

Expository
Text



Rocky Mountain National Park

by Betsy Hebert

Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

Yellowstone

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Reread

Skill: Compare and Contrast

Vocabulary

eerie, growth, layers, lively, location, region, seasons, temperate

Phonics

Silent Letters *wr, kn, gn, mb, sc*

Content Standards

Science

Earth and Space Science

Vocabulary Strategy

Compound Words

Word count: 422**

Photography Credit: Cover Charles Ott/Photo Researchers/Getty Images

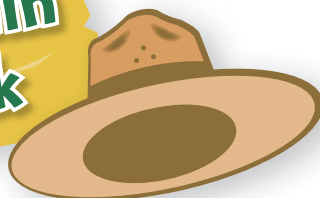
**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Essential Question

What makes different parts of the world different?

Rocky Mountain National Park



by Betsy Hebert

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**PAIRED
READ**

Yellowstone 17

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Have you ever seen the Rocky Mountains? Most people call them the Rockies.

The Rockies start in Alaska. They go to New Mexico. That's a really long way!

The Rockies are big and beautiful.

The Rockies go through the western region of the United States.

One special part of the Rockies is Rocky Mountain National Park.

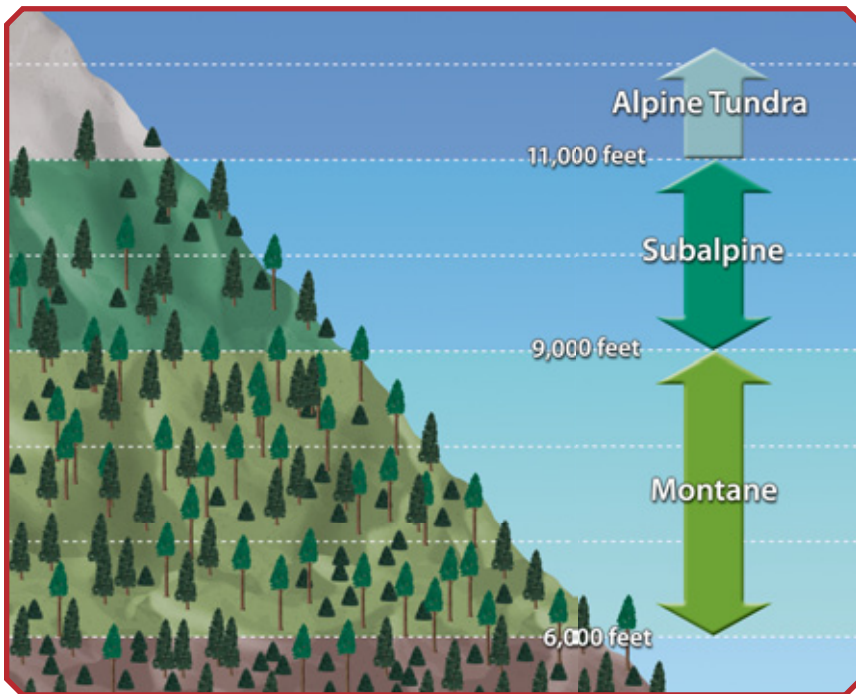
Illustration: Rob Schuster



Rocky Mountain National Park is in Colorado.

The park has three life zones.

Each zone covers a different height. The zones have different plants and animals. They have different climates.



This diagram shows how high each life zone is.

STOP AND CHECK

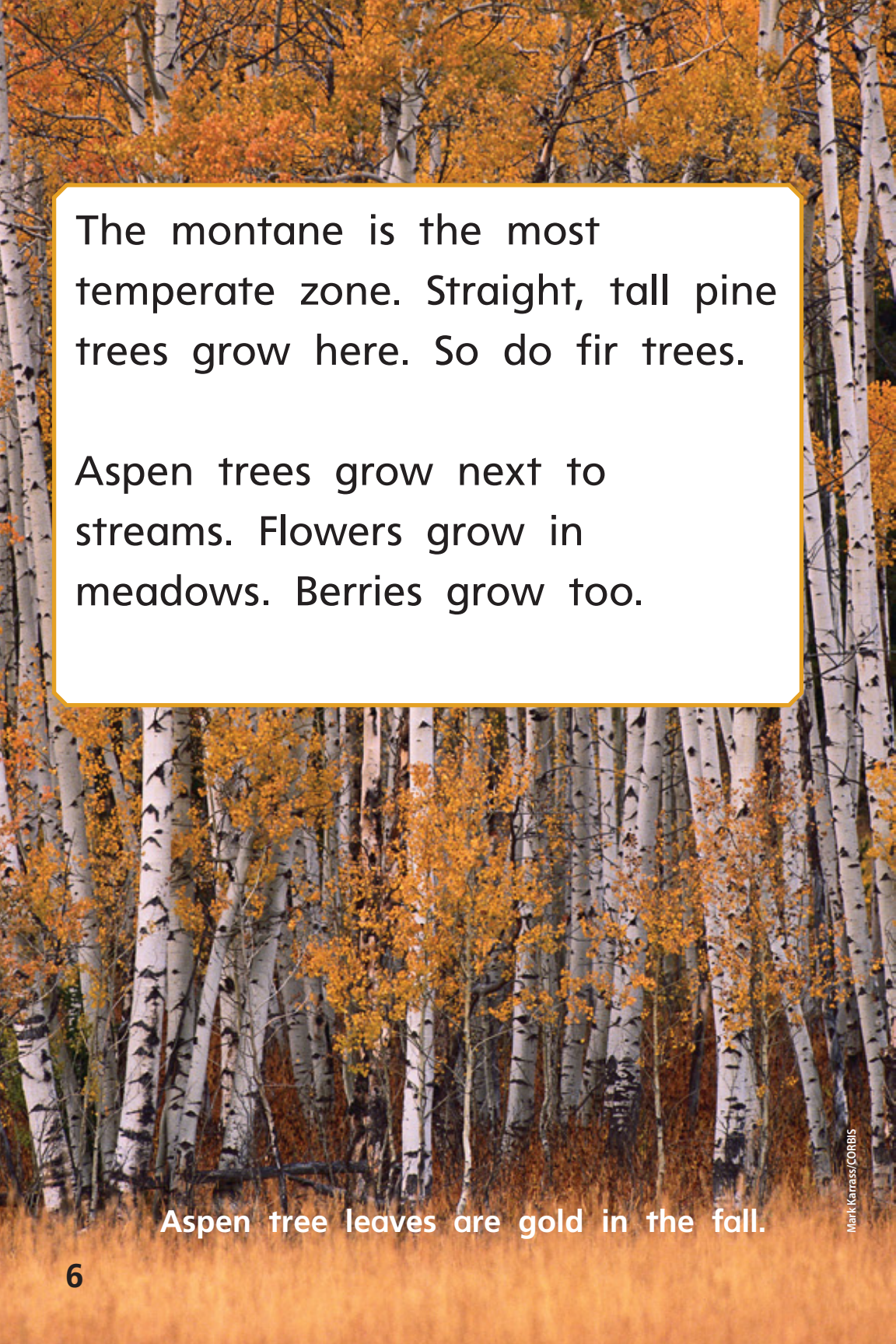
What makes Rocky Mountain National Park special?

Chapter 2

What Is the Montane?

Let's look at the three life zones of the park. We'll start at the bottom. This location is the montane life zone. It starts at about 6,000 feet. It goes up to about 9,000 feet.

Pine trees like these grow in the montane.

A photograph of a forest of aspen trees during autumn. The trees have white bark and their leaves are a vibrant golden-yellow color. The trees are tall and slender, and they are densely packed together. The background is a soft, out-of-focus forest scene.

The montane is the most temperate zone. Straight, tall pine trees grow here. So do fir trees.

Aspen trees grow next to streams. Flowers grow in meadows. Berries grow too.

Aspen tree leaves are gold in the fall.

Lots of wildlife lives in the montane. Lively squirrels eat seeds. Elk and mule deer graze. Coyotes and bobcats hunt. Bluebirds and jays make nests.

This is an
Abert's squirrel.



STOP AND CHECK

What is the montane zone like?

Chapter 3

What Is the Subalpine?

Now let's move up higher. This is the middle zone. It is called the subalpine. It goes up to about 11,000 feet.

This zone is mostly forest. It is darker than the montane. It is also wetter.

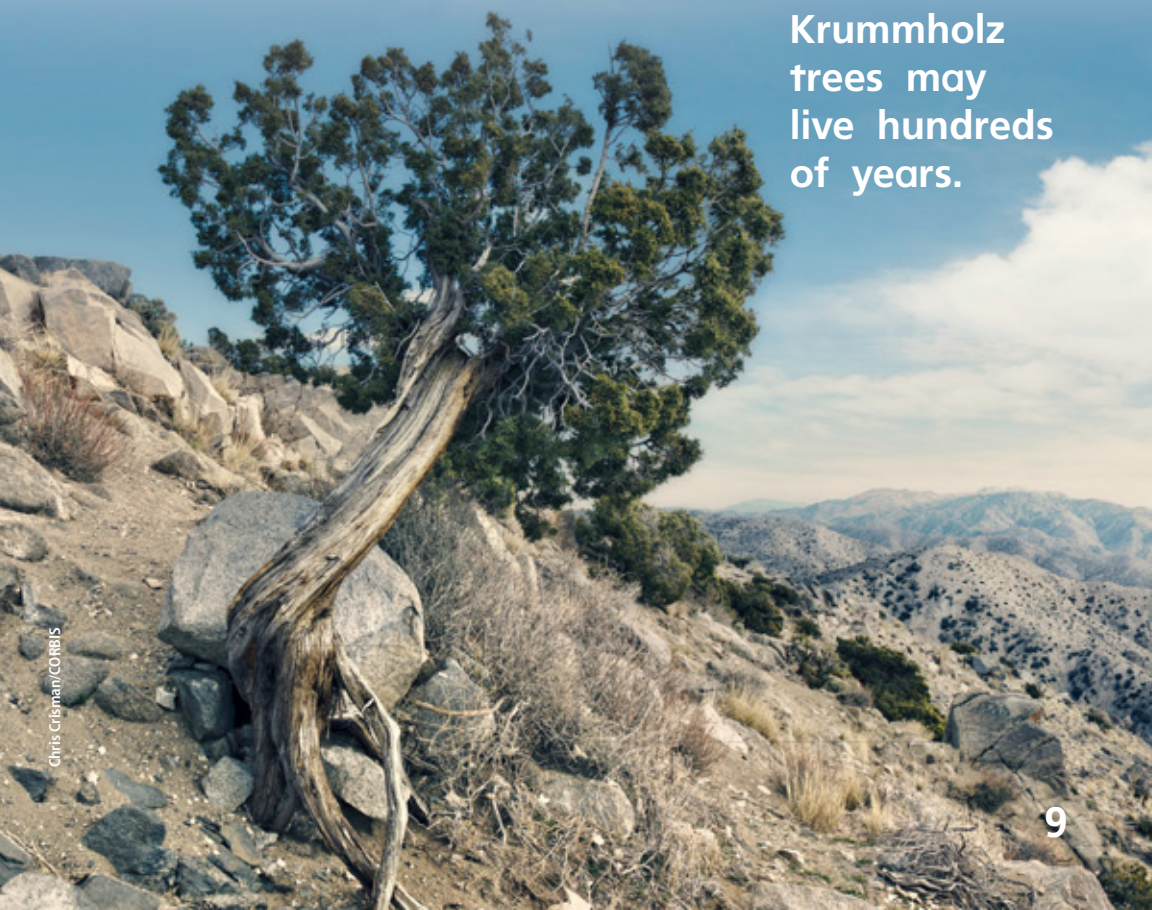


These are Engelmann spruce trees.

What are those eerie shapes at the top of the subalpine? They are gnarled trees. These are called krummholz trees.

The winters are long and hard here. The wind bends the trees. It changes their growth. The trees do not grow straight and tall.

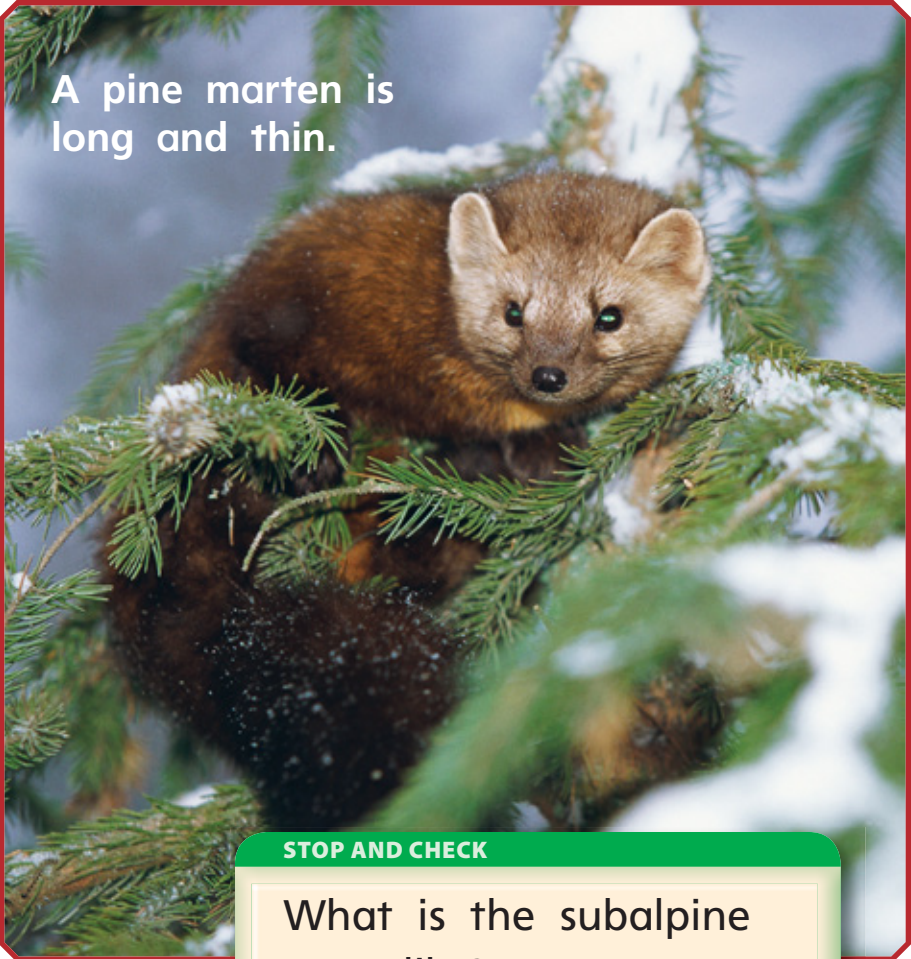
Krummholz trees may live hundreds of years.



Animals live in this zone too.

Mule deer find food in warm seasons. Pine martens and bobcats like it here. Chickadees and juncos make nests.

A pine marten is long and thin.



STOP AND CHECK

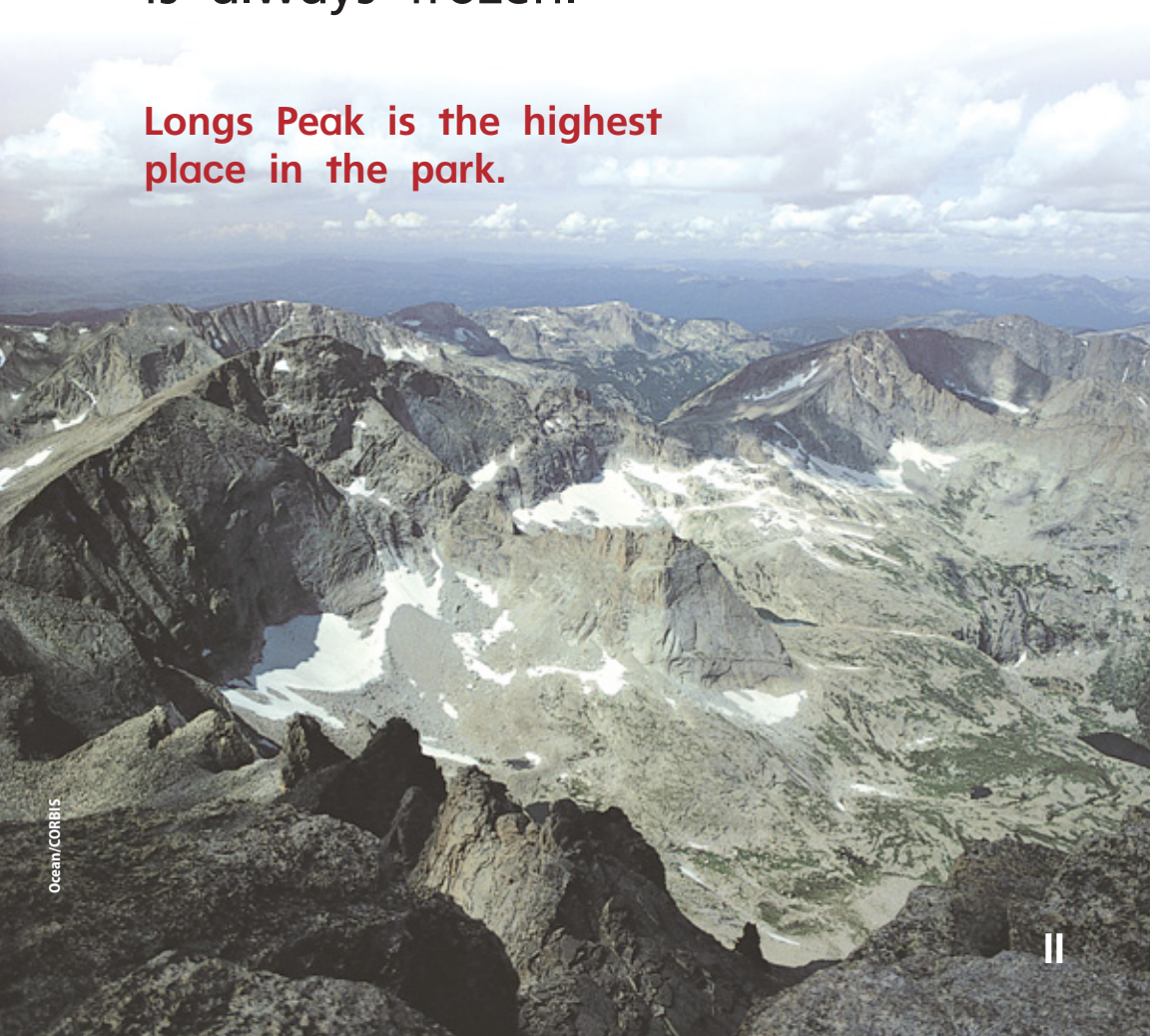
What is the subalpine zone like?

Chapter 4

What Is the Alpine Tundra?

Now we come to the highest zone of the park. It is above 11,000 feet. This is the alpine tundra zone. The ground here is always frozen.

Longs Peak is the highest place in the park.



Snow falls most of the year. No trees grow here. But this zone is not lifeless.

Some strong plants and flowers grow here. The plants are small and low. They stay out of the fierce winds.

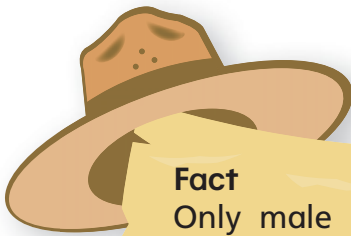
A few flowers bloom in the alpine zone.



Pikas are small
and round.

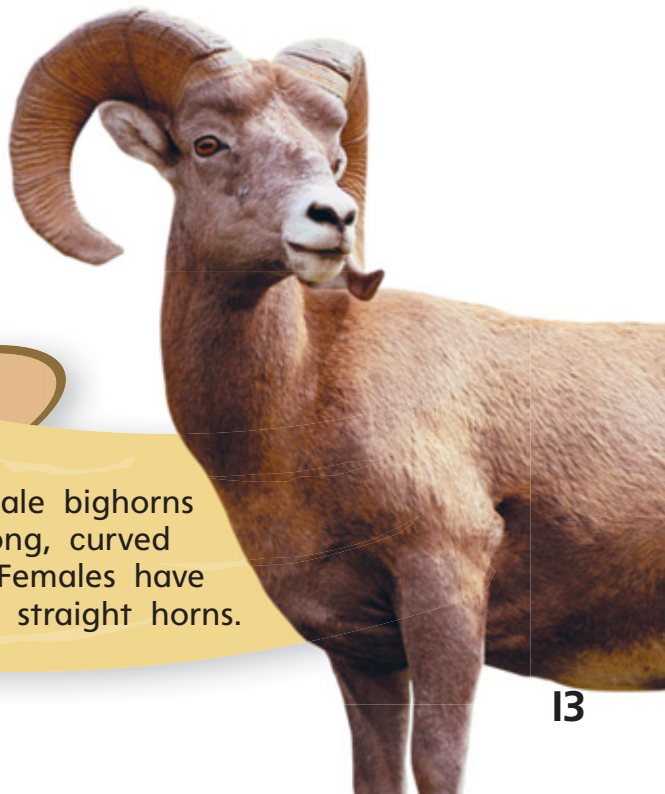


A few animals live in this zone. Bighorn sheep climb the steep cliffs. Pikas make dens. Ptarmigans make nests. They don't mind the cold.



Fact

Only male bighorns have long, curved horns. Females have shorter, straight horns.

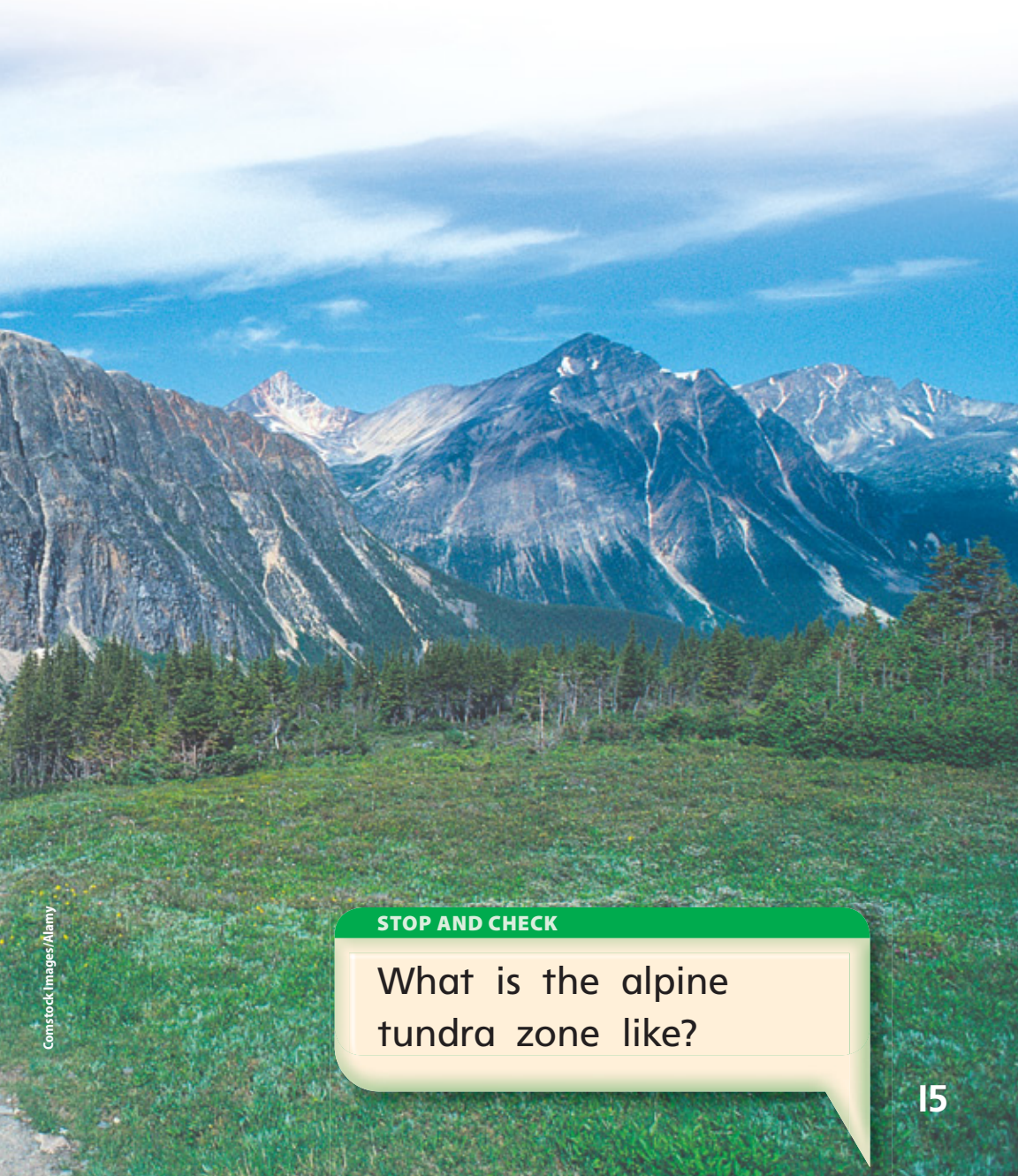


Now you've been through the
life zones.

**Many people hike on
trails in the park.**



Rocky Mountain National Park is a special place!



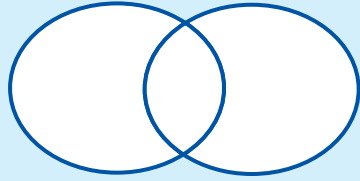
STOP AND CHECK

What is the alpine
tundra zone like?

Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use the diagram to summarize *Rocky Mountain National Park*.



Text Evidence

1. Is this text nonfiction? **Genre**
2. How are the montane and alpine tundra zones different?
Compare and Contrast
3. What is the compound word on page 13? **Compound Words**
4. Write about the plants in each zone. **Write About Reading**



Compare Texts

What makes Yellowstone a special part of the Rocky Mountains?

Yellowstone

Yellowstone is another park in the Rockies. It is special too.

This park has lots of hot springs.

Rain or snow flows onto hot rocks to form hot springs.

Geysers



Some of the springs shoot hot water out. They shoot like a fountain. They are called geysers.

Old Faithful is a geyser that erupts about every 90 minutes.

Mudpots

Mudpots are hot springs too. Hot steam comes up through layers of mud. It makes bubbles.

The gases in mudpots make them smell like rotten eggs!

Make Connections

How is Yellowstone different from other parks? **Essential Question**

Would you rather visit Yellowstone National Park or Rocky Mountain National Park? Explain. **Text to Text**



Focus on Science

Purpose To find out more about a special feature of Yellowstone or Rocky Mountain National Park

What to Do

Step 1 Choose a topic you liked reading about in this book.

.....

Step 2 Read the information again. Create a poster on the topic. Include a drawing on it.

.....

Step 3 Share your poster with a partner.

Conclusion Tell why you chose the topic. What makes it special?

Thinkmark

The Topic

What parts of Rocky Mountain National Park does the book tell about?

Vocabulary

What new words did you learn in the text?

Compare and Contrast

How are the three life zones different?
How are they the same?

Make Connections

Have you been to a national park?
What did you see?