

Name: _____

The Mountain Ecosystem

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

A habitat is where a plant or animal lives and grows. A habitat is part of an ecosystem where lots of different plants and animals live. Mountains, with their many levels are an ecosystem containing many different habitats.

At the base of a mountain, you will probably find a forest filled with lots of plants and trees. A grizzly bear or a garter snake might cross your path. You might catch a glimpse of an owl in a tree.



Climb
mountain
grasslands
stalking
be leaping from rock to rock.



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in lion
; might

Climb even higher, toward the top, and you'll notice a change in the temperature. It's getting colder and snow is covering the mountaintops. There aren't many plants near the mountaintop, but you might see fuzzy lichen covering rocks like carpeting. The air is thin at the top of the mountain, which makes it difficult for large animals to breathe. When people climb very large mountains, they often take special air tanks filled with oxygen. Even though you won't see many big animals, millions of tiny insects like snow fleas might dot the landscape.

Depending on the elevation, you could see deserts, river valleys, meadows, forests and snow caps all on one mountain. And with each unique habitat, comes unique plant and animal life.

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1. Define habitat.

2. What happens as you climb higher and higher up a mountain?

- a. You see more animals.
- b. The temperature rises.
- c. Forests become thicker.

3. Will
more



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of a

c. owls

d. There are no animals at the top.

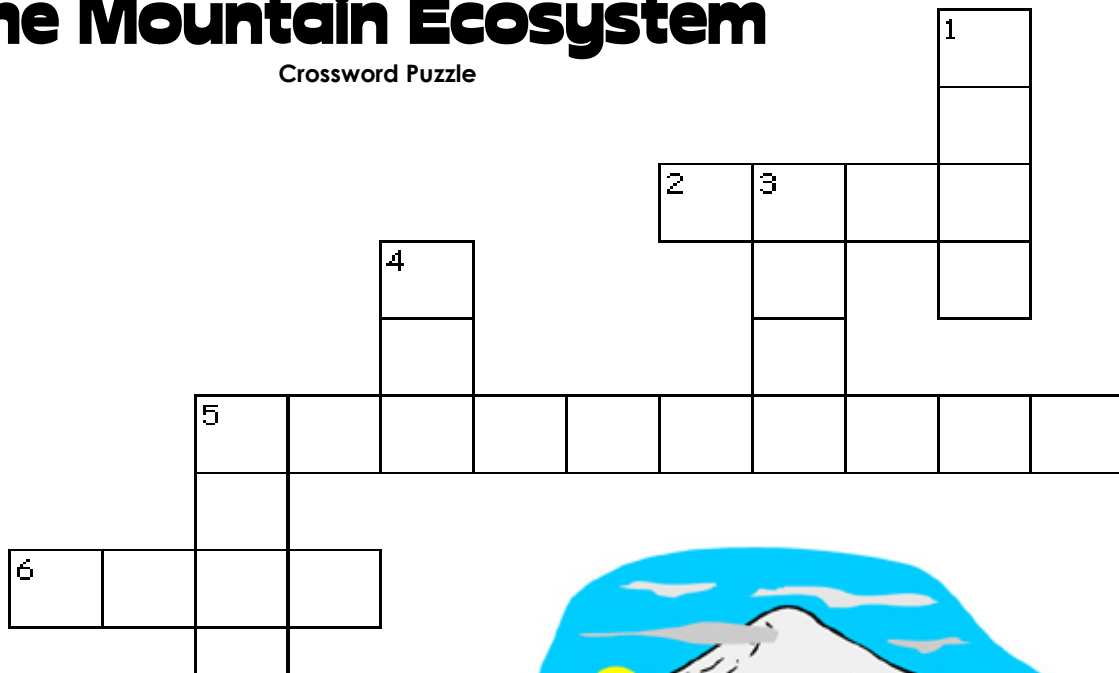
4. What type of habitat would you probably find at the base of a mountain?

5. Why do you think most mountains do not have large lakes on them.

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The Mountain Ecosystem

Crossword Puzzle





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Use animal
puzzle.

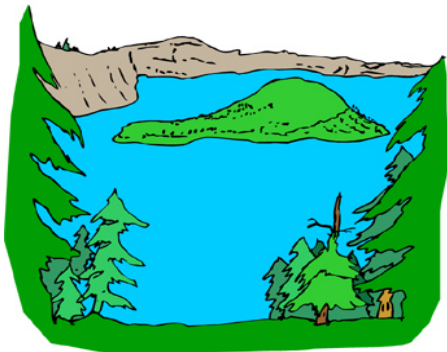
he

Across

- 2. tiny wingless insect
- 5. amphibian that looks like a lizard
- 6. large, furry omnivorous mammal

Down

- 1. mammal with backward-curving horns
- 3. large, carnivorous cat
- 4. nocturnal bird with excellent hearing
- 5. reptile with no legs



ANSWER KEY

The Mountain Ecosystem

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher



1. Define habitat.

A habitat is where a plant or animal lives and grows.

2. What happens as you climb higher and higher up a mountain? **d**
- a. You see more animals.
 - b. The temperature rises.
 - c. Forests become thicker.

3. What happens as you climb higher and higher up a mountain? **d**



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4. What type of habitat would you probably find at the base of a mountain?

You might find forests filled with plants and trees.

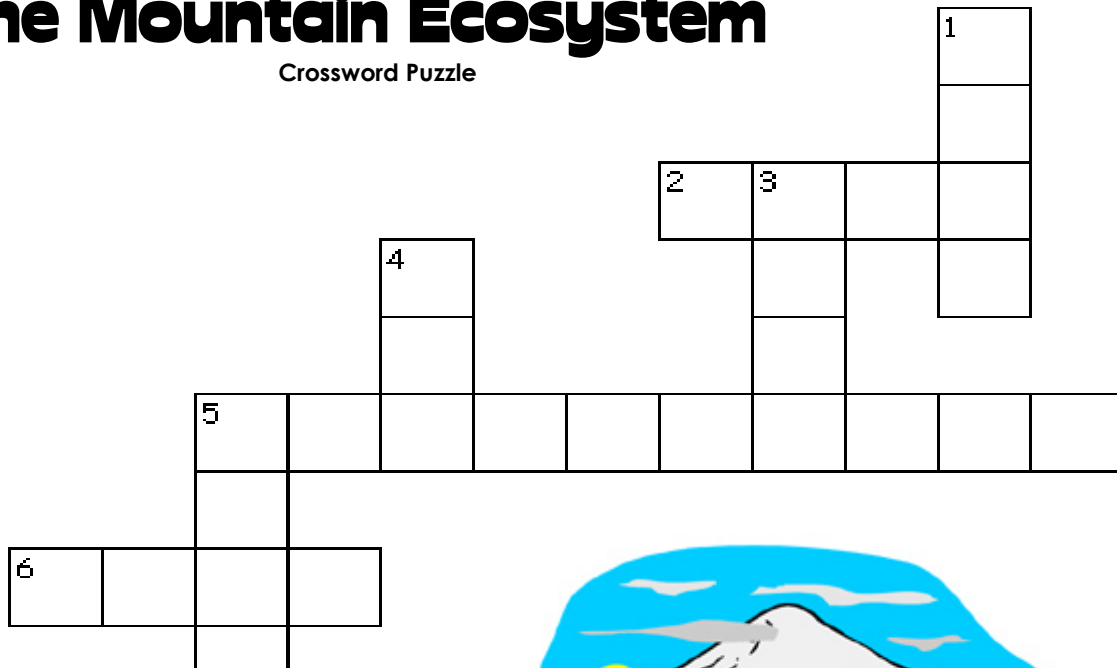
5. Why do you think most mountains do not have large lakes on them.

Most mountains do not have large lakes near the top because gravity pulls the water downwards, through streams or rivers, to the base of the mountain.

ANSWER KEY

The Mountain Ecosystem

Crossword Puzzle





PREVIEW

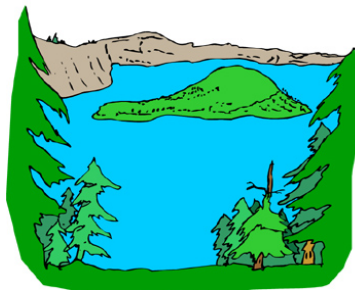
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Use animal
puzzle.

the

Across

2. tiny wingless insect (**flea**)
5. amphibian that looks like a lizard (**salamander**)
6. large, furry omnivorous mammal (**bear**)



Down

1. mammal with backward-curving horns (**goat**)
3. large, carnivorous cat (**lion**)
4. nocturnal bird with excellent hearing (**owl**)
5. reptile with no legs (**snake**)