

Instructor Read Aloud -Who's Who

Don't state names until after all guesses are made and you tell them that all are real organisms.

1. Ogre-faced Spider

When it's time to catch a meal, this spider has a special trick. First it spins a web of silk. Then it grabs their corners of the web with its four front legs. Then it hangs upside down and waits for the insects to crawl by along the ground. When they do, the spider drops the web over them like a net and pulls up its meal.

2. Rafflesia

This plant with enormous reddish, rotten, smelling flower is a parasite that lives on the roots of a tropical forest vine. The flowers may be more than three feet across and weigh over 35 pounds. They bloom for only three days and depend on flies to pollinate them.

3. Satin Bower Bird

At breeding time, the male bird builds a house with shells, feathers, flowers, clothespins, jewelry and other bright objects that he fancies. His favorite color is bright blue. He may also paint the inside of the stick house using berry juice and charcoal sticks. Female birds are attracted to the male's handiwork.

4. Black-eyed Susan

These yellow and black flowers seem to be just like any other wildflower you might find in a field. However, they have special ultraviolet markings on their petals that can't be seen by human eyes. These markings serve as an illuminated landing pad for pollinating insects.

5. Archer Fish

When this fish wants a meal, it looks for insects above the surface of the water. When it spies one, the fish spits water up at it. The fish can hit an insect accurately at four feet, knock it into the water and gobble it up.

6. Tenebrionid (Thu-NEEbree-AH-nid)

Beetle

This beetle gets all the water it needs from fog. Standing on a dune in the desert where it lives, the beetle raises its back end into the fog. Droplets of water form on its body and run down toward its mouth.

7. Skunk Cabbage

This plant is like an outdoor hot tub. The temperature inside its flower is 36-63 degrees (F) warmer than the outside air. It gives insects a nice warm place to stay when it's cold out.

8. Strangler Fig

This tree starts out as a small, non-threatening seed that sprouts on the branch of another tree. Yet as it grows, its stems, roots and leaves wrap completely around the host tree, stealing its water and blocking its sunlight. The host tree eventually dies a long, suffocating death.

WHISKEYTOWN AREA — ADAPTATIONS PLANTS & ANIMALS

Pacific Giant Salamander-Larval



Pacific Giant Salamander-Terrestrial



Abundant in our creeks. We have only seen larval form, too dry here for the terrestrial form (see in redwoods) They have brown and black mottled color that help camouflage themselves in creek. If you stare at creeks long enough, you may see them moving around.

Western Fence Lizard



Lizards have a sensory organ between eyes to help regulate heat. They also regulate heat via their color. Fence lizard reflect heat by becoming shiny and reflective. To absorb heat, and warm up, they become dark gray. (Push ups are territorial displays and show off for females.)

Tailed Frogs



Needs cold, clean, fast moving water. On Brandy, Boulder & Crystal Creeks. Unlike other frogs which lay eggs outside for fertilization, the female frog keeps fertilized eggs in her body over the winter. The following summer she lays eggs and attaches them to base of large stones. Hatchlings have oral suckers to help them cling to rocks, better survival in rushing creeks. Can't catch prey with its sticky tongue, so it adapted and learned how to pounce and grab prey.

Toyon



White Leaf Manzanita



Toyon and Manzanita are part of a group of plants called Chaparral. (Sclerophylls) which are adapted to hot and dry summers and wet winters. Leaves are tough and leathery. They are covered by a waxy coating to slow loss of moisture (evapotranspiration) The plant contains a lot of oil, which reduces the loss of water. It also makes them very flammable!