

Mountainspray
Holodiscus dumosus

1. This plant has very hard wood.
2. Indians made tools and hunting bows from the wood.
3. You can make the roots into red and brown dyes.



Rocky Mountain Juniper
Juniperus scopulorum

1. Indians have used juniper berries for food and medicine.
2. When the wood is burned, it makes a very hot, sweet-smelling fire.
3. The bark can be used to create ropes and padding.



Pinyon Pine
Pinus Edulis

1. Pinyon pines are short trees.
2. You can eat the big nuts found in the cones. Animals like them too!
3. The pine nuts are very good for you and can be ground up to make flour.



Yucca
Yucca glauca

1. Yucca plants have skinny, stiff, pointy leaves.
2. You can make a type of soap from the roots.
3. The long "strings" inside the leaves were used to make rope and the sharp points were used as needles.



Narrow Leaf Cottonwood *Populus angustifolia*

1. Cottonwood has deep grooves in its bark.
2. The cottonwood trees in our area have narrow leaves and many cotton-like seeds in the springtime.
3. Its wood is light and soft. Indians carved it into bowls and tools.



Indian Ricegrass *Oryzopsis hymenoides*

1. Indian ricegrass was an important food for Indians and is also eaten by elk, deer and antelope.
2. The seeds are easy to gather from the plant and can be eaten like rice or ground into flour.
3. This is one of the plants that can grow in the sand dunes.



Rocky Mountain Beeplant *Cleome serrulata*

1. The leaves of this plant are very good for you and were eaten by Indians.
2. Leaves were eaten raw or boiled down, dried, and stored for food.
3. The leaves were also used to make paint and a black dye.



Aspen *Populus tremuloides*

1. Dust from the aspen bark can be used to stop itching and for a sunscreen.
2. Indians used to eat parts of this tree, such as sap and inner bark.
3. Paddles, bowls, roof beams, and drums were carved from the wood.



Fringed Sage *Artemisia frigida*

1. This plant's leaves are white or green-grey. They are velvety and fuzzy.
2. Indians used this plant for tea and medicine. It helps soothe sore tummys.
3. Sage can be burned to keep mosquitoes away.



Prickly Pear Cactus *Opuntia polyacantha*

1. The prickly pear cactus is covered with spines. They protect the plant from animals who might want to eat it.
2. Prickly pear cactus has yellow or apricot flowers and fruits that can be eaten.
3. Pads can be roasted until the spines are burned off and then eaten.



Pronghorn Antelope *Antilocapra americana*

1. Antelopes can run up to 60 miles per hour.
2. They have very good eyesight. Their eye sockets are extended outward, helping them see to the side. This is called "peripheral vision".
3. They can detect movement from over four miles away.



Great Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle *Cicindela theatina*

1. This beetle is endemic to the Great Sand Dunes. That means it is found nowhere else in the world!
2. As a larvae (before it grows up), it lives in a hole in the sand and waits for prey insects to snatch as they pass above.
3. Adult tiger beetles can catch other insects in flight.



American Bison *Bison bison*

1. This animal used to be found in most of the United States, Canada, and parts of Mexico. Now bison are found only on nature preserves and in parks.
2. Bison eat mostly grasses and sedges.
3. Weighing up to one ton, the American bison is the largest native land animal in North America.



Great Sand Dunes Giant Sand Treader Camel Cricket *Daihinibaenetes giganteus*

1. The Great Sand Dunes camel cricket comes out at dusk and feeds during the night (it is nocturnal).
2. This species has special spines on its legs that help it dig in the sand.
3. It eats plants and other insects.



Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*

1. As a predator, great horned owls try to catch and eat most animals smaller than a jackrabbit.
2. Some say these owls have ears or horns, but they aren't ears or horns at all. They are just tufts of feathers.
3. Great horned owls make this sound, who-who-ah-who, who-ah-who.



American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

1. In the summer, you can find these birds at the lakes west of the dunes.
2. The white pelican feeds on fish, crayfish and large salamanders.
3. A pelican's large bill pouch helps catch fish.



Coyote *Canis latrans*

1. Coyotes can be found just about anywhere at Great Sand Dunes, from the dunefield, to the grasslands, and all the way up to the alpine peaks.
2. Although coyotes hunt small mammals, amphibians, and larger insects.
3. They are also scavengers and will eat just about anything they find dead or alive.



Sandhill Cranes *Grus canadensis*

1. Grassland and wetland areas near the dunes give sandhill cranes a place to rest while they migrate in spring and fall.
2. When migrating, cranes can fly up to 500 miles in nine to ten hours.
3. They eat seeds, berries, leaves, roots, insects, and other small animals.



Hummingbird Moth *Hemaris thysbe*

1. Adult hummingbird moths can be found in the late spring or summer, feeding on the nectar from many kinds of flowers.
2. They hover in front of flowers when feeding, like a hummingbird does.
3. They use a long mouth part called a proboscis to feed. It looks like a thin hummingbird bill or straw. The proboscis is coiled up when not feeding.



Horned Lizard *Phrynosoma hernandesi*

1. This small camouflaged lizard can be found from the dunes to the alpine areas.
2. Horned lizards eat insects and really like ants.
3. When predators are near, they can inflate their bodies with air, which causes their spines to poke out, making them less appealing to eat!

