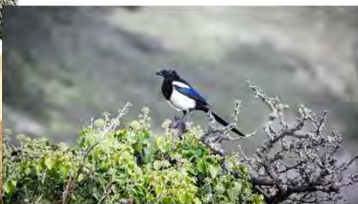


Lessons from Colorado
Part 1
"Pinecones
&
Prickly Pears"

Black Bear (Juvenile)



Magpie



Steller's Jay

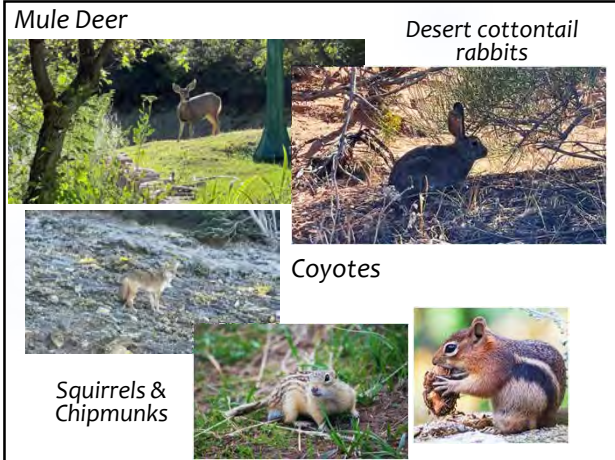


Pinyon Jay



Elk





Genesis 1:20-25

20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky."

21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.



Genesis 1:20-25

22 God blessed them and said,

"Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.



Genesis 1:20-25

24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.

25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.



Psalms 104:24-29

"O Lord, how manifold are your works! What a variety of things You have made! In wisdom have you made them all; The earth is full of your creatures. And yonder is the sea, great and wide; It teems with creatures innumerable; living things both small and great...

^{v29} All these look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things."



Oregon Grapes



Edible but **TART** grape-like berries that appear in late summer. They serve as a food source for deer, elk, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, moose, bears, birds, and many small mammals.

Virginia Creeper



More than 35 species of birds enjoy eating the Virginia Creeper's berries, including: thrushes, woodpeckers, warblers, vireos, mockingbirds and other songbirds. While animals such as mice, skunks, chipmunks, squirrels, cattle and deer will munch on the leaves and stems of this vine, it is the insect class that relishes the plant.

While not poisonous to humans, creepers do contain oxalic acid, which if consumed will irritate your tongue, throat, stomach and kidneys

Choke Cherries



Many species of wildlife are drawn to chokecherries, including numerous species of birds, raccoons and squirrels, and of course, that opportunistic omnivore... black bears!

Prickly Pears



Prickly Pears



Prickly Pears

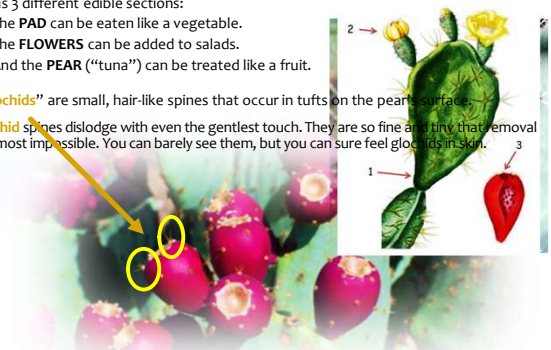
The "prickly pear" cactus can be found throughout Colorado, even in higher elevations.

It has 3 different edible sections:

1. The **PAD** can be eaten like a vegetable.
2. The **FLOWERS** can be added to salads.
3. And the **PEAR** ("tuna") can be treated like a fruit.

"Glochids" are small, hair-like spines that occur in tufts on the pear's surface.

Glochid spines dislodge with even the gentlest touch. They are so fine and tiny that removal is almost impossible. You can barely see them, but you can sure feel glochids in skin.



"The Bare Necessities"

(from The Jungle Book)

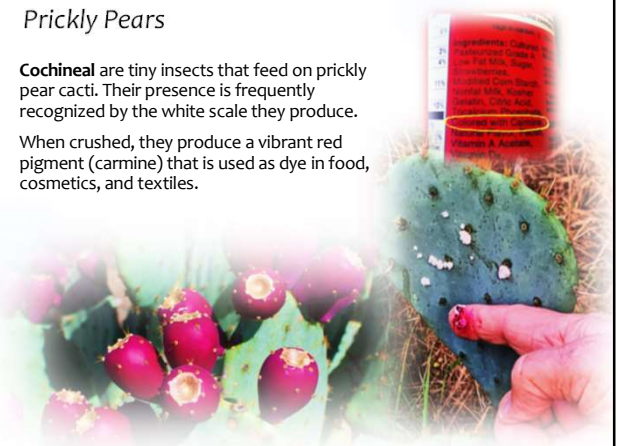


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BH-Rxd-NBo>

Prickly Pears

Cochineal are tiny insects that feed on prickly pear cacti. Their presence is frequently recognized by the white scale they produce.

When crushed, they produce a vibrant red pigment (carmine) that is used as dye in food, cosmetics, and textiles.



Prickly Pears

Squirrels, jackrabbits, prairie dogs, rodents, bats, iguana, and coyotes are among the animals that enjoy the prickly pear cacti!



Acorns



Pine Cones

When you imagine a pine cone, you are probably imagining a **female** pine cone with woody, spirally scales...

This is because **male** pine cones are much smaller and live only for a short length of time, usually in the spring. Male pine cones do not make the hard-shelled woody case like the female pine cones do. They are soft and spongy.



The Secret Life of Pine Cones - Ypsilanti District Library (ypsilibrary.org)
<https://www.ypsilibrary.org/2020/12/pine-cones/>

Pine Cones

Male pine cones produce pollen, which is like a powder. The male cones release their pollen, which is carried around the air by blowing wind, and hopefully to another female pine cone on a different pine tree.



The Secret Life of Pine Cones - Ypsilanti District Library (ypsilibrary.org)
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Pine Cones & Nuts

All species of pine produce edible seeds but worldwide, only 20 varieties produce cones with large enough pine nuts for harvesting.

And in North America only **pinyon pines** produces seeds large enough to be a major source of food.



Pine Nuts





Pine Nuts



Psalm 104:24-29

“O Lord, how manifold are your works! What a variety of things You have made! In wisdom have you made them all; The earth is full of your creatures...

^{v29} All these look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.”

Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?

Job 38:41 NIV

IN WHOSE HAND IS *the life*
 OF EVERY LIVING THING
 AND THE BREATH OF ALL
mankind?

— JOB 12:10

Matthew 6:26-29

“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not worth much more than they?”



“It isn’t just that God notices the sparrow’s death, like one might notice that the wind is blowing. Jesus wanted his listeners to understand that God is emotionally invested in that sparrow! He cares about what happens to it;

But He cares even more about what happens to people!”

Barrett Duke



<https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/10-biblical-truths-about-animals>

But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Matthew 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

