

Color the Pika



Up in the high country you may find American pikas. The scientific name for the American pika is *Ochotona princeps*. Pikas are related to rabbits and hares. Adult pikas are only about six to eight inches long and weigh just four to seven ounces!

Because pikas do not hibernate, they must spend the summer gathering food to sustain them throughout the cold winter months. The pikas cut leaves, grasses, pine needles, and other vegetation from meadows using their sharp chisel-like teeth. Once the vegetation is cut, the pikas spread it on rocks to dry in the sun. Then they stack it into piles and store it under rocks to be eaten later.