

Your Mission

An Internet Treasure Hunt

Introduction

Your mission is to discover answers to fifteen specific questions about how living organisms in Yellowstone are affected by the park's thermal features. The Internet links provided below will help you accomplish your task. Good luck and have fun!

Questions

1. What is the heat source of Yellowstone's thermal areas?
 2. What are the four different types of hydrothermal features found in Yellowstone?
 3. Why is so much of the central part of Yellowstone covered in lodgepole pine forests?
 4. List at least two different species of wildlife that are commonly seen around Yellowstone's hot springs and geyser basins.
 5. Name two reasons why wildlife use thermally influenced areas in Yellowstone.
 6. How are snow levels in Yellowstone affected by thermal activity?
 7. How do thermally influenced areas influence bison migration?
 8. Name two types of plants that may grow around the edges of hot springs.
 9. Name two reasons the trumpeter swan migrates to Yellowstone in the winter.
 10. How are microorganisms living in a hot spring affected by the spring's different temperature ranges?
 11. Name two examples of microorganisms that might be found in the hot springs of Yellowstone.
 12. What is cyanobacteria, and what is its upper temperature limit?
 13. Name at least one insect that may be found living near the hydrothermal areas in Yellowstone.
 14. Describe, or draw, a unique food chain that might exist around a hot spring in Yellowstone.
 15. List two dangers to wildlife that are found in hydrothermal areas.
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Internet Resources

http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/bison/chap8.htm

<http://helios.bto.ed.ac.uk/bto/microbes/yellow.htm>

<http://www.windowstowonderland.org/swan/real/index.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/technical/planning/gates/>

<http://www.windowstowonderland.org/hotcolors/index.shtml>

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/nature/geothermal>

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/oldfaithfulcam.htm>

<http://www.geyserstudy.org/>

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/press/0434.htm>
