
SUN

Some think of me as a god. True, I do supply the essentials to life as we know it, but I really am interested in physics and nuclear science. I tend to act a little more in the extreme when I am in the high country, but that is only because that country is closer to my heart.



SUN

WHITEBARK PINE

I like open south slopes near timberline. I am food for nearly every animal up here. I have purplish food wrappers and only sell my produce during late summer and early fall. I like fires because they invigorate me and help my reproduce. My kind has an exotic disease which has nearly wiped me out. My low population has changed the rhythms and energy of the entire high country.



WHITEBARK PINE

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

I like to travel everywhere in the high country. I plant a certain kind of tree, scratching its seed just right and burying it at the perfect depth. I eat quite a few of them, but I'm a real "Johnny Pineseed," because I plant nearly a million seeds every year, and I know where every one is!



CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

FIRE

I love to go wild. I like it where it is hot and dry – I live longer in those conditions. Some people consider me destructive, but I am essential to anybody who needs a little sun, and I help the high country stay healthy. Without me, everything becomes darker and less fertile.



FIRE

SUBALPINE FIR

I like the shade. Eventually, I will outnumber everybody in this country. I don't like fire, because it sets me back a hundred years and helps my rivals. I can clone myself by just touching the ground with my arms!



SUBALPINE FIR

RED SQUIRREL

I like to bury seeds, but I prefer to leave them in their cases. Instead of spreading them around, I would rather make a huge pile right near where they grow. A few giants loot my storage sheds every year, and some of them even eat me! But, I am usually too fast to catch.



RED SQUIRREL

GRIZZLY BEAR

I like to think of myself as shy – someone who minds his own business. I like bugs, grasses, roots, berries, and seeds to eat, and to me, dinner time is 24 hours a day. I am an expert at traveling to the proper restaurant for the season. Sometimes I sleep for a while, and even have young while I'm sleeping.



GRIZZLY BEAR

SNOW

I protect many high country citizens with my warmth, even though some think of me as cool. The higher the place, the more I like it. I am the provider of water, and “clean up” the mountains every year.



SNOW

AVALANCHE

I like to make paths through the woods. Huckleberries appreciate me, and so does everyone who likes huckleberries. I usually live for less than a minute, but I have lots of fun in that minute! Without me, the high forest would stagnate and get boring.



AVALANCHE

HUCKLEBERRY

In the late summer, I get visits from many high country citizens. My popularity is a matter of good taste. I like to live in the sun, but not if there is too much of it... Giants like to lie around near me, nibbling until their lips turn blue. I'm rather fickle, though, and won't be around much in some years.



HUCKLEBERRY

BEES AND WASPS

I am a courier, carrying important packages for plants. They can't reproduce without me. In return for my services, they give me a drink and I'm on my way.



BEES AND WASPS

BLACK BEAR

I like the forest better than my giant cousin. He doesn't like me very close to him, so I climb out of the way when we are in the same restaurant. I eat lots of the same foods, but like to get the food before it comes out of the kitchen. We both need lots of sleep. We are very much alike because we eat the same things – except he eats a little more “wiggly” food that I do.



BLACK BEAR

GLACIER LILY

I too like sunny slopes. I'm very pretty, but I have sweet feet that giants like to eat. Fortunately, the giants also help to plant my offspring by digging up the ground. I like the air thin and clear, and I am named after a cold, slow monster.



GLACIER LILY

GLACIER

I measure time differently than most things. Every time I blink, the plants and animals are different. In Glacier, I move 3-5 cm per day in the summer. My ancestors were huge compared to me. Some think that I am doomed, and will be extinct in a hundred years or so.



GLACIER

CUTWORM MOTH

I like to live out on the prairie, but in the summer, I can't stand all that heat. I move by the billions to the high country and cool off under loose rocks. Cranky giants like to eat me by the thousands, because I have so much fat and protein. No matter. I reproduce by the billions every year.



CUTWORM MOTH

LANDSLIDE

I am very sluggish until the frost pushes me around or the world gets “all shook up.” Once in a great while, I get a bit violent, and everyone fears me. But most of the time, I sit on hills, pondering the “gravity” of my situation. Rodents climb around inside of me, using me as a house.



LANDSLIDE

LIMBER PINE

I love the wind, so I hang out on the ridges where the Chinooks blow hard (mostly the east side of the mountains). My arms are flexible and wave around in the wind, but my legs are solid and keep me in the same place. I have seeds in oval packages that some birds seem to like.



LIMBER PINE

LADYBUG

I hibernate in the high country because snow keeps me from drying out. I'm kind of cute, even though aphids don't think so. Sometimes there are so many of me that the rocks in the high country look like pumpkins. Giants lap me up like ice cream during the early fall.



LADYBUG

MARMOT

I am a bit of a cave-dweller, but I like to get fat and lazy in the sun when I feel safe. I am the security system for most of the high country animals because I have a loud alarm. Some giants are so strong that they just dig up my caves and eat me. They scare me. I suppose, though, that grass and roots feel the same way about me... In the mountains, I almost always see my shadow!



MARMOT

COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL

I make my own cave system – for my siblings and I. I like to live in open areas where I scurry around with my buddies eating vegetables. I go to sleep early in the fall, and big giants dig me up after I'm asleep, which doesn't seem fair. My sleep is the deepest sleep of any other citizen.



COLUMBIAN GROUND SQUIRREL

ELK

I go low in the winter and high in the summer. I'm very social with my kind, and I like to sleep in the woods and eat in the open. When giants show up, I can usually outrun them and put miles between us. I like to sing like a flute in the fall, mostly to attract girls...



ELK

CROSSBILL

I like to travel in the pines. I have a special tool, like a staple-puller, that I use to remove seeds from their packages. I hang upside-down on the packages to use the special tool.



CROSSBILL

BLUE GROUSE

I like to hang out in the pines and eat needles. I am a little bigger than most of my relatives, and I like to be on high ridges in the winter, where the wind clears snow from my food. Two-leggeds like to eat me sometimes. I puff up my neck and make a woo-woo-wooeing sound when I'm wooing girls. They love it.



BLUE GROUSE

NORTHERN FLICKER

I like to eat ants from anthills using my long, sticky tongue. Sometimes I like to just sit on the anthill and let the ants eat my parasites. Then I eat the ants! I make my home in pine tree trunks in the high country. I've got a special jack-hammer for wood-working.



NORTHERN FLICKER