

Word of the Week

“Vernal”

- Is an adjective. Adjectives are describing words for nouns. Things like “cold,” “pink”
- Is pronounced: *ver-nal* | \ 'vər-nəl
- Means: **1:** of, relating to, or occurring in the spring // *vernal* equinox // *vernal* sunshine **2:** fresh or new like the spring // *also* : YOUTHFUL
- In a sentence: “Trees and flowers in vernal bloom”
- Comes from the Latin 'vernalis,' which is derived from the Latin word for spring, 'ver.'"
- For more information, see merriam-webster.com

Place of the Moment



Greenland: The Flowers of Kaffeklubben Island

On this small, glacial moraine island off the coast of Greenland’s Cape Morris Jessup, specimens of Arctic Poppy and Purple Saxifrage grow in the thin, rocky soil.

Kaffeklubben Island is practically a polar desert with roughly 30-day summers. Despite these extremely inhospitable conditions, these two tiny flowering plants eek out a meager existence and persist blooming through summer lows in the high 20’s Fahrenheit.

This area is so far north that it was out of the historical ranges of all Inuit and although spotted by Robert Edwin Peary in 1900, was left untouched by mankind until it was visited by Danish explorer Lauge Koch the 1921. On Kafeklubben Island, These scant meadows of Purple Saxifrage and Arctic Poppy (both of which are edible) grow with various mosses, liverworts, and lichens in a place that may take millennia to deposit a layer of soil a foot thick on top of the permafrost and gravel.

The tenacious purple saxifrage is not only perched on “the top of the world”, but also hold the title for being the highest elevation plant as well. It was discovered in the Swiss alps by Swiss botanist Christian Körner at an elevation of 14,780 ft. While It is not possible to visit Kaffeklubben Island unless you are part of a sponsored expedition with full equipment, both of these horticultural tough guys can be found throughout Sweden and Norway.

Know Before You Go

It is not physically possible to visit here unless you are part of a sponsored expedition with full equipment

“naturedude.” [“The Flowers of Kaffeklubben Island,”](#) Atlas Obscura (web). Accessed 26 March, 2020.

Nipper

Nipper is continuing to learn about bats. He's just entranced. He started out looking through books in the library, but now that everything has gone virtual, he's turning his attention to websites and online searches. This will mean a new kind of bibliography... but for now he's still gathering info. Here's one fun fact that he found on the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website:

- Most bat species produce one pup in May, June, or July; the specific dates depend on the species, locality, and weather.

Q: Where else should Nipper be going for research?

Library Skill

In the library, we had been having a lot of conversations about genres of fiction. Remember, the "genre" is like the "flavor" - it describes what sort of made up story it will be. Our library uses 13 different genres to organize the books, and we're going to take a close look into them.

This week, we will be looking at the **Mystery** genre. MYST on the spine, purple tape.

What are some key words you'd use to describe a mystery book? I might use "stolen" - what else can we add?

What are some examples of a Mystery book you can think of?

Is this a genre you enjoy? Why or why not?

Reading for Pleasure

I'm going to keep asking... What is a book you are really enjoying? What is one thing about that book that makes it so great?