

Colorado National Monument

Environmental Education

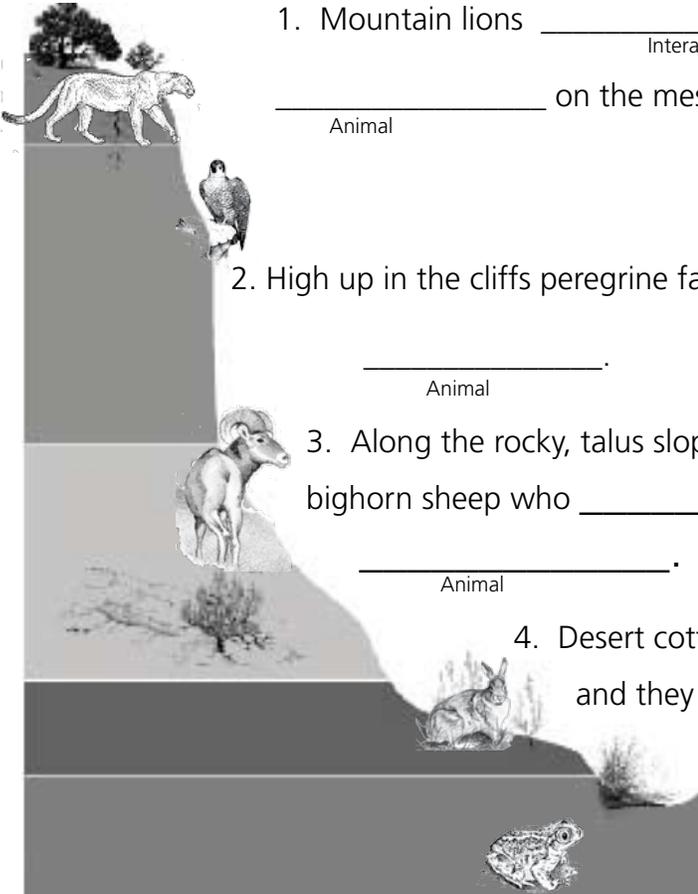
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Animal Adaptations: Post-Field Trip Activity
(4th grade, An Alcove for an Abode, Desert Dwellers)

Name _____

Complete the five sentences below by writing an interaction and an animal that lives in each life zone. There is more than one correct answer for each sentence.



1. Mountain lions _____
Interaction
_____ on the mesa tops.
Animal

2. High up in the cliffs peregrine falcons _____
Interaction
_____.
Animal

3. Along the rocky, talus slopes you can find desert bighorn sheep who _____
Interaction
_____.
Animal

4. Desert cottontail rabbits are often in the sagebrush meadows and they _____
Interaction _____
Animal

5. If you walk along the dry stream beds in the bottom of the canyons, you may see spadefoot toads who _____
Interaction _____
Animal

Animals that live here:

- midget faded rattlesnakes
- golden eagles
- mule deer
- coyote
- collared lizards
- ringtails
- quails
- swallows
- turkey vultures

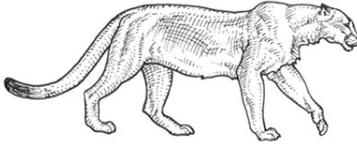
Interactions:

- prey on
- are hunted by
- share the habitat with
- compete for food with



Desert Bighorn Sheep

- Sticky hooves
- Large horns
- Light brown color
- Pants like a dog
- Eyes on the side of the head
- Teeth for grinding



Mountain Lion

- Good jumper
- Good climber
- Stalks prey quietly
- Tan color
- Eyes on the front of the head
- Teeth for tearing

Select either the Desert Bighorn Sheep or the Mountain Lion and choose two adaptations from the list.

Explain how those adaptations help the animal survive.

Example: Teeth for grinding help the desert bighorn sheep survive because it is an herbivore and needs teeth that can grind plants. (Sorry, you may not use this example in your answers.)

1) _____

2) _____

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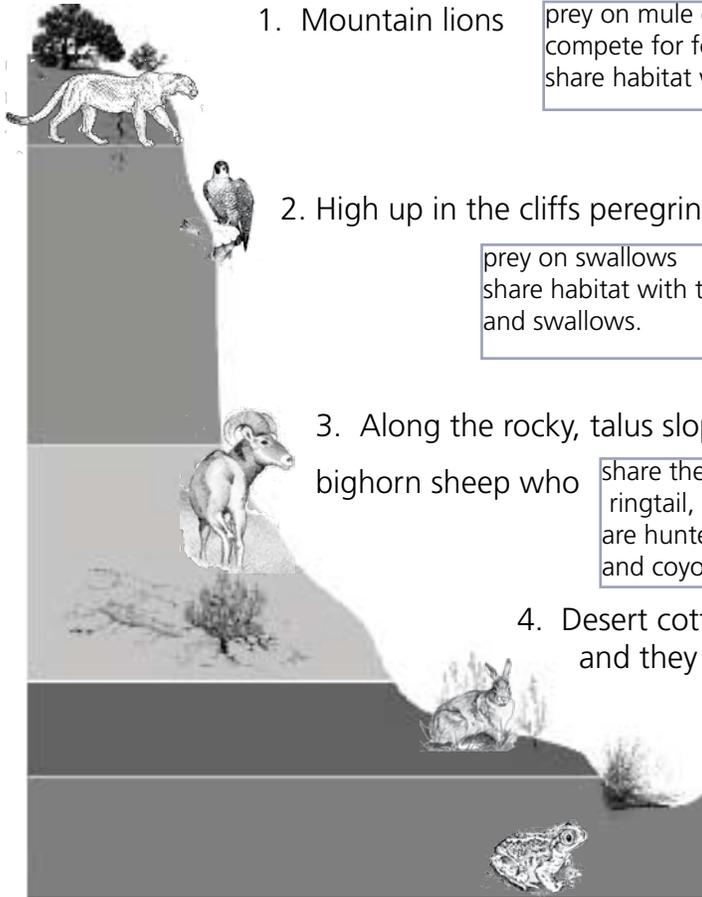


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(4th grade, *An Alcove for an Abode, Desert Dwellers*)

Name _____

Answer Key

Complete the five sentences below by writing an interaction and an animal that lives in each life zone. There is more than one correct answer for each sentence.



1. Mountain lions prey on mule deer and cottontail rabbits. compete for food with coyote share habitat with deer, coyote, rattlesnakes on the mesa tops.

2. High up in the cliffs peregrine falcons prey on swallows share habitat with turkey vultures, golden eagles and swallows.

3. Along the rocky, talus slopes you can find desert bighorn sheep who share the habitat with rattlesnakes, ringtail, collared lizards, mt. lions are hunted by mt. lion. golden eagles and coyote will hunt young sheep.

4. Desert cottontail rabbits are often in the sagebrush meadows and they are hunted by coyote, rattlesnake, golden eagles, mt. lion. share the habitat with deer, coyote, lizards, quails, mt. lion and rattlesnakes

5. If you walk along the dry stream beds in the bottom of the canyons, you may see spadefoot toads who are hunted by coyote, ringtails, rattlesnakes share the habitat with deer, coyote, lizards, quails, mt. lion compete for food with lizards

Animals that live here:

midget faded rattlesnakes
golden eagles
mule deer
coyote
collared lizards
ringtails
quails
swallows
turkey vultures

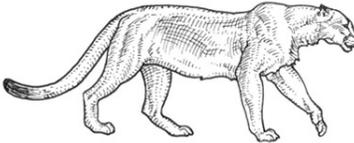
Interactions:

prey on
are hunted by
share the habitat with
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Sticky hooves
Large horns
Light brown color
Pants like a dog
Eyes on the side of the head
Teeth for grinding

Desert Bighorn Sheep



Good jumper
Good climber
Stalks prey quietly
Tan color
Eyes on the front of the head
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Mountain Lion

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Example: Teeth for grinding help the desert bighorn sheep survive because it is an herbivore and needs teeth that can grind plants. (Sorry, you may not use this example in your answers.)

Desert Bighorn Sheep

Sticky hooves: helps to climb, avoid predators
Large horns: can fight other males to earn females
Light brown color: helps camouflaged from predators
Pants like a dog: Gets rid of heat to survive desert
Eyes on the side: Can see predators all around
Teeth for grinding: Herbivore - see example.

Mountain Lion

Good jumper: surprises prey to eat
Good climber: Helps hide from prey
Can stalk (sneak up) quietly: Helps surprise prey
Tan color: Camouflaged from prey
Eyes on the front: Judges distance to attack prey
Teeth for tearing:
Carnivore -sharp teeth for ripping meat.

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Plant Adaptations: Post-Field Trip Activity
(4th grade, *An Alcove for an Abode, Desert Dwellers*)

Name _____

Draw a line to match the plant with the adaptation clue.



Juniper Tree

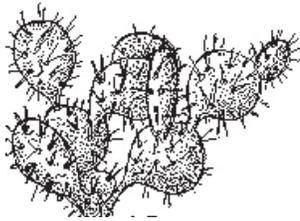
Adaptation Clues

I have hairy leaves which keep moisture inside. I give off a strong smell, which warns animals not to eat me.



Sagebrush

I have deep roots which break apart rocks as I search for water. My scale-like leaves keep moisture inside.



Prickly Pear Cactus

I have shallow roots that absorb water quickly after a storm. I store water in my stem (pads). My spines provide shade and direct rain water down to my roots.

Remember all the parts of a plant? Roots, stems, leaves, and flowers or seeds all have a function that helps the plant. Create a plant that has an adaptation (a tool) that helps it survive in the desert. Maybe it has unique roots for gathering water or maybe the leaves do something special to avoid the heat. Be creative. Imagine a plant that will thrive in the high desert of Colorado National Monument.

Draw a picture of your plant and explain one adaptation it has.

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Answer Key

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Juniper Tree

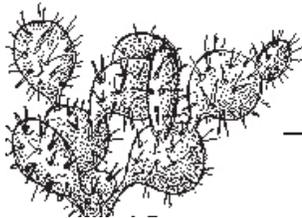
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Answers will vary.

Encourage students to explain how and why their adaptation helps the plant survive.