

The Dreaded Cliff



Animal Questions

Predators and Prey

1. What predators does Flora fear?
2. List the animals in the story who are predators and those who are prey. Can an animal be both predator and prey? Give an example. (Hint: domestic cat and baby badgers could fall prey to snakes or owls.) Can humans be both predator and prey?

Predator

Prey

Both

Animal Traits

3. What traits do the four canyon animal friends in the canyon share? How are they different from each other?

Common Traits

Different Traits

4. Choose two of the animals in the story. Use information from the story and the end of the book to compare and contrast the animals in the real world. Include information

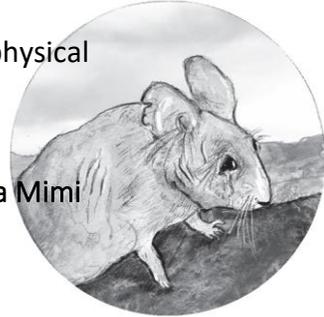
such as diet, how they move, homes, appearance. You may use additional resources to research your animals.

5. Flora, Grandma Mimi, and Gertrude are all packrats, yet they have different physical traits and behaviors. What contributes to their differences? Use the text and illustrations to describe them.

Flora

Gertrude

Grandma Mimi



Things to Think About

6. Which packrat home do you think is the safest: Flora's jangly-crate, Gertrude's woodpile, or the ancestral packrat home in the crack in the cliff? Give reasons for your answer.
7. When Paco's quills bring the owl to the ground, Flora "hears" a message from the owl: "*We are one, you and I.*" What do you think that message means?



8. When Flora goes near the dreaded cliff, she sees the tiny craters made by creatures she calls “ant snatchers.” What do you think these creatures are? Hint: some people call them “**doodlebugs**,” but they have another name.

Why do you think the author does not use their more common name in the story?

Research other meanings for the word “doodlebug.” Investigate the connection between the word “doodle” and the doodlebug creature. Draw your own doodle.



9. Research the answer to the question: Do great-horned owls ever attack porcupines for food?

10. Have fun with animal voices! Based on the story, how would each animal “voice” sound if you spoke aloud for each of them? What qualities would you give each voice and why?

11. Which animal in *The Dreaded Cliff*, would you choose to be for a day and why?

