

How to Care for a Bear

Where can I find Woolly Bear caterpillars?

- They can be found in lawns, shrubs, or on sides of houses.
- You can pick them up gently with your hands.

How do I care for my Woolly Bear?

- Put your Bear in a clear container with soil or paper towel on the bottom, and a lid with holes.
- Woolly bears eat goldenrod, dandelion, burdock, plantain, and some grasses. Feed your Bear fresh leaves daily.
- Clean out the frass (droppings) from the container often.
- Keep the container outside. A garage, shed, or even next to a house works well. The Woolly Bear must feel the cooling temperatures so it knows when to begin hibernating!

What do I do with my Woolly Bear in the Winter?

- When the weather turns colder, place dead leaves on the bottom of the container for the caterpillar to sleep under.
- Check your Bear often and mist with water if it looks dry.
- In the spring, when temperatures begin to reach 15° C, feed your caterpillar fresh leaves when it becomes active.

Help! My Woolly Bear made its cocoon!

- In the spring, and after your Bear makes its cocoon, the container can be moved indoors for easier observation.
- Place sticks in the container with the cocoon for the emerging moth to climb in order to dry its wings.
- Provide fresh flowers for your new moth to feed on.
- Release your moth outside a day or two after it emerges.



**Woolly Bear
weekends**

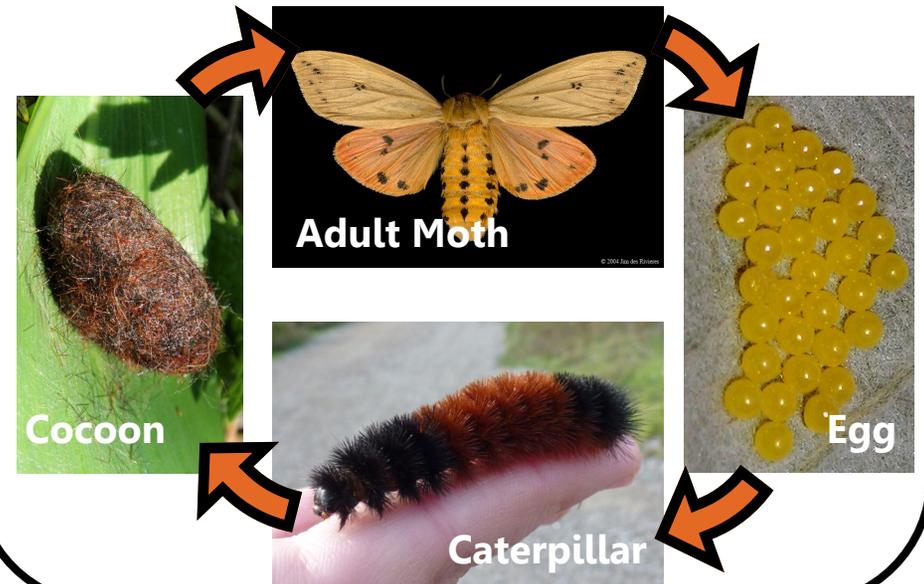
Join us for woolly crafts & activities
during weekends in October!

The Life and Times of Woolly Bears

The **Banded Woolly Bear** (*Pyrrharctia isabella*) is a very familiar insect across North America. In the autumn these caterpillars are actively searching for places to overwinter. The Woolly Bear caterpillar will turn into the Isabella Tiger Moth.

Since they are safe to handle, easy to take care of, and popular with children, they are an ideal insect to keep and observe throughout the winter and spring!

Isabella Tiger Moth *Pyrrharctia isabella*



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