

Outdoor Recreation

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Outdoor Education

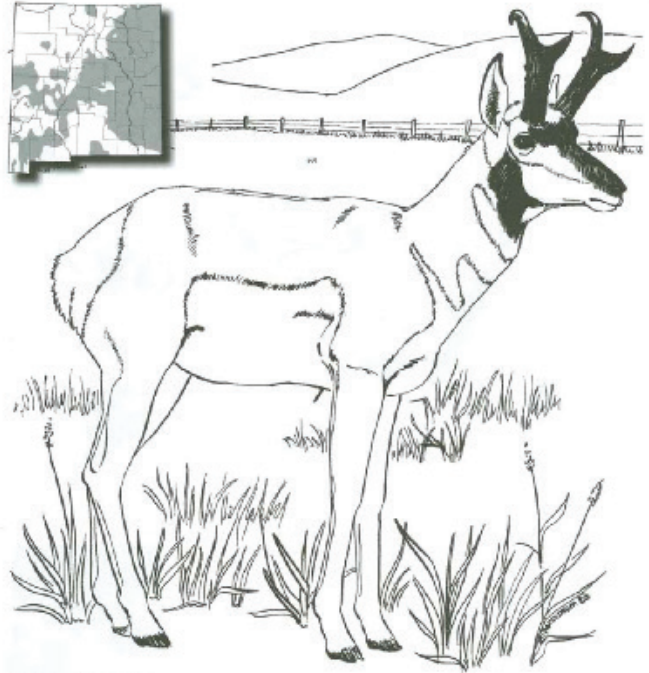
Learning by Coloring - Pronghorn Antelope

Grade level:

Pre-K to 4th

Objective:

Learn about pronghorn in New Mexico by coloring the following illustration while reading about them. New Mexico pronghorn are usually called antelope, though they are not closely related to the many species of the African antelope. Their ancestors date back 10 to 20 million years ago in North America. The pronghorn evolved between one and two million years ago and apparently never migrated over the land bridge that once stretched across the Bering Sea from Asia to America. Accelerating to 40 miles per hour on a dead run, their white rumps flashing over grasslands, pronghorn are fixtures in the New Mexico landscape, particularly in the eastern third.



PRONGHORN

Both male and female pronghorns have black, forked horns. Their horns are shed every year and are made up of bone on the inside covered with compacted hair. They live in prairies and desert country where they can see a long ways. They are built for speed and can run faster than any other animal in North America, hitting speeds of 60 miles per hour! Because it lives in open country, the pronghorn relies on its excellent eyesight and running speed for safety. Pronghorn used to be very abundant in North America. In 1800 there were more than 40 million animals. They have come back in numbers enough to allow hunting throughout their range in New Mexico. They usually give birth to twins and fawns can begin walking less than an hour after birth.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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