

# Big Horn Sheep



## Big Horn Sheep in Yellowstone National Park

Big horn sheep are brown with white nose and rumps. Both males and females have horns, but the males' horns are larger and more curved. Males (rams) can be up to 300 pounds and 41 inches tall at the shoulder; females (ewes) are up to 200 pounds and 36 inches tall at the shoulder. Big horn sheep live in flocks with a single leader ram. The rams fight with their horns. If the horns get chipped or broken, they don't heal. The horns do grow longer over their whole life, though. They eat grasses and shrubs.

In Yellowstone, big horn sheep live on cliffs and mountain slopes like those of Mt. Everts and Mt. Washburn. They are great climbers. They were a food source for the Shoshoni tribe before the year 1880. They are safe to view.

### What did you learn about the big horn sheep of Yellowstone?

1. What is another name for a male big horn sheep? What about the females?

Male big horn sheep are also called rams. Females are called ewes.

2. If a big horn sheep chips its horn, will it grow back?

No, but their horns do grow longer over their whole lives.

3. Where in Yellowstone can you see big horn sheep?

Big horn sheep live on cliffs and mountain slopes such as on Mt. Everts and Mt. Washburn.

