**Pikas and their Environment**

**Worksheet 1: What do we know about pikas?**

***Topic 1a: Basic Life History***

**Research Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. What kind of animals are pikas’ closest relatives? \_\_\_\_\_\_*rabbits*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are pikas rodents? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*no*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many species of pikas are there in the world? \_\_\_*25*\_\_\_\_ In N. America? \_\_*2*\_\_\_\_
4. Name 2 countries where pikas live:

*Possible answers: Afghanistan, Japan, Canada, US, China, Nepal, India, Mongolia*

1. List 3 distinguishing features of pikas:

*Possible answers: Mickey mouse-like ears, NO tail, fur on the bottom of their feet and between their toes, long whiskers, gray-brown fur*

1. How big are adult pikas? \_\_\_*the size of a potato, 6 ½ - 8 ½ inches, 0.25 - 0.4 lb* \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do pikas eat? \_\_\_\_\_*all types of plants*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do pikas drink water? \_\_\_\_*yes, sometimes*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where do pikas live? \_\_\_\_\_*in broken rock* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is talus? \_\_\_\_*broken rock bigger than 4-5 inches*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Pikas and their Environment**

**Worksheet 1: What do we know about pikas?**

***Topic 1b: Behavior***

**Research Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. How many times a day does a pika fully fill its stomach? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*9 times*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does coprophagic mean?

*Animals that eat poop.*

1. Why are pikas coprophagic?

*To get more nutrition from the food they eat*

1. What is a haypile?

*A collection of plants that pikas store in the talus to feed off all winter long.*

1. What kinds of plants go in a haypile?

*Any kind of plants, but sometimes they pick plants that have preservatives in them.*

1. Why do pikas make short calls?

*To defend their haypiles/territories and alert the talus slope about predators.*

1. Do both sexes make long calls?

*No, just males.*

**Pikas and their Environment**

**Worksheet 1: What do we know about pikas?**

***Topic 1c: Reproduction***

**Research Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. How old are pikas when they can first reproduce? \_\_\_\_\_\_*1 yr old*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How old was the oldest a pika ever recorded? \_\_\_\_\_\_*7 yrs old*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do pikas mate for life? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*no*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. How many litters do female pikas have each year? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*2*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do all litters survive? Why/why not?

*Only one litter survives every year. It depends on the previous winter’s snowpack.*

1. How long is a pika pregnancy? \_\_\_\_*~1 month*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a leveret?

*a baby pika*

1. When do leverets’ eyes open? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*at 9 days old*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. At what age are leverets kicked out of the nest? \_\_\_\_\_\_*at 1 month old*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do juvenile pikas look for when they’re searching for a new territory?

*Good food, good shelter, and a good view.*

1. Do pikas move territories every year?

*No.*

**Pikas and their Environment**

**Worksheet 1: What do we know about pikas?**

***Topic 1d: Ecology***

**Research Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. What temperature is too hot for pikas? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*78 degrees F*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What temperature is too cold for pikas? \_\_\_\_\_*14 degrees F*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. What can protect pikas from cold temperatures? How does it protect them?

*Snowpack. It insulates them.*

1. In which Colorado *life zones* do pikas live?

*Alpine, subalpine, and montane.*

1. What is the lowest elevation a pika can usually live in Colorado?

*9,000 feet*

1. What is the lowest elevation a pika can usually live in Washington?

*Near sea level.*

1. What are the predators of pikas?

*Weasels, coyotes, birds of prey.*

1. What is the top predator of pikas, and why is it better than the others?

*Weasels, they are small and fast enough to catch them*