

# Alpine Ibex

## Amazing Fact

Alpine ibex goats have been photographed climbing on the sheer, near-vertical (upright) face of a dam wall, in order to lick the salt on the stone which is left behind by the water.

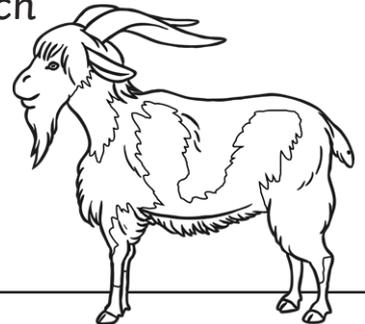
## Challenge

Read this piece of text below and then answer the questions.

The Alpine ibex is a type of wild goat that lives in the mountains of the European Alps, mainly in France. They tend to live on steep, rough ground, above the snow level.

The Alpine ibex has a short, wide head and a dull coat. It has brown or grey hair over most of its body and slightly darker hair on its chin and in a stripe along its back. They moult twice a year, which means their hair gradually drops off and is replaced with new hair, which is thicker in the winter time.

They mainly eat grass and a mixture of moss, flowers, leaves and twigs.



1. What sort of animal is the Alpine ibex?

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2. Where might you see an Alpine ibex?

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3. Which two adjectives describe the sort of ground they live on?

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4. What colour is the hair over its body?

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5. What does 'moult' mean?

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6. Why do you think the hair might be thicker in the winter time?

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7. Name two things they eat.

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You could also try to find out:

- if you can find any photographs of an ibex on the dam;
- about cliffs which goats have climbed;
- how goats are suited to climbing.

# Alpine Ibex Answers

1. What sort of animal is the Alpine ibex?  
**The Alpine ibex is a type of wild goat.**
2. Where might you see an Alpine ibex?  
**You might see the Alpine ibex in the European Alps/France.**
3. Which two adjectives describe the sort of ground they live on?  
**They live on ground which is rough and steep.**
4. What colour is the hair over its body?  
**The hair that is all over its body is brown or grey.**
5. What does 'moult' mean?  
**Moult means that the hair gradually drops off and is replaced with new hair.**
6. Why do you think the hair might be thicker in the winter time?  
**Pupil's own response based on needing warmth/cold weather.**
7. Name two things they eat.  
**Any two of the following: grasses, moss, flowers, leaves, and twigs.**