



## **Klipspringer**

**The Klipspringer (meaning "rock jumper") is only about twenty-two inches high at the shoulder, and weighs approximately forty pounds. It is of the antelope family. The male has delicate little horns about four to six inches long. Its ears are actually longer than its horns. Its coat is thick, dense and hard, with a speckled "salt and pepper" pattern of an almost olive shade. The coat harmonizes with the background of rocks. Its eyes are large and widely spaced, and its nose is short and wedge-shaped.**

**These animals only stand 22 inches tall. They only weigh 20 to 40 pounds. They have hooves as feet. All hoofed animals walk "on the tips of their toes." Among these the klipspringer is the only one to touch the ground with only the very tips of its vertically rising hooves. The hoof tips, though blunt, are also quite narrow and hard-edged and thus dig into loose surfaces. A klipspringer's way of walking is also said to increase friction with the rocky surfaces, thereby providing better footing up or down vertical cliffs. When it is pursued it leaps from crag to crag and seems to move up the side of a steep cliff as if it were flying.**

**Klipspringers like to be only with their mate, and are usually seen within a few feet of their mate. The basic pair behavior relative to predators is that, while one klipspringer eats, the other acts as a lookout. Males are strongly territorial, and its territorial dominance extends over five to ten acres. Klipspringers can have up to two offspring a year.**

**The klipspringer's alarm call is a loud whistling through the nose. When they are fearful and distressed they make roaring sounds with their mouths open.**

**The Klipspringer eats rock plants, especially succulents. It never drinks water, but absorbs what liquid is necessary by eating succulent leaves or by licking up the dew in the early morning.**

**The best places to look for klipspringers are on the covered ledges used by animals for observation, habitat and shelter in Africa. Its home is in Africa, from the Cape region in the south up through eastern Africa to Abyssinia.**



## **Mountain Goat**

**Mountain goats are not true goats—but they are close relatives. They are more properly known as goat-antelopes.**

**These surefooted beasts inhabit many of North America's most spectacular alpine environments. They often appear at precipitous heights, from Alaska to the U.S. Rocky Mountains, showcasing climbing abilities that leave other animals, including most humans, far below. They climb to the elevations of 13,000 feet above sea level. Mountain goats have cloven hooves with two toes that spread wide to improve balance. Rough pads on the bottom of each toe provide the grip of a natural climbing shoe. Mountain goats are powerful but nimble and can jump nearly 12 feet (3.5 meters) in a single bound.**

**Mountain goats stand about three feet to their shoulders. Their weight ranges from 100 to 300 pounds. Both male and females have beautiful pointed horns that grow from 6 to 11 inches long and distinctive beards on their chins. They have an undercoat of wool covered by an outer layer of hair to protect them from cold temperatures and biting mountain winds up to 50 degrees F below zero. Their dazzling white coats provide good camouflage on the snowy heights. During the more moderate summer season goats shed this coat.**

**Mountain goats can have up to two offspring a year. Female goats (called nannies) spend much of the year in herds with their young (called kids). These groups may include as many as 20 animals. Males (known as billies) usually live alone or with one or two other male goats. Billies will sometimes use them to battle their rivals to get the female they want.**

**In the spring, a nanny goat gives birth to one kid (sometimes two), which must be on its feet within minutes of arrival into its sparse mountain world. Mountain goats eat plants, grasses, herbs, sedges, ferns, mosses, twigs, and leaves from low-growing shrubs.**

## The Klipspringer Questions

1. Where does the klipspringer live?

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2. How does the klipspringer climb?

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3. Describe how the klipspringer is able to get up mountain slopes.

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4. Describe the klipspringer's coat.

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5. How does the klipspringer camouflage itself from its predators?

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6. How tall and how much does the klipspringer weigh?

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7. How does the klipspringer prefer to live?

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8. How many offspring can a klipspringer have per year?

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9. What does the klipspringer eat?

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## The Mountain Goat Questions

1. Where does the mountain goat live?

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2. How does the mountain goat climb?

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3. Describe how the mountain goat is able to get up mountain slopes.

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4. Describe the mountain goat's coat.

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5. How does the mountain goat camouflage itself from its predators?

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6. How tall and how much does the mountain goat weigh?

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7. How does the mountain goat prefer to live?

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8. How many offspring can a mountain goat have per year?

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9. What does the mountain goat like to eat?

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## Animal Variations Poem for Two Voices

### Klipspringer and Mountain Goat

I am a klipspringer  
I am a mountain goat  
We are both antelopes

I live in Africa  
I live in North America  
We both live on mountain cliffs and ledges

I jump fro rock to rock on small mountain ledges  
I climb on rock on the steep mountain slopes  
We both have spongy, spring hooves

I have a long brownish-gray bristly coat  
I have a long, hairy white coat  
Both of our coats protect us in our environments

I eat fruits, flowers, moss, and succulents  
I eat grass, sedges, and lichens  
We both have to search in treacherous circumstance for our food

I stay with one mate throughout my life  
I live in herds of up to ten mountain goats  
We both have one or two offspring a year