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COAST REDWOOD FUN FACTS

ORIGIN: Coast redwoods' close ancestors date back to the time of the dinosaurs more than 100 million years ago.

Of the nearly 2 million acres of the original primeval forest, approximately 95 percent has been logged in the past 200 years. Today, less than 5 percent of these ancient giants survive, inspiring awe in those who visit.

WHERE: Coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) grow in a relatively narrow coastal strip from the Big Sur Coast in central California about 450 miles north to extreme southwestern Oregon.

Coast redwoods' cousins are only found in two other locations in the world, the Sierra Nevada mountains (giant sequoia, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and in a remote central region of China (dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*).

Approximately 18 percent of the ancient coast redwood forest is located in parks. The remaining 82 percent, which is held privately or in national forests, may be logged.

HEIGHT: In 2006, amateur naturalists and explorers, Chris Atkins and Michael Taylor, discovered Hyperion, the tallest living being in the world. Hyperion is 379.1 feet high, taller than a 37-story building! Many coast redwoods are more than 320 feet high.

GROWTH: Coast redwoods can grow from a seed to 100 feet in 50 years; some trees can grow as much as 6 feet in one year.

DIAMETER: The average diameter of the largest living coast redwood is more than 20 feet.

AGE: Coast redwoods can live more than 2,000 years, with the oldest known tree dated to 2200 years old.

CLIMATE: Although redwoods can survive in many different climates, specific conditions are required for them to thrive. The foggy, wet, rainy coast of Northern California creates an ideal environment for redwood growth because the trees require large amounts of water.

- SURVIVAL:** Redwoods are naturally fire- and insect-resistant because of their bark (up to 12 inches thick) and lack of resin.
- REPRODUCTION:** Redwoods reproduce from seeds and roots of redwoods. The seeds of a coast redwood are so small it takes approximately 125,000 to make a pound.
- ANIMALS:** Over 200 hundred vertebrates (animals with backbones) can be found in the redwood forests, including salamanders, newts, snakes, shrews, beavers, mice, lizards, bats, squirrels, chipmunks, weasels, deer, elk, bears, frogs, turtles, voles and dusky footed-woodrats.
- BIRDS:** Approximately 100 native bird species representing 28 families use redwood forests, including marbled murrelet, wood warbler, tanager, sparrow and blackbird, Allen's hummingbird, woodpecker, bald eagle, sharp-shinned hawk, purple martin and winter wren.

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