

Coast to Cactus Glossary

Mountains

Acorn: The nut of the oak tree that many animals depend on for food.

Adaptation: Physical structures, characteristics or behaviors that allow an organism to survive and reproduce in its environment.

Cache: A hiding place for food.

Conifer: A tree (such as a pine) that produces cones and that usually has leaves that are green all year.

Diurnal: Active mainly during the day.

Ecology: The relationships between a group of living things and their environment.

Ecosystem: Everything that exists in a habitat.

Forage: To search for something such as food.

Granary: A storage place (i.e. granary basket, granary tree.)

Habitat: The natural area where an animal lives.

Hibernate: To spend the winter sleeping or resting.

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Keystone Species: Species that have a critical role in the habitat around them.

Oak Woodland: A habitat of oak trees, grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs.

Omnivore: An animal that eats both plants and other animals.

Photosynthesis: The process by which a green plant turns water and carbon dioxide into food when the plant is exposed to light.

Predator: An animal that hunts and kills other animals.

Prey: An animal hunted or caught for food.

Nocturnal: Active mainly during the night.

Roost: A place where birds rest or sleep.

Sky Island: Mountains that are surrounded by very different habitat such as a desert.

Species: A group of related animals or plants.

Tannin: A reddish acid that comes from acorns.