

Pikas and Marmots

Pikas (below) are small animals that live in the mountains. They live in the rocks in places too high and windy for trees to grow. Pikas are little and have round ears. In summer and fall, pikas gather grass and flowers. They store this food in piles to eat in the harsh and snowy winter months.

Marmots (right) share the cold, rocky mountaintops with pikas. Marmots are larger. They do not store extra food in piles. They eat and eat and eat. They get really fat before winter comes. Marmots then dig a burrow far down in the ground. When it gets too cold, marmots curl up inside their burrow and hibernate. It looks like they are sleeping because they do not move. Marmots don't eat during hibernation. They use their fat for energy.

