



DIVISION: WILD NORTH AMERICA

Celebrate protecting & stewarding North America's ecosystems, featuring a combatant from a specific population in National Parks, Conservation Areas, & Nat'l Forests.

Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Large claws that are used for digging, climbing, catching and picking food.*

Adaptation 2:

- *Strong sense of smell, 2000 times better than a human's sense of smell.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Hibernation allows grizzly bears to sleep for long periods of time when food is scarce.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Mountains, forests, meadows, and valleys of North America.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Omnivore: Diet including berries, insects, honey, salmon, and ants.*

Size:

- *400-1000 lb Height can reach up to 6.5 feet.*

Summary:

Grizzly Bears are large predators that have adapted to many things in their environment.

Grizzly Bear

(Ursus arctos horribilis)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Bisons have specialized teeth and digestive systems for breaking down tough grass.*

Adaptation 2:

- *Bisons can run up to 30 miles per hour despite their size.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Bisons have sharp, curved horns which they use to fend off predators*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Bison live in river valleys, and on prairies and plains (mainly open or semi-open grasslands)*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Bison are grazers and they feed mostly on grasses.*
- *Second Trophic Level*

Size:

- *Can weigh up to 2000 lbs. and up to 6 ft.*

Summary:

Bison are mainly found in the Great Plains, and they are the heaviest land animal found on the continent.

Bison

(Bison bison)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Large, strong animals. Can grow to be 500 lbs.*

Adaptation 2:

- *Strong curved claws for climbing trees.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Omnivore: eats many different types of food.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Coniferous and Deciduous forest.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Omnivore: vegetation, fruits, insects. Trophic level: Tertiary Consumer.*

Size:

- *60-72 inches, 100-500 lbs.*

Summary:

The Black bears are very versatile and can eat many different types of food. They are strong and agile.

Black Bear

(Ursus americanus)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Savage fighters, use stalk and ambush method*

Adaptation 2:

- *Swift and agile climbers as well as swimmers*

Adaptation 3:

- *Wide forepaws and claws with a strong bite from their powerful jaws*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Found in dense rainforests of Central and South America & dry grasslands*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Vary in diet, eating both large prey such as crocodilians as well as small prey such as fish and river turtles*
- *Tertiary Consumers*

Size:

- *230-350 pounds (100-160 kg)*

Summary:

Jaguars are a large cat species known for being mighty hunters, excellent swimmers, as well as eating anything they are able to catch

Jaguar

(*Panthera onca*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Claws, Fangs*

Adaptation 2:

- *Good swimmers and fast runners (64-80 mph)*

Adaptation 3:

- *Great strength (strong hind legs for jumping)*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Western North America + Central America + South America*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Tertiary Consumers (Carnivores)*

Size:

- *Adult Mountain Lions can be 7ft-8ft and weigh 53 to 100 kg (males); 29 and 64 kg (females)*

Summary:

Description: Mountain Lions need a lot of space for survival. They usually are alone and are agile because of their flexible spines. They cannot roar but instead hiss. They use pheromones and physical signs (like claw markings or feces) to define their territory.

Mountain Lion

(Puma concolor)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Elk have thick fur around their body to protect against cold*

Adaptation 2:

- *Antlers(These antlers help for mating purposes, fighting, and protecting*

Adaptation 3:

- *Big size (larger size allows for powerful muscles)*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Live mostly in western north America*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Primary consumer (Herbivore)*
- *Consumes vegetation like grasses*

Size:

- *Adult Elk grow up to 4 ½ feet tall with the females around 600 pounds and males around 700. With the biggest being aproximatlley 1100 pounds.*

Summary:

Elk are larger herbivory consumers. They have large antlers to protect from predators and are rather aggressive

Elk

(Cervus canadensis)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- Their bighorns are tough and hard which work great for fighting. Big hits can potentially reach up to 970 pounds of force.

Adaptation 2:

- Well-equipped for climbing the steep terrain that keeps their predators at bay.

Adaptation 3:

- *Can run up to speeds of 20 miles per hour and have incredible stamina.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- Grassy mountain slopes, alpine meadows, and foothill country near rocky, rugged cliffs and bluffs.

Diet and Trophic Level:

- In summer they eat grasses or sedges. In winter they eat plants that are more woody, like sage, willow, and rabbit brush. They are herbivorous.

Size:

- *They can grow up to 5 to 6 feet tall and weigh up to 150 pounds.*

Summary:

Bighorn sheep take their name from the male's large, curved horns. They are excellent climbers in high, steep, rocky mountain regions. The "bighorn sheep" species has 3 living subspecies: Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, formerly California bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and Desert bighorn sheep.

Bighorn Sheep

(Ovis canadensis)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Strong Vision and Hearing to locate prey*

Adaptation 2:

- *Sharp teeth and claws to kill organisms quickly*

Adaptation 3:

- *Sharp sense of smell, 100x greater than humans.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Can occupy a wide range of biomes such as temperate forests, mountains, tundra, taiga, and grasslands.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Omnivores, they are part of the top trophic level (can be secondary or tertiary consumer). Often eats deer, sheep, bison, moose, and chamois. When food is scarce, they are known to eat berries and small fruits.*

Size:

- *Large, 3-6ft long, 3 ft tall. Medium sized wolf weighs around 90 lbs.*

Summary:

The Grey Wolf has many adaptations to help it hunt as it is a strong predator which keen sharp senses and sharp claws and teeth to kill prey quickly.

Gray Wolf

(*Canis lupus*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Strong limbs and sharp claws to help them dig burrows*

Adaptation 2:

- Possess anal poach which can be used defensively by creating a scent

Adaptation 3:

- *Muscular necks to make them harder to catch*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *They can live in a wide range such as dry, open grasslands, fields, and pastures. They can also live in deserts and marshes.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *They are omnivores but their dominate prey are small rodents, mice, and squirrels. They also will eat fruits and vegetables.*

Size:

- *Badgers can grow up to 20 to 34 inches long. Badgers weigh between 9 to 39 pounds.*

Summary:

The badger has many adaptations to allow it to stand against some of the biggest predators. Even though it is small its sharp claws can also allow them to hide really well.

Badger

(Taxidea taxus)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Sharp claws and teeth to help catch, tear, and eat its prey*

Adaptation 2:

- *Natural Camouflage to blend in with their habit of grasses and rocks*

Adaptation 3:

- *Strong muscles to run fast and help catch prey*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Coyotes can live about anywhere. North and Central America, Canada, and even Alaska. Found in woodlands, deserts, savannahs temperate rainforests and more.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *A diverse range including White-tailed deer, rabbits, small mammals, raccoons, groundhogs, birds, insects, and plant materials. They are tertiary consumers.*

Size:

- *Can weigh around 15lbs – 44lbs*

Summary:

With its large range of habitats and living conditions, diverse palate, and physical adaptations, coyotes would be a tough competitor to beat!

Coyote

(*Canis latrans*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

*Makes up for poor eyesight with excellent smell and hearing.
Is brown to blend in to the environment around them.*

Adaptation 2:

*They each build large fat stores that will get each of them
through roughly 200 plus days of hibernating.*

Adaptation 3:

Has a whistle, scream, and tooth chatter.

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

*Mountainous regions of southwestern Canada and the western
United States. They also live in highland pastures, meadows and
steppes.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

*Grass, grains, flowers, leaves, fruit, legumes, grasshoppers. They
are primary consumers and herbivores.*

Size:

Up to two feet in length and 11 pounds.

Summary:

*The yellow-bellied marmot may seem cute and fluffy, but it is not
to be underestimated!!! These mammals can dig elaborate
underground tunnels and have adaptations to survive even the
most terrifying of predators. Watch out! This is the face of danger
itself.*

Yellow- Bellied Marmot

(Marmota flaviventris)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Don't require a lot of water. They get their moisture from their prey.*

Adaptation 2:

- *Large ears help maintain body temperature in hot conditions & hear low pitch sounds to alert them of competitors.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Short legs help them run fast in desert sand.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Live in open deserts, grasslands, or chaparrals. Found in mainly in California & some parts of Mexico*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Kit Fox are secondary consumers; they eat kangaroo rats, mice, cottontails, hares, ground squirrels, birds, insects, and reptiles.*

Size:

- *Medium sized animals: Avg. Body length is 20 inches, Avg. Tail length of 12 inches, Avg. Weight for Males are 5 lbs & 4.6 for Females.*

Summary:

Kit fox have many adaptation they help them survive, they live in dry open habitats, they feed on primary consumers, & have a medium body build.

Kit Fox

(Vulpes macrotis)



Marsh Rabbit

(*Sylvilagus palustris*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Protecting migratory corridors if mangrove habitat migrates inland and northward*

Adaptation 2:

- *Excellent swimmers*

Adaptation 3:

- *Run 45 km per hour*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Can live in marshes and swamps*
- *Mainly live in North America*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Aquatic plants: cattails, water hyacinth, marsh grasses*
- *Secondary consumer*

Size:

- *14 to 16 inches*

Summary:

The marsh rabbit is a fast runner and swimmer and are excellent at migrating.

Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Description*

Adaptation 2:

- *Description*

Adaptation 3:

- *Description*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Description*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Description*

Size:

- *Description*

Summary:

Description

13-lined Ground Squirrel

(*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *The Southern Bog Lemming is extremely small (3.8-6 inches in length), allowing it to be hard to detect.*

Adaptation 2:

- *The Lemming also has short legs, so it can move quickly.*

Adaptation 3:

- *They have bright green feces, which could possibly distract its opponent, or cause the opponent to eat it and infect them.*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Prefers grassy fields, meadows, and swamps that are moist and damp. They are found in a wide range of North American territories.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Primarily eats green vegetation, but may consume fungi and small vegetation.*

Size:

- *They are very small, with a length of 3.8 to 6 inches, a tail length of 0.5 to 1.3 inches, and a weight of 0.5 to 2.0 ounces.*

Summary:

They are very small, rat-like creatures that will probably lose any fight they get in. I have no hope for this small, innocent creature.

Southern Bog Lemming

(Synaptomys cooperi)

(ADD YOUR PICTURE HERE)

Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- *Considered the fastest horizontal flier reaching speeds over 100 mph*

Adaptation 2:

- *Their tails can extend beyond the edge of the tail membrane. They use their tail to help with flying, stabilizing, and landing.*

Adaptation 3:

- *Use echolocation to navigate and find food in the dark*

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- *Mexican free-tailed bats are found throughout the much of the United States (southern Oregon to Nevada and eastward to North Carolina and southwestern Virginia), Mexico, Central America, and southwestern South America (Brazil, Chile, and Argentina). Their habitats can include caves or man-made structure like bridges and attics.*

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Their diet varies based on geographical range, but mainly includes moths, beetles, dragonflies, flies, true bugs, and wasps, bees, and ants.*
Carnivores

Size:

- *Medium sized: weight between 11 -14 grams, wingspan is 12 – 14 inches.*

Summary:

They don't have much besides their speed, but that's ok! With faith, hope, and love, the Mexican Free-Tailed bat can win!!

Mexican Free-Tailed Bat

(Tadarida brasiliensis)



Three Key Adaptations for Tournament:

Adaptation 1:

- Creation of artificial shelter is a possible adaptation strategy for this species should natural habitat decline significantly in a future climate.

Adaptation 2:

- Funnel-shaped ears point forward, helping them detect insects at long range while in flight.

Adaptation 3:

- Large wingspan to fly long distances to forage on insects at high altitudes.

Biome: Geographic Range & Habitat:

- They have one of the most restricted ranges of any bat in the US, found in southern Florida, excluding the Florida Keys & located in three Gulf Coast counties: Charlotte, Collier, and Lee.
- They prefer natural habitats like forests and wetlands.

Diet and Trophic Level:

- *Mainly flying insects; secondary consumers*

Size:

- Up to 6.5 inches with a wingspan of 20 inches (largest bat species in FL). Weigh 1.2-1.7 ounces.

Summary:

one of two endangered species of bat in FL, and the state's only endemic flying mammal.

Florida Bonneted Bat

(Eumops floridanus)

