

Ezo Pika Gets Ready for Winter in Hokkaido

北海道の山岳地帯にだけ生息する準絶滅危惧種のエゾナキウサギが、冬を越す餌を集めるため姿を現しました。「氷河期の生き残り」とも言われる、体長15センチほどの小さなウサギですが、今年は例年と比べて目撃が少ないそう。地球の歴史を感じながら、かわいらしい野生動物に思いを馳せてみませんか？



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

The Ezo pika is a [near-threatened](#) species that inhabits only the mountainous regions of Hokkaido. Recently, however, pikas have been spotted preparing for winter by storing food in the rocky areas near Lake Shikaribetsu in Shikaoui Town.

On the morning of October 5, one pika was seen darting across the rocks, eating leaves, and letting out a sharp "chirp." Measuring about 15 centimeters in length, this animal [is](#) often [referred to as](#) a survivor of the Ice Age.

A 74-year-old woman from Nagano City, who has visited the area several times, remarked, "They're adorable [no matter how](#) many times I see them, and they remind me of the earth's long history."

Another woman, visiting from Chitose City in Hokkaido, said, "I'm so glad I was lucky enough to see one," her face lighting up with joy.

Pikas do not hibernate. [Instead](#), they gather food throughout the fall and spend the winter in their burrows. According to the Lake Shikaribetsu Nature Center, sightings of the pika have been fewer than usual this year, though the reason [remains](#) unclear.

Source : Ezo Pika Gets Ready for Winter in Hokkaido
[JAPAN Forward](#)

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. near-threatened 準絶滅危惧の

The sea turtles in this region are classified as near-threatened.

2. be referred to as ~といわれている・呼ばれている、~としてみなされている

The aloe vera plant is referred to as a healing herb in some cultures.

3. no matter how どんなに~しても、どんなに~であろうとも、たとえいかに~であっても

No matter how much you study, there's always more to learn.

4. instead その代わりに、それよりむしろ、それどころか

She didn't buy anything for her father's birthday. Instead, she drew a picture of him.

5. remain (状態などが変化せず) ~のままである、(ある場所に) とどまる・滞在する、(未処理のことなどが) 残っている

The temperature will remain stable throughout the week.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. Where have Ezo pikas been spotted gathering food recently?
2. How do Ezo pikas prepare for winter if they do not hibernate?
3. Can you name any other endangered or near-threatened animals?
4. What do you enjoy most about nature and wildlife?
5. If you could visit any natural place to observe wildlife, where would you go?

4. 日本語関連記事：ナキウサギ、冬前に餌集め 北海道の山岳地帯

本ページは出典記事原文の日本語訳です。本教材の要約英文の日本語訳ではありません。

北海道の山岳地帯にだけ生息する準絶滅危惧種のエゾナキウサギが、冬を前に食料をため込もうと、鹿追町の然別湖近くの岩場で貴重な姿を見せている。5日午前は1匹が岩の上を素早く動き回りながら、木の葉を食べ、1度「ピチッ」と甲高い鳴き声を響かせた。

体長は15センチほどで「氷河期の生き残り」とも呼ばれる。数回この場所を訪れているという長野市の無職の女性（74）は「何度見てもかわいらしいし、地球の歴史も感じさせてくれる」と話し、北海道千歳市から来た女性は「運良く見られてよかった」と顔をほころばせた。

冬眠はせず、秋の間に餌を集め巣穴で冬を越す。「然別湖ネイチャーセンター」によると、原因は不明だが、今年は例年と比べて目撃が少ないという。

出典：ナキウサギ、冬前に餌集め 北海道の山岳地帯
[The Sankei Shimbun](#)