I reside in lush North American forests where I climb trees and listen to the birds’ chorus. In the fall I begin to pack on weight, getting ready to curl up in my den and hibernate.

In the fall you can find me swimming in local rivers, trekking back from the ocean, the water reflecting my silver. I follow the path back to where I originally hatched, laying my eggs in a large batch.

I am known to be a busy worker, gathering and storing extra branches for my winter hunger. Curled up in my underwater den, I stay nice and dry from the water nearby.

The colder the weather the better for me and my sister, for we have built-in furry sweaters. You may see us splashing around the pool or lounging by the rocks, staying cool.

You must look closely for me because my reddish fur blends in with the falling leaves. I enjoy swinging from the trees, trying to catch a glimpse of my neighbors, the chimpanzees.

You may see me hanging from a tree like a leaf. I move so slowly in the wild that moss grows on me. My long toenails hold onto a branch while I daydream about some delicious veggie snacks.

I can squish a squash with one toe and eat an entire watermelon before anyone knows. The five of us are the largest animals at the zoo, and some of the hungriest too (each of us eat more than 150lbs of food a day!).

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