

DISCOVERING MOUNTAIN PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS.

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

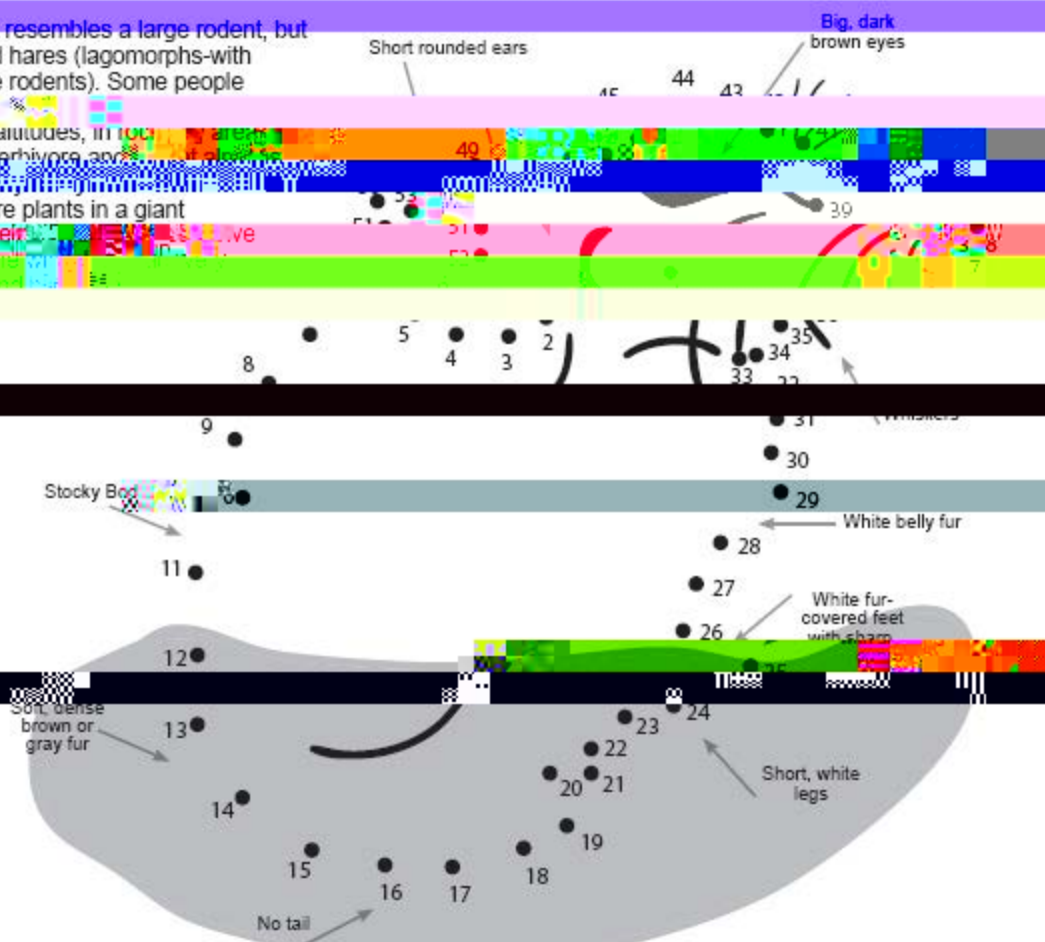
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There are two ways to get to a colder climate. One is to travel towards the Earth's poles. The other is to climb a mountain. The thermometer drops roughly 1 degree Fahrenheit for every 300 feet you climb. The closer you get to the North Pole, the colder it gets. Some animals, like marmots, thrive in these cool temperatures. They have adaptations that enable them to remain more near. Animals, such as timberline marmots, rely on thick insulation. Others, such as the yellow-bellied marmot, learn to hibernate. The following games will help you learn more about the unique plants and animals that live in the mountains.

GAME 1: WHAT IS THE ONLY MOUNTAIN MAMMAL?

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 squirrel". I live in dry environments at high altitudes, in the base of cliffs. I am a herbivore and during the summer, I dry and store plants in a giant hay pile. This food store helps me survive during the long, cold winter months.

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 *Aconitum napellus*. I grow in huge colonies in the tundra or in the meadows. My flowers are bright yellow, and my average height 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 winds 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 black-red, flattened patches making my flowers even more wild and noticeable.

I am the _____

NRGKOCNSIW

4. I am the middle of Marsh Marigold patches. You can identify 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 Marsh Marigold's.

I am the _____

WEGFROEBLOL

5. My scientific name is *Noccaea montana*. Although I am a slim, small plant, I am not hard to find. I 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 flowers about 1-2 inches. I am a water-side wildflower, and do well in any moist soil. My name is based on a romantic legend: A medieval knight, gathering blue flowers by a stream for his lady love, was suddenly swept away by flood waters. As he disappeared, he tossed the bouquet to his lady love.

I am the _____

RADFOETOMEGWFTYB

7. My latin name is *Primula aurantiaca*. I am an extremely attractive plant, often found in dense woods. I frequently bloom in the spring. My flowers are bright yellow with five long shiny yellow petals at the tips of the stem.

I am the _____

PNSEBOWICB...

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, petalled leaves, covered with silky hairs. The flowers are bell-shaped and have five sepals. They are borne singly on stalks 5 to 8 inches in height.

I am the _____

WFOLBQSAEPREL

9. I am the middle of Marsh Marigold patches. You can identify 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 Marsh Marigold's.

I am the _____

SMRRAEORIPYRP

10. My latin name is *Chamaenerion alpinum*. I have tiny snow-white 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 cymes. 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. I am often a vibrant lemon yellow, but I can also be white or
lavender. I am a hybrid of several species from
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 color. But you will have to hike to alpine
meadows and ridges for the spectacle.

I am the _____
JRNBT

