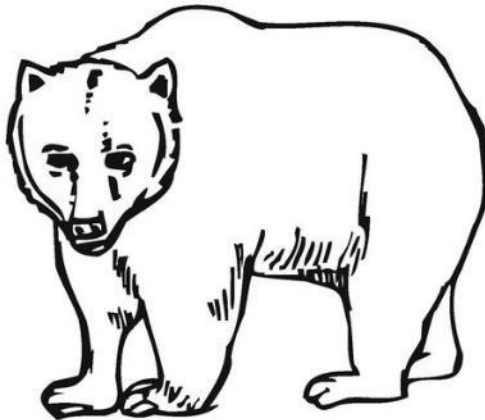
**Cloudberry [Salmonberry]**  
(*Rubus chamaemorus*)



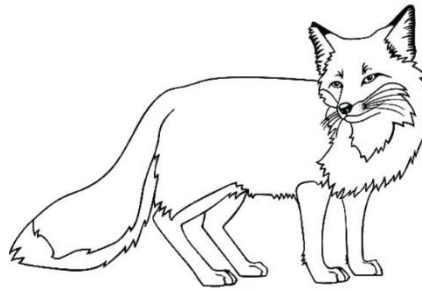
**Wild Strawberry**  
(*Fragaria virginiana*)



**Lowbush Cranberry [Lingonberry]**  
(*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*)



**Black Bear** (*Ursus americanus*)



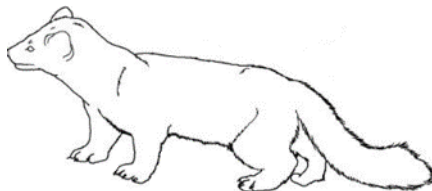
**Arctic Fox** (*Alopex lagopus*)



**Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*)



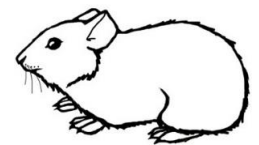
**Red Squirrel**  
(*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)



**American Marten** (*Martes americana*)



**Willow Ptarmigan**  
(*Lagopus lagopus*)



**Collared Pika**  
(*Ochotona collaris*)

**Note:** Images are not to scale.