YELLOWSTONE ANIMALS

DIGITAL READING PASSAGES & QUESTIONS



LASSROO

GRADES 3–5 Created by: Shelly Rees

YELLOWSTONE ANIMALS READING PASSAGE SHORTCUTS WITH QUESTIONS

BIGHORN SHEEP

Crash! Two bighorn sheep with similar sized horns knock heads in a classic show of the collision-style fighting these animals are known for. With horns weighing up to 40 pounds, bighorn sheep often fight during mating season. Inside these animals' heads, there are two layers of bone to help absorb shock and protect the brain as they ram into each other **repeatedly**. They continue to charge at each other, reaching speeds of 20 miles per hour! Finally, one of the rams gives up and walks away.

Bighorn sheep are known to inhabit many areas of the Rocky Mountains, including in Yellowstone National Park. Currently, about 345 sheep live in and around the park. These hooved creatures spend their time grazing on grasses and shrubs. During the summer months, bighorn sheep live higher up in the mountains. However, during the winter, they seek out lower pastures where food is more plentiful.

Predators of bighorn sheep include wolves, cougars, and coyotes. Golden eagles are also known for seeking out young lambs just after birth. To avoid predators, female bighorn sheep, called ewes, give birth high up in the mountains on ledges. However, eagles can still reach

Each informational passage is high-interest and designed for a reading in a short time-frame. The questions are both multiple choice and open ended.

YELLOWSTONE ANIMALS READING PASSAGE SHORTCUTS WITH QUESTIONS

How much can a bighorn sheep's horns weigh? *	
O 40 pounds	
O 345 pounds	
○ 50 pounds	
What does the word "repeatedly" mean? *	
O in a forceful way	
O again and again	
About how many sheep live in and around Yellowstone National Park? *	
Your answer	
Name 4 predators of bighorn sheep. *	
Your answer	
Why do females give birth high up in the mountains on ledges? *	
Why do females give birth high up in the mountains on ledges? *	

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YELLOWSTONE ANIMALS

INCLUDES PRINTABLE VERSIONS

		BLACK BEAR	ANSWER THE QUESTIONS
COYOTES Highly adaptable and smart, a coyote runs across an open meadow at Yellowstone Park, searching for its next meal. These canine creatures, often confused with wolves, are actually quite small. They are smaller than big dogs like German Shepherds, but bigger than foxes. Unfortunately, coyotes are often misunderstood. They play an important role in Yellowstone Park and their other natural habitats.	ANSWER THE QUESTIONS Name Date 1. Coyotes are often confused with which animals? a) foxes b) rodents c) wolves 2. What does the word adaptable mean? a) able to adjust or change b) small in size	One of the largest mammals you might spot if you visit Yellowstone National Park is the black bear. This bear can weigh up to 300 pounds and measures about three feet tail when standing on all four feet. Despite what its name suggests, about fifty percent of this species of bear are actually brown or blond in color. This bear is perfectly adapted for life in the forest.	Name Date 1. In the fall months, how many hours per day do bears spend eating? a) 45 b) 20 c) 12 2. What does the word omnivore mean? a) meat-eating b) plant-eating c) meat and plant-eating
In the wild, coyotes eat small animals such as mice, voles, rabits, carrion, and baby elik when born in the spring. This helps control these animal populations. However, as adaptable creatures, coyotes have also learned to eat trash and roadkill. Coyotes also occasionally eat livestock and pets. These behaviors have led to conflicts with humans. Humans often kill coyotes. In recent years, Vellowstone Rangers scare coyotes away from areas where visitors spand time in the park. This helps avoid attacks and other conflicts. Coyotes are social creatures known for their vocal communications often compared to singing. Like wolves, coyotes can often be heard howing either adare, or in groups. They also communicate through their scents which they mark with urine and foces. Even so, some coyotes live alone. However, many pairs mate for extended periods of time and mark their shorts their wold plane.	BIGHORN SHEEP . Crash! Two bighom sheep with similar sized homs knock heads in a classic show of the collision-style fighting these animals are known for. With homs weigh up to 40 pounds, bighom sheep often fight during matin season. Inside these animals' heads, there are two laye of bone to help absorb shock and protect the brain as they ram into each other repeatedy . They continue to charge at each other, recating speeds of 20 miles per hourd Finally, one of the rams gives up and walks away. Bighom sheep are known to inhabit many areas of th Rocky Mountains, including in Yellowstene Nationa P an Currently, about 345 sheep live in and around the park. These howed creatures speed their time rarzing on	a) 40 pounds b) 345 pounds c) 50 pounds h S 2. What does the word repeatedly mean? d a) in a forceful way b) again and again d 3. About how many sheep live in and around Yellowstone National Park? a	Describe the size of a black bear. During which months does a black bear hibernate? Name 4 foods that a black bear eats. a) b) c) d) What is the purpose of this passage? a) to inform b) to entertain c) to persuade 7. What caused the bears to become too comfortable
Aith mortai cosysta of contr America is? It's the biaon. Males weigh up to 2.00 while females generally weigh about 1.000 pound is place these enromes creatures continue to wild is at Yellowstone National Park. Dating from times, this special herd is the only place bison still their natural behaviors. Bison spend most of their time grazing in grass and meadows. They spend up to 11 hours eating basis. Like cows, bison also ruminate. This mear regurgitate a small amount of the grass they'ee a chew it again. Then, using the multi-chambered s the bison continue to digest their food. Bison are so large that they only face two preci- besides humans. Grizzly bears and wolves hunt eat and occasionally succeed in Alling them. Who are found outside of the park, people sometimes i solit them. Nearly 5,000 bison now live in Yellowstone. He this is becoming problematic as the populations a increasing. Like many animals, bison migrate to elevations in the writer where they can find more means bison herds leave the protected and warder into areas of Montan. Turnetly, Yellowstone park officional the number of bison in the herd to reol	Answer the question Name	Boges? COLCARS Rarely seen, powerful big cats lurk in the trees and rugged mountain areas of Yellowstone National Park. Cougars, or mountain lions, are difficult to catch a glimpse of because of their solitary and elusive nature. However, it is this same behavior that helps them survive. Cougars generally live on their own as adults. Male cougar agrees in their territories may overlap with male territories without any problems. Weighing uncomparise kill. Nature of the cougar way retained to any overlap with the cougar agrees in their territories, animals like or the cougar of the longer kill. When a count is the cougar system without any problems. Weighing uncomparise kills and by killing the cougar agree of the longer may retailate by killing the couger. Boncurs of the longer mane spatiated by killing the couger.	around people, resulting in injuries?

ANSWER KEYS INCLUDED!