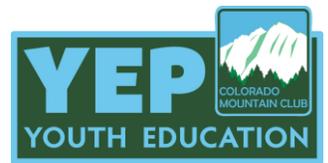


Ecology: Guess the Animal



Use your skills of deduction while learning a little more about some Colorado animals!

Grades: 1st-8th

Length: 10-15 mins or more

Materials (optional):

- Animal print outs
- Clothespins/tape

- This activity works best in pairs. Each person chooses an animal that might live in Colorado.
 - You can either think it up in your mind or attach a picture/ clothespin/ note to your partner's back without your partner seeing what animal they "are." (see next page *Animal Facts & Picture*)
- Take turns asking your partner yes/no questions in order to guess which animal they are thinking of/ which animal is attached to your back
- For younger students, it can be helpful to give them ideas of what to ask
 - Examples: Do I have four legs? Do I have fur? Do I have sharp teeth? Do I fly? Do I climb trees? Do I sleep during the winter? Am I bigger than you? Bigger than a cat?
- Both by questioning and answering, new knowledge will be gained and when each person correctly identifies their animal, they can get pick another one and try again.

This game is similar to 20 questions. If it too hard for youngsters, allow more than yes or no answers. If it seems too easy, you can put a limit on the number of questions each of you can ask.

This is a great activity to use while on a walk or hike!

Some Common Colorado Animals: (see following pages for Animal Facts & Pictures)

- Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Coyote
- Yellow-bellied Marmot
- Abert's Squirrel
- Elk
- Mule Deer
- Moose
- Bighorn Sheep
- Mountain Goat
- Downy Woodpecker
- Wild Turkey
- Mountain Chickadee
- Broad-Tailed Hummingbird
- American Robin
- Red Tailed Hawk
- Black Billed Magpie



Black Bear

- Diet: leaves, berries, fruit, roots, flowers, some insects
- Habitat: Forests
- Fun Fact: Black Bears lose between 20 and 40% of their body weight during their winter hibernation!



Mountain Lion

- Diet: Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats, Elk, Moose, Beavers, mice, rabbits
- Habitat: Remote, wooded, rocky areas
- Fun Fact: Mountain Lions can run 50 miles an hour and leap 15 feet into a tree!



Coyote

- Diet: Squirrels, mice, hares, birds, amphibians, reptiles, some berries and plants
- Habitat: mixed and coniferous forests, meadows, agricultural land
- Fun Fact: Coyotes use a wide variety of vocalizations to communicate, from howls and yelps to growls and squeals.



Yellow-bellied Marmot

- Diet: Grassy and herbaceous vegetation
- Habitat: Rocky Subalpine slopes
- Fun Fact: Marmots love sunbathing! When they're in the sun, their body temperature can reach up to 104 degrees.



Abert's Squirrel

- Diet: Pinecones, the inner bark of pine twigs, pine buds, and some fungi
- Habitat: Ponderosa pine forests
- Fun Fact: Abert's Squirrels build tree nests out of twigs and leaves that can be up to 3 feet in diameter!



Elk

- Woody plants, fallen leaves, grasses, sedges
- Habitat: Upland forests and prairies
- Fun Fact: Elk antlers, made of fast growing bone, can grow up to an inch in a single day!

	<p>Mule Deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Grass, forbs, shrubs • Habitat: Grasslands, mixed or coniferous forests, montane valleys, and subalpine areas • Fun Fact: Mule Deer's sense of smell is 1,000 times stronger than humans!
	<p>Moose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Twigs, branches, shrubs, grasses, and aquatic plants • Habitat: riparian valleys, near lakes and bogs, deciduous, mixed, and coniferous forests • Fun Fact: Moose often dive to depths of more than 13 feet to find aquatic plants rich in salt and minerals!
	<p>Bighorn Sheep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Broad-leaved, non-woody plants and grasses • Habitat: Non-forested, mountainous areas with cliffs, steep riverbanks, and gullied badlands of desert environments • Fun Fact: Bighorn Sheep have two-toed, split hooves that help them balance on treacherous terrain!
	<p>Mountain Goat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Shrubs, mosses, lichen, forbs, grasses, sedges, rushes, and mineral-rich soil • Habitat: Steep slopes and rocky cliffs in alpine or subalpine areas • Fun Fact: Mountain Goats are expert mountaineers! They can fit all four of their hooves on a ledge as small as 6 inches long and 2 inches wide.
	<p>Downy Woodpecker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Insects, fruit, seeds, sap • Habitat: Deciduous forests, riparian woodlands, orchards, parks with many trees • Fun Fact: Downy Woodpeckers are the smallest woodpeckers in North America, often weighing only 21 grams, which is .04 of a pound!
	<p>Wild Turkey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Plant matter, fruit, acorns, nuts, seeds, some insects • Habitat: Open forests with interspersed clearings • Fun fact: Turkey's heads change color with excitement and emotion, ranging from red to white and even blue!

	<p>Mountain Chickadee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Insects, spiders, seeds, nuts • Habitat: Evergreen and aspen forests • Fun Fact: Mountain Chickadees are acrobatic, often hanging upside down to eat from the undersides of pinecones and needles.
	<p>Broad-Tailed Hummingbird</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Nectar and small insects • Habitat: Meadows and open woodlands • Fun Fact: This bird's wing can rotate almost 180 degrees, allowing it to fly up, down, sideways, backwards, and hover!
	<p>American Robin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Fruit, insects, snails, earthworms • Habitat: forests, woodlands, fields, recently burned forests, tundra • Fun Fact: The male American Robin likes to stay up late and his song is often the last bird heard as the sun sets.
	<p>Red Tailed Hawk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Voles, mice, wood rats, rabbits, hares, jackrabbits, ground squirrels • Habitat: Deserts, scrublands, grasslands, broken woodlands, fields and pastures • Fun Fact: The call of a red tailed hawk is so powerful that it is often used to represent any eagle or hawk sound in movies
	<p>Black Billed Magpie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet: Fruit, grains, grasshoppers, beetles, fly maggots, squirrels, voles, carrion, ticks • Habitat: Meadows, grasslands, sagebrush plains • Fun Fact: A group of magpies has a lot of different names, sometimes called a 'charm,' a 'gulp,' or a 'mischief!'