

# The Twinkle-Toe Kids

*Some kids are born on a mountain ledge, and their nannies expect them to stand up and climb shortly after birth! The kids are baby mountain goats, and their mothers are called nannies.*

*Mountain goat kids don't look very nimble; their spindly bodies are covered with shaggy white wool. Yet, they can scramble*

*with amazing agility on cliffs, glaciers, and snowfields just a week after being born. It's all because of their special toes. Each toe has a rubbery pad that acts like a suction cup on the rock.*

*Mountain goats are ungulates— animals with hooves. Each hoof is split into two flexible toes that can spread to help the kids grip and balance on uneven ground.*

*It may seem cruel to have a kid traversing peaks and narrow ledges at an early age, but the nanny is trying to keep her offspring safe from predators. Very few animals can reach the remote heights where the nanny takes her young. Only the golden eagle can attack this species on high mountaintops.*

*Accidents do happen. Some mountain goats slip and fall. Some are victims of avalanches and rock slides. Still, mountain goats are well-adapted to life above the clouds.*

