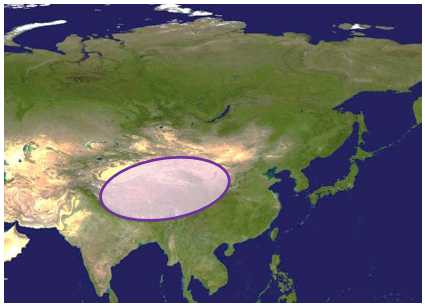
Do you know what we're talking about when we say Sichuan Takin??
Takin are a group of four subspecies of goat-like Bovids (in the cow & sheep family) that live in the mountain bamboo forested regions of Tibet, Bhutan, Myanmar, India, and China. Throughout most of their range, Takin are Threatened, which means their numbers are declining. Here at ZooMontana, we are lucky to be the home of Khan and Griff, two brother Sichuan Takin; Khan was born in 2015 & Griff in 2016. These amazing animals can reach about 4.5 feet tall at the shoulder, and are stocky & strong, weighing between 600-750 pounds. This is advantageous in the cold & harsh high mountain forests: large animals need less energy to keep their body warm!

Because of their size, Sichuan Takin do not have many predators, though they can be prey to wolves, bears, dholes, and snow leopards, especially when they're young. Most of their adaptations help them to survive in cold and rocky forest and bamboo thicket environments, but some do help them with looking out for both food and predators:

- Takin have an enlarged sinus cavity in their big moose-like nose, which warms the cold mountain air before it can reach their lungs.
- They often live in flexible, seasonal social groups, and will give a coughing alarm call when a threat is spotted, which prompts them to go into forest and bamboo thickets to lay down and hide!
- They migrate seasonally, following food availability up and down the mountains and valleys.
- They grow a secondary fur coat in winter for an extra layer of protection against the cold, and then shed it in the summer, and their skin secretes an oil that acts like a raincoat in the rain or fog!
- Both males and females grow two large horns from the center of their head and can be used to defend food or themselves.

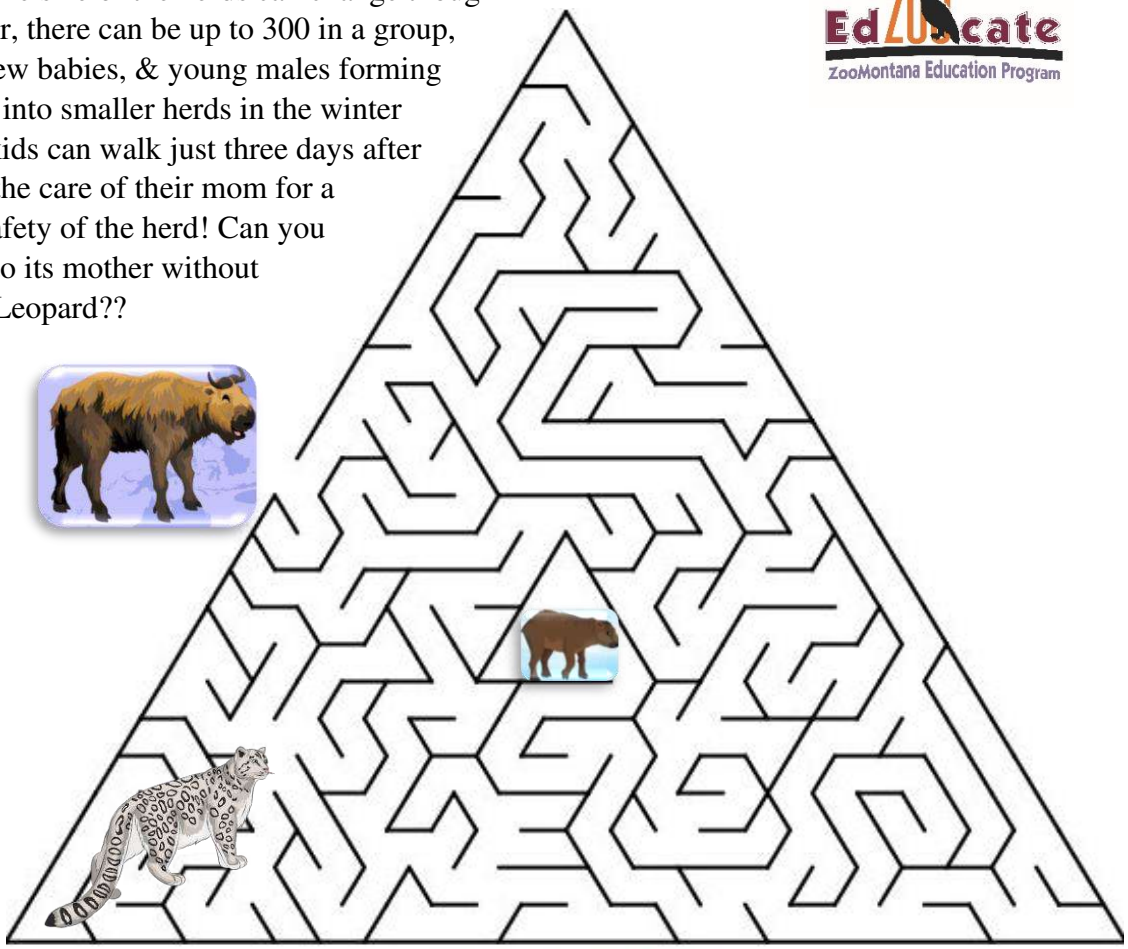




One of the more uncommon adaptations of the Takin is the ability to stand on their back legs, with front feet propped on a tree or rock, to reach higher leaves and branches! Can you color in this Takin showing off that adaptation?

Takin art by Allyson Dredla, 2021

Takin are herd animals, but the size of the herds can change though the year. In spring & summer, there can be up to 300 in a group, with mostly females, their new babies, & young males forming the herd, & they'll break off into smaller herds in the winter when food is scarce. Takin kids can walk just three days after they are born, but still need the care of their mom for a few months, including the safety of the herd! Can you help the Takin kid get back to its mother without getting caught by the Snow Leopard??



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Did you know there are 4 subspecies of Takin? There's the Sichuan Takin like we have here at ZooMontana, and there are also Mishmi Takin, Golden Takin, and Bhutan Takin – they all live in different areas, & have different colored fur. Can you find & circle the one different Takin in this herd? There's a Mishmi Takin amongst the Sichuan Takin!



All Takin art on this page by Peppermint Narwhal Creative