



DISCOVERING MOUNTAIN PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS.

Link to our exhibit: "In the World: The Rockies above Timberline"

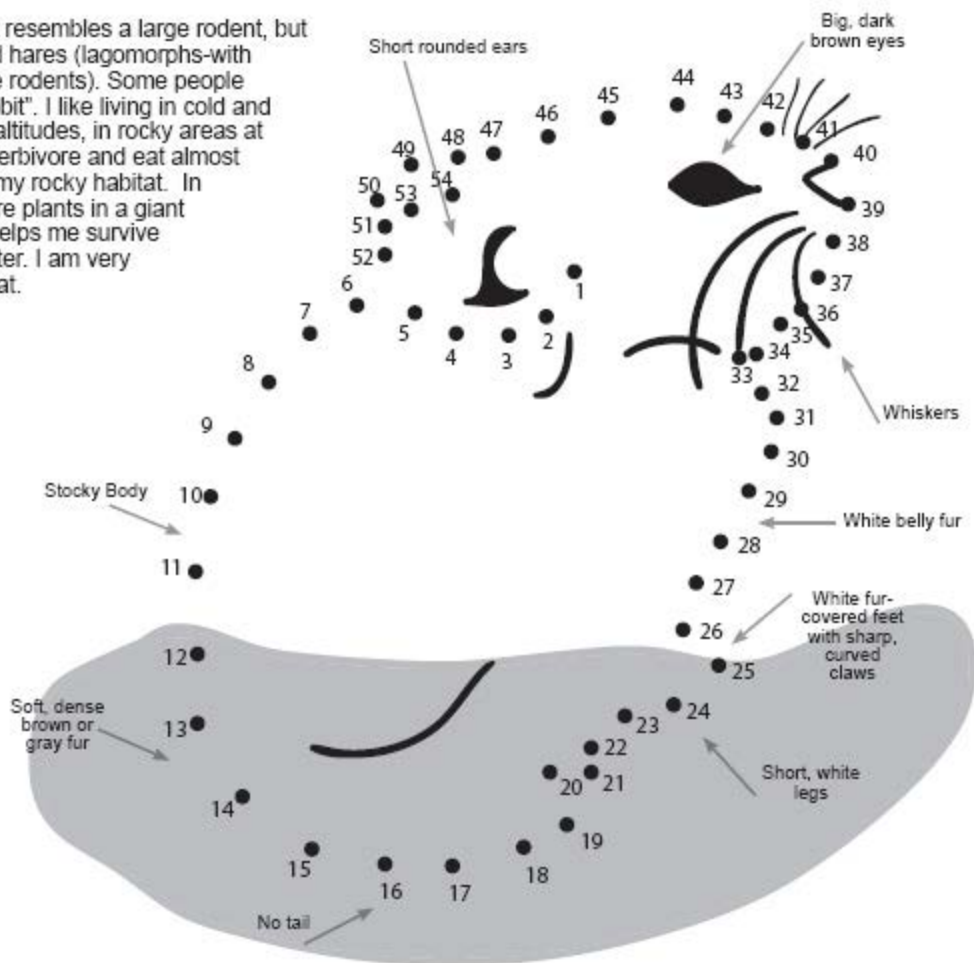
MOUNTAINS

There are two ways to get to a colder climate. One is to travel towards the Earth's poles; the other is to climb a mountain. The thermometer drops roughly one degree Fahrenheit for every 100 feet we ascend, about as much as traveling 100 miles closer to the North Pole. Changes in temperature result in changes in plant and animal life. The few species that thrive in these cool heights are wonderfully adapted to their surroundings. Plants grow close to the ground because this enables them to retain more heat. Animals, such as the Ptarmigan which even has feathers covering its toes in the winter, rely on thick insulation. Others, such as the yellow-bellied marmot, hibernate all winter. The following games will help you learn some of the unique plants and animals that live in the mountains.

GAME 1: WHAT IS THIS ANIMAL WELL ADAPTED TO LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS?

I am a small mammal that resembles a large rodent, but I am related to rabbits and hares (lagomorphs-with two sets of incisors, unlike rodents). Some people even call me the "rock rabbit". I like living in cold and dry environments at high altitudes, in rocky areas at the base of cliffs. I am a herbivore and eat almost anything that grows near my rocky habitat. In the summer, I dry and store plants in a giant hay pile. This food store helps me survive during the long alpine winter. I am very noisy when I bark and bleat.

Draw a line between the numbers and discover our secret animal?





GAME 2: Can you name these mountain plants by answering the following questions.

Hint 1-the letters of the answers are scrambled below.
Hint 2-all these plants are featured in our diorama.

1. My scientific name is *Acomastylis rossii*. You can find me in huge colonies in the tundra or in the mountains. My flowers are bright yellow, and my average size doesn't exceed 6 inches. My leaves are shiny and finely cut.

I am the _____

AASEELNNIPV

2. My latin name is *Lidia obtusiloba*. You can locate me easily at very high elevations where I grow on high, dry, rocky alpine ridges exposed to intense drying sun and wind. I form large dense mats of snow-white flowers.

I am the _____

TPANDSWNILAROE

3. My scientific name is *Rhodiola integrifolia*. My color, which ranges from maroon to almost iridescent blackish red, is a very distinguishing feature. I often grow in thick flattened patches making my flowers even more vivid and noticeable.

I am the _____

NRGKOCNSIW

4. My latin name is *Trollius albiflorus*. I often grow in the middle of Marsh Marigold patches. You can distinguish me by my leaves, which are palmate and cut deeply. I also have five petals versus seven or eight in Marsh Marigold and my petals are significantly broader and more rounded than those of Marsh Marigold's.

I am the _____

WEGFROEBLOL

5. My scientific name is *Noccaea montana*. Although I am a slim, small plant, I am noticeable because I often grow in large patches; providing a carpet of white flowers all spring and summer long.

I am the _____

DTYFWLIDACNUT

6. My latin name is *Myosotis sylvatica*. I am a cheerful little plant with a maximum height of 10 inches. I am a water-side wildflower, and do well in any moist spot. My name is based on a romantic legend: A medieval knight, gathering blue flowers along a stream for his lady love, was suddenly swept away by flood waters. As he disappeared, he tossed the bouquet to his lady with the immortal words, "Forget me not."

I am the _____

RADFOETOMEGWFTNR

7. My latin name is *Ranunculus eschscholtzii*. I am an extremely attractive plant, often found in dense clumps, with somewhat succulent 3-lobed wedge shaped leaves, frequently blooming in areas recently uncovered by snow melt. My bloom consists in a bright single yellow flower with five long shiny yellow petals at the tips of the stem.

I am the _____

PNSETBUOTWUCR

8. My name in latin is *Pulsatilla vulgaris*. I have a thick and somewhat woody root-stock, from which arises a rosette of finely-divided, stalked leaves, covered with silky hairs. My purple flowers are about 3 cm across and have six silky sepals. They are borne singly on stalks 5 to 8 inches in height.

I am the _____

WFOUQSAEPREL

9. My scientific name is *Primula parryi*. When high in the mountains, not long after the snow has melted, my magenta flowers and deep green leaves will catch your eye. My roots love wet soils so you will find me on waterfall ledges or snow-melt areas. But watch out! Touch me and I will bring out a most unpleasant odor.

I am the _____

SMRRAEORIPYRP

10. My latin name is *Micranthes rhomboidea*. I have tiny snowball flowers on a slender stalk. I am often lost in the middle of other foliage.

I am the _____

EAFXSLBOSGRIALAWN





11. My scientific name is *Caltha leptosepala*. I have two flowers per stem, with 5 to 12 white sepals. I grow best in wet alpine or subalpine places.

I am the _____.

DOIAHRMTHLGRMSAEIW

12. My latin name is *Primula malacoides*. I have beautiful large pink flowers organized in many-flowered groups. I am very hardy and I can tolerate temperature down to 26°F (-3°C), but high temperature will kill me.

I am the _____.

EOMRYIFSRIPRA

13. My scientific name is *Erysimum capitatum*. I am most often a vibrant lemon yellow, but I can also be white or lavender. I am relatively solitary, and grow isolated from other members of my own and other species.

I am the _____.

WLFOEALLWR

14. My latin name is *Castilleja rhexifolia*. I have a pure, iridescent pink color. But you will have to hike to alpine meadows and ridges for the spectacle.

I am the _____.

YOSRHPSAUIRNBT

