

Mountain Goats: Amazing Climbing Animals

Grade 4

Science

Nonfiction

Mountains Theme

~140 words

NGSS.4-LS1-2

Name: _____ Date: _____

▢ READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.

Mountain goats are incredible climbers that live in the Rocky Mountains. Their special body structures help them survive in steep, rocky places. Mountain goats have hard hooves with soft centers that grip rocky surfaces like rubber. These special feet keep them from slipping on dangerous cliffs. Their strong back legs give them powerful jumping ability. A mountain goat can jump up to twelve feet in a single leap! Their short, stocky bodies help them balance on narrow rocky ledges. Long horns on their heads are used for protection and fighting other goats. These animals also have thick fur that keeps them warm in cold mountain weather. The thick fur grows longer in winter months. Every part of a mountain goat's body is designed for mountain life. Their structures make them perfectly adapted to survive in one of Earth's toughest environments.

▢ Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.

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Questions

⇒ **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what can mountain goats' hooves do?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'adapted' mean in the passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why would mountain goats need powerful back legs and strong jumping ability?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. Why does the thick fur of mountain goats grow longer in winter?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. How far can a mountain goat jump in a single leap?

✓ ANSWER KEY — Mountain Goats: Amazing Climbing Animals

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Mountain goats are incredible climbers that live in the Rocky Mountains. Their special body structures help them survive in steep, rocky places. Mountain goats have hard hooves with soft centers that grip rocky surfaces like rubber. These special feet keep them from slipping on dangerous cliffs. Their strong back legs give them powerful jumping ability. A mountain goat can jump up to twelve feet in a single leap! Their short, stocky bodies help them balance on narrow rocky ledges. Long horns on their heads are used for protection and fighting other goats. These animals also have thick fur that keeps them warm in cold mountain weather. The thick fur grows longer in winter months. Every part of a mountain goat's body is designed for mountain life. Their structures make them perfectly adapted to survive in one of Earth's toughest environments.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

The passage is mostly about how mountain goats' special body structures help them survive and climb in the Rocky Mountains.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what can mountain goats' hooves do?

According to the passage, mountain goats have hard hooves with soft centers that grip rocky surfaces like rubber and keep them from slipping on cliffs.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'adapted' mean in the passage?

Adapted means designed or suited to survive in a particular environment or place.

INFERENCE

4. Why would mountain goats need powerful back legs and strong jumping ability?

Mountain goats need powerful back legs and jumping ability to move across steep, rocky mountains where they cannot walk normally and must leap between ledges.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. Why does the thick fur of mountain goats grow longer in winter?

The thick fur grows longer in winter to keep the goats warm in the extremely cold mountain weather during that season.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. How far can a mountain goat jump in a single leap?

According to the passage, a mountain goat can jump up to twelve feet in a single leap.