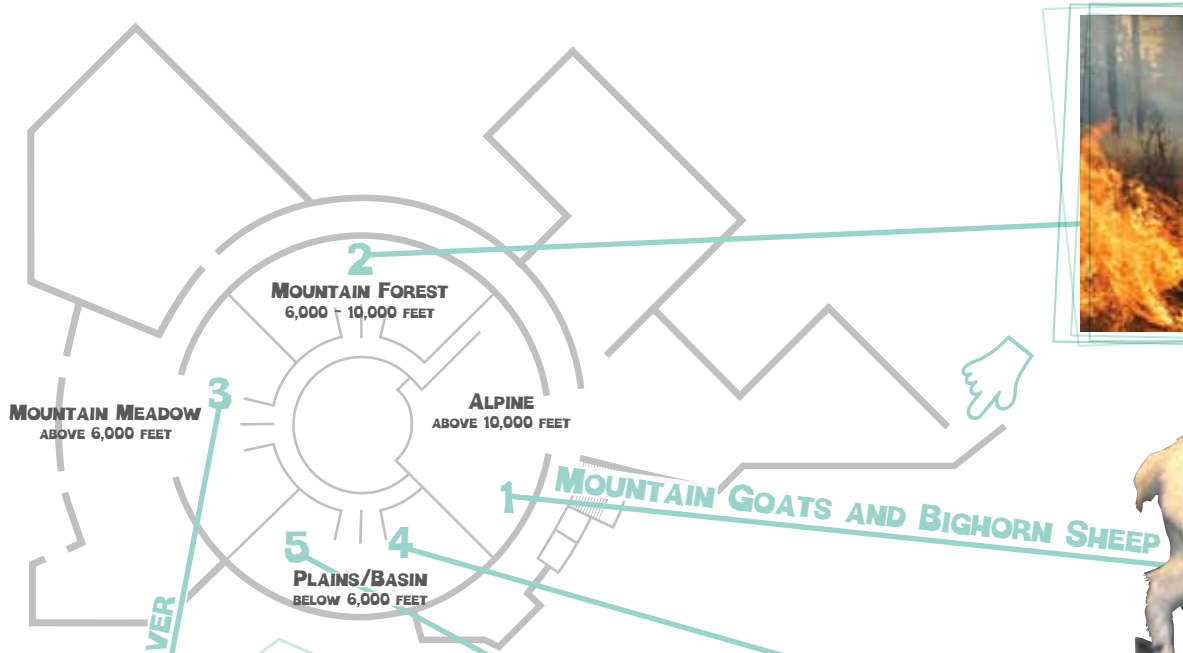


YELLOWSTONE NATURAL HISTORY



The Draper Museum of Natural History explores the ways in which nature and humans influence one another in the Greater Yellowstone region.



FIRE IN YELLOWSTONE

2: In 1988 fires burned through the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem scorching over 1.2 million acres, which is about half the size of Yellowstone National Park. Lightening started some of the fires, but others were set accidentally by people. Fire can be good for an ecosystem. It clears out the understory and makes room for new plants to grow.



1: Mountain goats and bighorn sheep have thick fur that keeps them warm in the harsh climate of alpine habitats. Their feet and legs help them climb up steep rocks and cliffs. Mountain goats have soft spongy pads on their hooves that help them grip onto the rocks.



BEAVER

3: MOUNTAIN MEADOW

4: PLAINS/BASIN

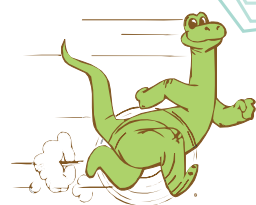
5: ALPINE

1: MOUNTAIN GOATS AND BIGHORN SHEEP

2: MOUNTAIN FOREST

PRAIRIE DOGS AND BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS

3: Many mountain meadows were once beaver ponds. Beavers, the largest rodents in North America, are suited for life in the water. They wear a thick fur suit to keep them warm and dry. Beavers' eyes have a protective covering to help them see underwater. They can close off their noses, ears, and part of their mouth underwater, and can hold their breath for up to twenty minutes.



5: Prairie dogs live in underground colonies that they defend against black-footed ferrets, rattlesnakes, and the huge ferruginous (fer-OO-jin-us) hawks you see nearby. The black-footed ferret sneaks around at night traveling from burrow to burrow in search of their food, the prairie dog. When these predators are hunting, the prairie dog should stay in its underground burrow to keep safe!



BUFFALO JUMP SCULPTURE

4: At one time, millions of bison or American buffalo roamed the plains. Plains Indian people relied on bison for food, shelter, and supplies. They would hunt them by driving them over a cliff. Today, archaeologists study the bones that are left behind.



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

JUST THE FACTS



NPS

NPS

C.R. Preston

What plants and animals benefit from forest fires? Why?

How do beavers adapt to their aquatic environment?

Compare two animals that live underground and how they survive in the Plains/Basin environment.

What information do *you* think an archeologist learns from studying a buffalo jump site?

TELL YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY

What area or object of the Draper Museum of Natural History was *your* favorite and why?

Was there one area or object that *you* did not know about before visiting the museum? What did *you* learn?

LET'S MAKE IT RELEVANT

Imagine *you* are a plant in the harsh Alpine environment. What strategies would *you* use to survive?

How might a forest fire affect *your* life?

THE BIG QUESTION



Think about *your* relationship with nature. Do *you* view nature differently after visiting the Draper Museum of Natural History? Why?



THANK YOU

Sinclair
for generously supporting
the MILES program!



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