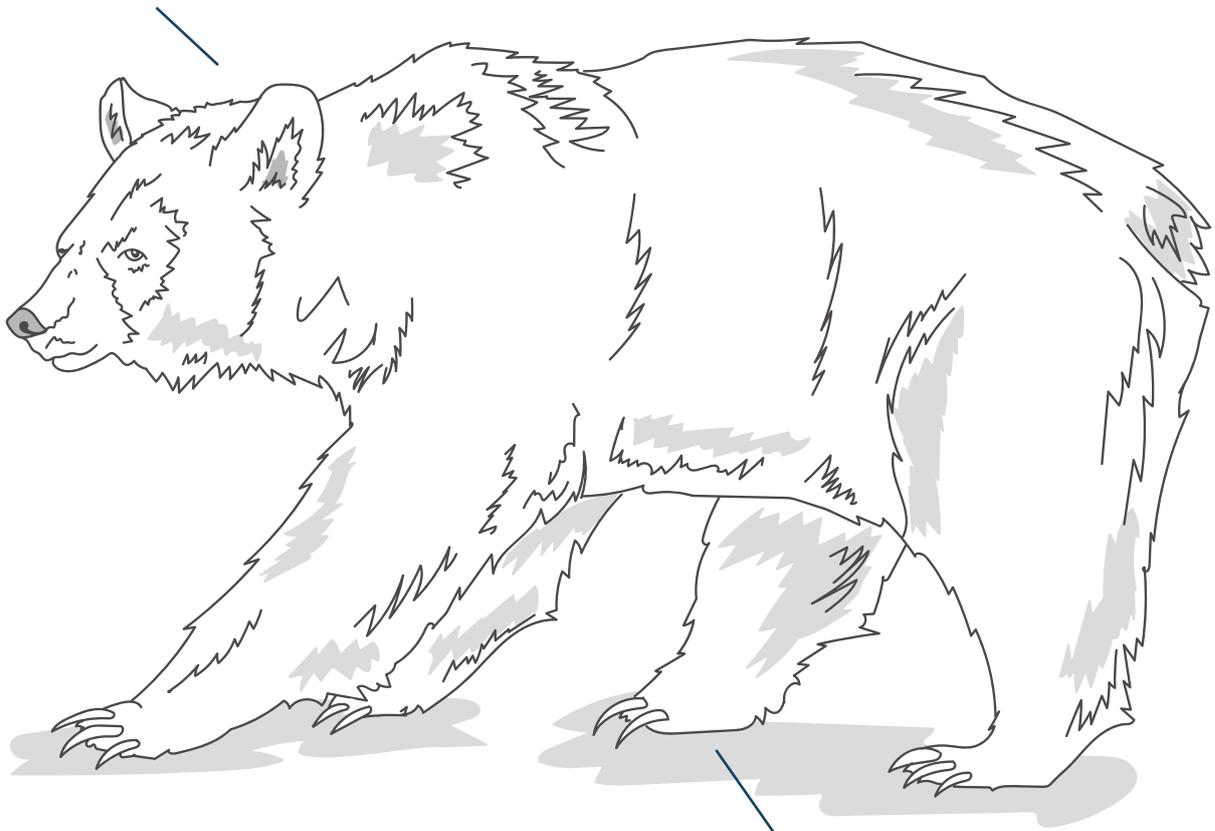


Ice Age Ireland Cool Fossils!

What happened to the Irish Brown Bear?

This is how the
closest living relative
of the Irish Brown
Bear looks today!



Did you know the fur of brown
bears can be black or cream,
as well as brown?

Did you know that brown bears lived in Ireland for many years?
They survived during the warmer stages of the ice age when the ice and snow had gone away.
They finally died out in Ireland about 3,000 years ago. Back then, our ancestors were clearing
the bear's habitat or home to make land for farming.

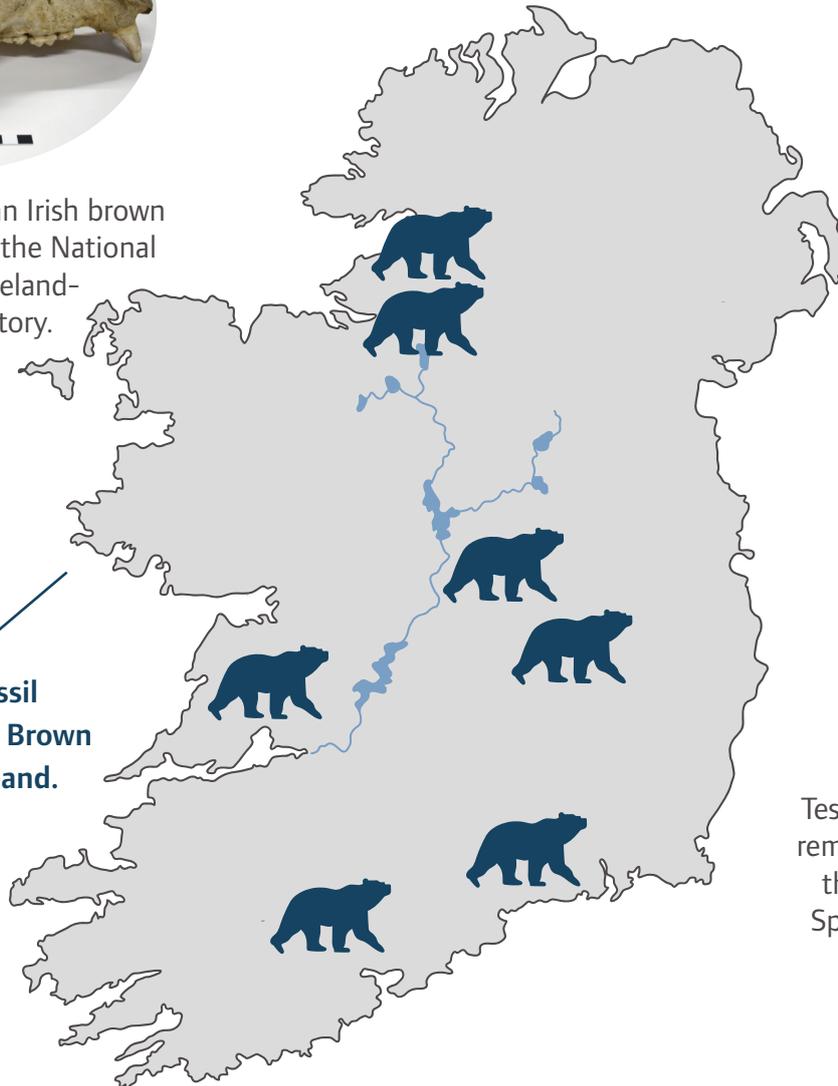
Ice Age Ireland Cool Fossils!

Did Bears Hunt for Salmon in the Shannon?



This is the fossil of an Irish brown bear skull that is in the National Museum of Ireland-Natural History.

Locations of Fossil Evidence of Ice Age Brown Bear found in Ireland.



Brown bears are omnivores meaning that eat both plants and animals. Scientists think that the brown bears fished for salmon in Irish rivers!



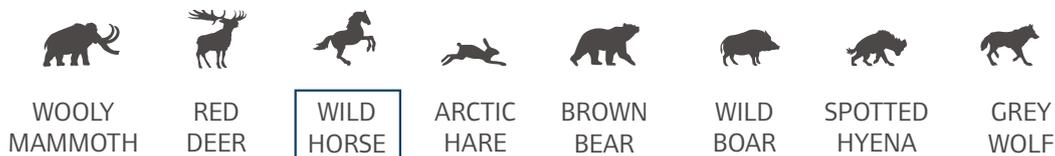
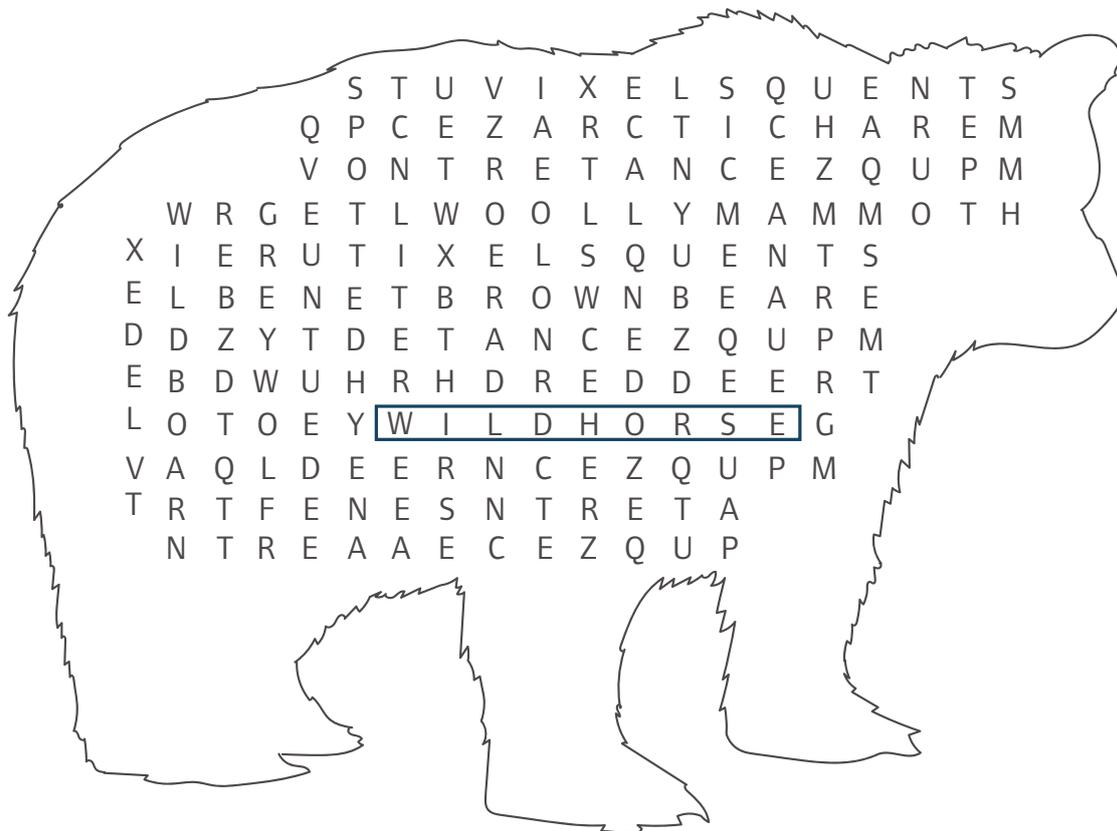
Tests on Irish brown bear remains have shown DNA that matches bears in Spain today. They must be related!

Did you know people found brown bear fossils in nearly 30 places across Ireland! They found them in Co. Cork, Co. Waterford, Co. Clare, Co. Laois, Co. Offaly, Co. Sligo and Co. Leitrim. Some of these fossils are around 42,000 years old!

Ice Age Ireland Cool Fossils!

Time to Excavate some ICE AGE Animals!

Word search



Look at this word search. How many ice age animals can you see? Just one? Look again. There are another seven fossil animals hiding in the letters inside the brown bear and it's your job to dig them out! So find a pencil and start searching for their names. When you find one name, draw a line around it and search for the next one. To get you started, we've excavated a wild horse.