

Mountain Animals

Habitats at high altitudes are dangerous and inhospitable than other land or terrestrial habitats at lower altitudes. The living organisms in the mountains have to face scarcity of oxygen, food and water. The weather is very harsh due to the low temperature. As the soil is inconsistent, vegetation is sparse and the land is almost barren.

Mountain animals and plants have evolved to adapt to the extreme conditions of the mountains. They have certain characteristic features that help them to survive such low temperatures refers to any ecosystem found in mountains. The life on mountains varies from continent to continent.

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Listed below are a few facts about the Montana ecosystem.

Most mountain animals are certainly fugitives. The size of mountain animals is very important. This is mainly because the smaller animals lose heat relatively quickly and cool down faster, which is due to its relatively high surface area. Therefore, the size of the mountain animals is large.

Some of the large mountain animals migrate to different places. For eg., the bighorn sheep which feed on alpine tundra foliage during summers move downwards to avoid deep snow in late fall.

Mountain animals have thick fur and wool to protect themselves from extreme cold and fast hooves that help them to climb the slopes of the hills. Chamois, ibex, snow leopard, tahr, giant horn sheep are few mountain animals.

Yaks have large lungs and heart which assist them to compensate for the scarcity of oxygen in high altitudes.

Birds like the golden eagles are well-adapted to this environment and it serves as the best place for breeding and feeding.