



MEET OUR HERD!

YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Summer 2020

MEET OUR HERD!

Woodland Park Zoo is home to a herd of four mountain goats: female Atlin (4), male Zeus (2), female Hera (1), and a female kid. The newest member of our herd was born on May 15, 2020 to Atlin and Zeus.

While most of WPZ's animals were born in zoos, Zeus and Hera were born in Washington's Olympic National Park. The natural range of mountain goats includes Washington's Cascade Mountains, but mountain goats are not native to the Olympic Mountains and were introduced in the 1920s. However, as an introduced species, their population expanded causing damage to plants and has led to human-wildlife conflict. At the same time, mountain goat populations in the North Cascades have decreased and remaining populations are more isolated.

Beginning in 2018, mountain goats were relocated from the Olympics to the North Cascades through a joint project of the National Park Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and USDA Forest Service. During the moves, every effort is made to move nanny and kid (mother and offspring) pairs, but sometimes kids get separated and studies show their survival rate is low in these situations. Over the past two years, Woodland Park Zoo, Northwest Trek, and Oregon Zoo have partnered to provide homes to these kids, including Zeus and Hera. The birth of Zeus' kid is very exciting news, since he introduces new genetic diversity into the North American zoo population.

The next time you visit, stop by the mountain goat habitat and say hello to the herd! Look high and low to see them navigating the rocky terrain.



ZEUS



HERA



WELCOME TO OUR NEW KID!

DESIGN YOUR OWN MOUNTAIN

Build your own “mountain” and practice navigating the difficult terrain like a mountain goat.

What you need: *For the diorama* – An assortment of recycled materials and other arts and crafts supplies; *For the obstacle course* – A variety of items from around your house to build a mountainous course. Suggested items include boxes, furniture, tape, pillows, etc.

Time: 15+ minutes

1. Mountain goats live in cold, mountainous regions with rugged and steep terrain. Take a moment to think about a mountain goat’s habitat. Imagine the harsh, cold temperature, rocky terrain, and steep slopes.
2. Look for pictures in books or online. If you live in Washington, consider looking at photos of the Cascade Mountains. Are the surfaces even or uneven? Are there wide-open spaces, or narrow spaces? Is it grassy or rocky? Is it flat or steep? What else do you notice?
3. Use recycled materials and arts and crafts supplies from around your home to build a diorama of a mountain goat’s habitat.
4. Test your habitat by traversing it with your fingers or a figurine.
5. Reflect on your habitat design. What parts of your habitat would be difficult for a mountain goat to negotiate? What parts would be easier? Why?



Consider this!

Build a mountainous obstacle course in your home or backyard!

1. With an adult’s supervision, use items around your home to build elements of a mountainous habitat such as “rocky” ledges, steep slopes, and bumpy terrain. For example, you might jump from pillow to pillow as you avoid deep caverns, or place tape on the floor to represent a treacherous mountain ledge.
2. Once you have built your course give it a try!
3. Reflect on your obstacle course design and experience. Overall, was your course easy or difficult? What parts of your course were difficult to navigate? What parts of your course were easy to navigate?
4. Consider revising your course to make it more manageable, or more challenging based on your interest.
5. If you chose to build an obstacle course, leave it in place for the next activity.

WHICH FOOT IS BEST?

Explore the ease by which different types of “feet” would navigate a mountainous habitat.

What you need: A variety of shoes/materials to be worn as different types of “feet”. Suggested items are: Shoe boxes, plastic jugs, stocking feet, tennis shoes, sandals, bare feet, etc.

Time: 15 minutes

Mountain goats must navigate rocky cliffs and ledges and their feet are perfectly designed to do so! They have hooves with two toes that can spread wide to help them balance. They also have rough pads on the bottom their hooves that help them grip the surface of the rocks.

1. Gather shoes/materials. If possible, choose at least three different items for good comparison.



2. Think about each of the types of "feet" that you have gathered and consider which would best be used when navigating a mountain? Which do you think would be the most difficult in a mountain habitat? Why do you think that is?
3. Feel the material. Would you slip and slide, or is the material rough like a mountain goat's hooves? What else do you notice?

Consider this!

1. If you built a mountainous obstacle course, with an adult's supervision, give the course a try with each of the various shoes/materials on your feet. Compare your experience to your predictions.
2. Consider the shoes that did the best. Why do you think that is? Did they do better on parts of your course, but not others? What material are your "feet" made out of? What shape are they? How do they compare to a mountain goat's feet?