

ROOTS-OF-LIFE

Hidden Colony Information Form

A colony of concealment.
@peeperonipip

About

Name

Hidden Colony

Name meaning

The Hidden Colony's land seems untouched and uninhabited to the untrained eye

Description

The Hidden Colony is isolationist, distancing itself from the other colonies and their affairs. Outsiders passing through their territory can only discern the colony's presence by the scents they leave along its borders. While other colonies are aware of their existence, actual contact with the

Hidden Colony is rare, if not entirely nonexistent. This extreme independence allowed the Hidden Colony's culture to thrive—with such peaceful beginnings, they focused on building their own traditions, values, and domestic politics. However, the other colonies struggle to understand the Hidden Colony. They have never declared their positions on the political affairs of others, and the internal challenges they face remain unknown to the rest, making them enigmatic from an outside perspective.

Despite their open-mindedness toward individuals, cats of the Hidden Colony have long harbored fear toward other colonies as collectives. Their isolationist policies have allowed them to protect their unity and independence like no other colony has been able to, taking no risks with future foreign aggression. As such, they value remaining neutral in outside conflicts and refuse to act with belligerence. Hidden Colony cats emerge when there are intruding cats, keeping watch of passersby and assisting lost outsiders with cautious kindness. When faced with hostility from outsiders, Hidden Colony cats issue warnings and employ defensive formations and strategies.

Hidden Colony cats are trained to be protectors, whether as shields or healers. They practice self-restraint and respect even toward enemies but prioritize survival above all else. They've learned not to take risks and to work as a unit, in part from living in the harsh conditions of their mountainous home.

Hidden Colony cats are adept survivalists, exhibiting high endurance, agility, and skills best suited to their mountainous territory. This makes it easy for them to outmatch outsiders in their own territory or similar lands. They have amazing team cohesion, sticking together during patrols and revolving their battle tactics around fighting in groups to ensure safety and efficiency. Team cohesion is thoroughly taught regardless of a cat's role in the colony—even a kitten must be taught safety and cooperation, to a certain degree. Other notable Hidden Colony skills include climbing, navigation, traversing tunnels, knowledge of weather patterns and terrain features, shelter building,

sign language, and resourcefulness such as rationing. The Hidden Colony makes the most of cats with unique knowledge and abilities.

Hidden Colony cats use tunnels to traverse their territory safely. They are well-versed in which tunnels are secure and when it is safe to enter them, and they conduct frequent maintenance work to keep the tunnels in good condition. By relying on these tunnels, Hidden Colony cats can avoid predators, take quicker routes through their territory, monitor intruders from a distance, and seek shelter during sudden bouts of bad weather. Most outsiders avoid using these tunnels due to their tight corridors, a lack of understanding of their routes and safety, and fear of the low visibility.

The Sage, the leader of the Hidden Colony, places trust in their cats and their areas of expertise. While input from Hidden Colony cats is valued, final decisions rest with the Sage. Not only is this belief of respect rooted in the Hidden Colony's team cohesion, as in-fighting would weaken their unity, but it is also acknowledgment of the Sage's role as the colony's wise guide. Trust and respect for one another are must-haves in the Hidden Colony, even when two cats don't get along. Such a sight is truly uncommon in the Hidden Colony, though; Hidden Colony cats are so tight-knit that they consider each other chosen family.

In the Hidden Colony, the power of language holds significant importance, with its cats also fluent in sign language. Clear communication is necessary during missions; this skill is honed through training and day-to-day interactions. Storytelling is especially important to Hidden Colony cats as it can be used to preserve their history, foster connections, and pass down knowledge. Essentially, language is survival in the Hidden Colony. Cats are sure to make time for conversation, routinely sharing their stories over meals.

Hidden Colony cats practice mindfulness through silent contemplation and appreciation for their surroundings. This practice has led cats to approach their world with curiosity and develop beliefs regarding their land and the stars above. The towering peaks and expansive landscapes of their

territory can evoke a sense of deep awe, leaving cats feeling simultaneously lost and found. Having relied on their land and the stars for navigation, Hidden Colony cats now see them as emotional guides as well. They see their grounds and those specks in the cosmos as the sparks that ignited life, as well as the resting places of their departed loved ones. Following the event of the landslides that ravaged their territory, Hidden Colony cats established a shrine as a focal point for offerings.

There, they wish for the prosperity of their beloved home and express their gratitude for all that they've been given.

Hidden Colony cats tend to have brown, gray, or white pelts with mottled or tabby patterns, preferred for camouflage in their territory. Hidden Colony cats typically have dense coats and large paws with thick pads to endure the cold winters and rugged grounds of their territory. Hidden Colony cats develop muscular shoulders and cores from frequent training, climbing, and trekking. Cats here often enjoy accessorizing themselves and are likely to acquire scars.

Ranks

Sage

The rank of Sage earns its name from the flower, symbolizing thoughtfulness, longevity, wisdom, and good health. Sages have been entrusted to guide the colony by those who came before them, drawing upon their knowledge to protect and nurture their commoners.

Lightbringer

Lightbringers are the Sage's successors. They're taught everything they need to know until they are ready to assume leadership upon the retirement or passing of their Sage.

Seers

Seers serve as the healers of the colony, highly esteemed for their expertise and the services they offer to the colony's defenders. There are typically multiple Seers at once. Senior Seers are included in the Sage's "council," as they're the most knowledgeable about the colony's resources. Through their years of experimentation with various plants and hands-on methods, Seers have amassed quite a bit of healing knowledge, surpassing that of many other colonies. (Some of their techniques may or may not be placebo effects.)

Hollowkeepers

Hollowkeepers manage tunnels within the territory and help plan safe routes for Seers and Outriders. They are responsible for locating pre-existing burrows, maintaining them, and mapping routes through the territory during poor conditions, such as bad weather or increased activity from predators or outsiders. Hollowkeepers can recruit Outriders for assistance with larger projects.

When there's a lull in their work, they accompany Outriders to provide support or inspect the territory for potential hazards.

Wise Ones

The elders of the Hidden Colony, revered for their wisdom gained through living a long life. Cats are considered Wise Ones at 120 months old, a milestone that's celebrated and socially recognized as a total positive. Many cats in the colony go to them for advice, and Wise Ones are known to encourage this through their love of telling long stories. They can choose to do the same tasks as Outriders.

Outriders

Outriders are the protectors of their colony—this is considered the “default” colony rank, so this is the common rank trainees age into. Outriders are expected to have each other’s backs, they’re always sent out for patrols and missions in groups.

Trainees

Trainees are assigned to apprentice under various cats under the Sage’s orders. Aiming to become Seers or Outriders, they advance in rank at one year of age, though they still have much to learn at that age. They aren’t allowed to leave the general area of camp without supervision due to the Hidden Colony’s unique dangers.

Kittens

The little guys. With everyone being so tight-knit, most Hidden Colony cats don’t mind kitsitting. Kittens become trainees at 6 months old.

Territory

The Hidden Colony’s territory is a **mountainous subalpine meadow** resting at a lofty elevation. Peaks and valleys run through the lower lands of the territory, bursting with a vibrant array of wildflowers following the winter thaw. Clusters of trees dot the meadows, providing shade beneath their towering canopies while low-growing plants grow beneath their shelter. As the elevation climbs, the terrain becomes more rugged, with dramatic ridges being a signature of the center and eastern reaches of the territory. Here, amidst the crevices of the mountains, the Hidden Colony cats built their camp, sheltering themselves amidst the evergreen conifers that dominate the landscape. At these higher elevations, low-growing plants frequently brush against the legs of Hidden Colony cats.

Landslides have left their mark on many mountainsides in the Hidden Colony, giving many of its dramatic peaks a scarred appearance. Additionally, glaciers cling to specific slopes, their lower surfaces covered with rock debris. These glaciers form where more snow falls than melts, and when their ice does melt, it feeds into downhill valleys and rivers. The Hidden Colony's glaciers take their impressive mountains to a whole new level through their erosion, carving hollows and cirques into the landscape.

To the northwest, the territory transitions into a lowland swamp, typically with layers of shale and sandstone. The Hidden Colony's wetlands and basins' shores are dominated by Barclay's willow. Along some of the riverbanks, craters left by mudflows are evident and waters can appear milky due to rock silt. Rivers drain water from the higher slopes, snowpack, and rain, resulting in lower water levels during the summer months. Consequently, waterfalls often stop flowing during the summer months. Rivers may also be disrupted by accumulated rubble and debris, particularly at their bends.

The Hidden Colony expanded westward to accommodate its growing population. However, a severe flash flood had previously devastated this land, causing the then-occupying Hill Colony to disband.

The areas closest to the Hidden Colony had become nearly unrecognizable, as noted by some ex-Hill Colony members. Resources were scarce, and the land needed time to recover. Despite this, the Hidden Colony believed they were the right cats to care for this once-cherished land.

The far western territory has recovered, but it's no longer the land it once was. Its bright grassy hills have transformed into a landscape forced to adapt to the flood that reshaped it. Erosion has created gullies and dramatic slopes, making higher elevations difficult to traverse—except for the travel-proficient Hidden Colony cats, of course. The flood deposited fine silt, clay, and other debris into the lowlands, forming wetlands and mudflats. Meanwhile, the uplands have struggled to recover, lacking the nutrients needed to support tree growth. However, pioneer species typical of the Hidden

Colony have begun to thrive in these areas. Snags—dead, rotting trees—are common throughout the uplands, and fungi and insects have taken to them. Due to its history as the former Hill Colony territory, the far west contains many tunnels, but many are considered unsafe, especially in the uplands.

The far west territory transitions from large hills and ridges to wetlands formed from flooded valleys.

Erosion has created gullies and dramatic slopes, making higher elevations difficult to traverse—except for the travel-proficient Hidden Colony cats, of course. Tunnels are present in the higher elevations, though many entrances have collapsed and are dangerous to explore. Sand and mud deposits line the rivers, while silt and debris left by the flood create a bumpy terrain even in lower elevations. The water has softened the soil, allowing plants to easily take root, but only a few trees grow due to the waterlogged and eroded ground.

The Hidden Colony experiences harsh environmental conditions, with strong winds and moisture contributing to or creating high precipitation. Rain and strong winds are common occurrences throughout the year, with snowfall continuing until late spring. Hidden Colony cats have developed ways to monitor the weather, allowing them to travel safely. Ecological disturbances can be devastating for Hidden Colony cats, though they ultimately ensure their ecosystem's health. Landslides, avalanches, mudflows, and wind damage can encourage new plants to take root, enabling vegetation species diversity.

The far western territory is drier than the Hidden Colony's central region due to its lower elevation. However, the wetlands are humid, especially in summer, and are blanketed in dense morning fog as temperatures drop overnight. While the wetlands tend to stay cooler than the uplands during the day, the uplands experience moderate to warm temperatures and cool down more rapidly at night.

Winds in the west are just as strong as in the central region. The area faces many of the same ecological disturbances, though avalanches and snowstorms are rare, replaced instead by heavy

fog and floods. Hidden Colony cats are cautious during bouts of rainfall, particularly in the uplands and drier valleys. Water levels in the wetlands are stable, rising and falling gradually rather than suddenly.

Fauna

Predators

Hidden Colony cats share their territory with some hardy predators. **Mountain lions** are dangerous when they're hungry and desperate, turning their attention away from their larger prey to hunt smaller mammals. They are thankfully uncommon, only occasionally wandering into the Hidden Colony. **Bobcats**, on the other hand, are more frequently encountered. Hidden Colony cats are very wary of bobcats as their main strategy is to lie in wait for their prey to come close. Fortunately, they prefer larger animals.

Nervous by nature, **coyotes** are easily deterred when confronted with a larger group. **Cascade red foxes** exhibit similarly jittery behavior, though unlike coyotes, they're solitary hunters. They may try their luck at pilfering prey from Hidden Colony cats.

Golden eagles, red-tailed & sharp-shinned hawks, barred owls, and the migratory **northern goshawks** can all be threats to Hidden Colony cats. But given that Hidden Colony cats tend to travel in groups, birds of prey tend to avoid trying their talons at a cat dinner. Hidden Colony cats can appreciate them from a distance for the most part, finding them quite graceful when they're perched up high. As far as birds of prey are concerned, they're fond of the smaller, unusual, and harmless **northern pygmy-owl**.

American badgers prefer grasslands with loose, diggable soil that hasn't been too heavily eroded, thus they can occasionally be seen in the western uplands. Solitary and elusive, they primarily hunt

ground squirrels, gophers, and other burrowing animals, sharing much of the same prey as the Hidden Colony cats. While badgers generally avoid confrontations, they can be aggressive if threatened, making them a dangerous foe for any cat that gets too close to their burrows.

Neutral Animals

Hidden Colony cats maintain a respectful distance from various animals. They're particularly cautious around hooved animals like **black-tailed deer**, **elk**, and **mountain goats**. Although these animals typically graze peacefully, they're no strangers to violence, posing a risk to cats who venture too close. Hidden Colony cats steer clear of males especially, due to their aggression.

Black bears mostly scavenge abandoned kills and, interestingly, often flee when encountering a cat. Consequently, they aren't considered particularly dangerous. Hidden Colony cats are more afraid of the little guys; **porcupines**, **common beavers**, **raccoons**, **striped & western spotted skunks**, and **wolverines**. While hunting these smaller mammals could lead to unpleasant encounters, they generally keep to themselves, and Hidden Colony cats avoid situations that might make them feel cornered.

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Beavers and muskrats are a more frequent sight in the wetlands of the Hidden Colony, favoring still, shallow waters where they build their dens and lodges. **River otters** are another common find in the west, often spotted hunting aquatic life. While generally opportunistic feeders, otters can be fiercely

aggressive when threatened or when a cat looks like easy prey.

Insects, slugs, and snails are regarded as pointless catches. They do add a lot of life to the colony's territory and can provide entertainment to the young Hidden Colony members who enjoy games like snail bets. **Bumblebees, butterflies, moths, and grasshoppers** are commonly found in the meadows, while **dance flies** and **wasps** mostly inhabit the trees. **Carpenter ants** and **beetles** can be found by peeling back deadwood. With each rainfall, **earthworms, snails, and slugs** emerge, drawn out by the moisture. The fascinating **banana slug** can be found in the forested, swampy area of the Hidden Colony—a far better find than the **mosquitoes** and **black flies** that swarm there. The forested regions are home to a few **spiders**; one must be careful not to run into their webs, it'd be a shame to waste their hard work after all.

Prey

Pine martens and **minks** are aggressive hunters capable of killing a Hidden Colony cat, but Hidden Colony cats are typically able to catch them with ease if they outnumber them. The **long-tailed & short-tailed weasels** of the Hidden Colony are aggressive but often fall prey to cats. Two common chases in the Hidden Colony are the **snowshoe hare** and **mountain cottontail**, both large enough a catch to keep a small group fed for a few days. **Pika**, an animal related to rabbits, are uncommon finds but incredibly easy to catch. Their high-pitched calls are quite cute.

Pacific jumping mice can be found in the meadows of the Hidden Colony and are a tease to hungry cats, dodging out of their grasps with a hop. Cats must also be swift in their pursuit of other rodents such as **Townsend's & yellow pine chipmunks, golden-mantled, Douglas, & northern flying squirrels**, and **deer mice & pack rats**. The many **voles** found within the Hidden Colony may make for easier catches, though cats must be careful not to misstep while catching those found near water. **Moles** and **pocket gophers**, underground fellows, can be a bit daunting due to their particularly

powerful claws and incisors. Shrews, found all throughout the territory, offer a more convenient prey option.

The Hidden Colony's landscape is not without its surprises, with bats flitting out of trees, snakes slithering through the grass, and salamanders darting past the feet of unsuspecting cats. A large variety of bats can be found in their territory: yuma bats, little brown bats, hoary bats, big brown bats, just to name a few—some inspire more fright than others. Common garter snakes, rubber boas, and wandering garter snakes are found near water, while northwestern garter snakes are commonly spotted in open areas. The rubber boa is quite shy, reluctant to bite and known to curl up when disturbed.

Northern alligator lizards and a variety of salamanders, toads, and frogs can be found in the Hidden Colony. Cascade frogs, pacific chorus frogs, red-legged frogs, western toads, rough-skinned newts, coastal giant salamanders, long-toed salamanders, northwestern salamanders, and van dyke's salamanders are all found near ponds and marshes. Spotted frogs, western tiger salamanders, columbia spottedts, eastern massasauga and western painted turtles are exclusive to the west's wetlands, while the western skink prefers the uplands. Coastal tailed frogs are found in waterfall splash zones. Ensantinas, cope's giant salamander, western red-backed salamanders, and larch mountain salamanders are found in the forests or rocky areas of the Hidden Colony. All of these are a bit of an acquired taste, though all Hidden Colony cats can appreciate a good slippery fish. Fish, including cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and sculpins, inhabit the streams and ponds, although catching them proves extra challenging due to a common aversion to water. Scuds, crayfish, speckled dace, and redside shiners can be found in the western wetlands.

The Hidden Colony holds a rich diversity of birdlife, much too broad to cover entirely. Among the most commonly heard are the calls of American robins and mountain bluebirds, while the flutelike

songs of the Swainson's thrush and varied thrush are heard further away from camp. Vibrant species like western tanagers, chestnut-backed chickadees, rufous hummingbirds, violet-green swallows, and ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets are easily spotted due to their striking colors. Canada jays and ravens are known for their protective, almost confrontational spirits—too aggressive for the average hunter's liking. The distinctive "tap tap tap" of woodpeckers can be heard in the heavily forested parts of the Hidden Colony. Horned larks and sooty grouse inhabit the mountainous zones, while band-tailed pigeons are exclusive to the meadows. Harlequin ducks can occasionally be sighted in specific streams.

The west's birdlife overlaps with the central region's, but the wetlands have attracted many new species, particularly waterfowl. Tundra swans, Canada geese, pintails, widgeons, ducks, terns, shorebirds, and egrets are common sights. Geese and ducks are especially noisy as they forage along the shores, heard all throughout the day, and their presence is missed when they migrate away. California quail scurry through the undergrowth in tight groups, ruffed grouse pick through snags, and turkey vultures glide low, searching for carrion. Though populations are still recovering in the west, the animals here can make it seem just as lively as central.

Flora

Trees

Evergreen conifers are the primary tree of the Hidden Colony's territory, their needle-like leaves strong enough to endure the colder seasons. The dense canopies of the towering trees in the mountains keep cats well hidden. Scattered deciduous trees (mostly in the lower elevations) give the territory splashes of color in the autumn. From the highest vantage points, beautiful views of the mix of wildflower fields and forests can be seen.

Douglas-firs have flat and bristly needles with thick, aged bark. Noble firs are straight and tall while

subalpine firs have spire-like forms and strangely tend to shelter mountain goats and grouse. Mountain and western hemlocks have distinctive drooping needles. Red and Sitka alders thrive in moist areas, adorned with reddish and golden catkins. Along rivers, bigleaf maples, vine maples, and black cottonwoods can be found. Bigleaf maples are incredibly tall for maple trees and typically have thick layers of moss on their bark, vine maples turn a vibrant orange-red in the fall, and black cottonwoods are marked by their sticky, sweet-smelling resin.

Lodgepole and whitebark pines can be found in areas where flora is scarce. Western white pines are known for their scaly bark, and Englemann spruces look entirely fuzzy due to their leaves. Then there are Alaska yellow cedars, western red cedars which have bark that can peel in long strips, and western yew with their twisted trunks and bright red “berries.”

Young ponderosa pines dot the western uplands, while various willow species have spread across the wetlands. The current conditions haven't supported much other tree growth, and the pre-flood trees—mostly Pacific madrone—have become snags. These snags provide habitat for wildlife, insects, and fungi, and the decay looks less unsightly now that other plants have grown around them.

Shrubs, Dicots & Perennials

The shrubs and flowers of the Hidden Colony are extremely hardy, tending to aggressively bloom after the snowmelt. Surprisingly, the colony's vegetation appears to thrive in the aftermath of disturbances like landslides. The mountains are dominated by low shrubs like heather and huckleberry, along with clumps of ground cover such as black sedge and partridgefoot, which last through heavy snowfall. Similar shrubs will appear in the scattered clusters of trees in the lower regions of the territory. In areas recovering from ecological upheavals, Sitka valerian, lupine, American bistort, pasqueflower, paintbrush, daisy, gray's lovage, glacier lily, and avalanche lily are

all eager to show.

Wildflowers of all shapes, sizes, and colors can be found in the Hidden Colony's meadows, and can be viewed during the summer. These flowers bloom wildly, being in a hurry to reproduce before winter returns. **Tall grasses**, including green fescue, form dense communities, obscuring visibility in the meadows. Hidden Colony cats simply deal with the tall grasses and flowers, as they'd hate to tear any down.

A variety of wetland plants can be found in the Hidden Colony's west side. **Rush, sedge, ferns, cattail, and stinging nettle** can be found in that area, with the **Barclay's willow** being an especially common find there.

Funga

Brown and white rot, fungi, can be found on the wood of trees. **Oyster mushrooms** and **northern red-belted conks** form shelf-like structures on tree trunks, while **bleeding mycena**, **sulphur tuft**, **quinine fungus**, and the "poor man's gumdrop" sprout in clusters. Other mushrooms grow at the roots of trees and other plants, such as the **king bolete**, **matsutake**, **pacific golden chanterelle**, and **western painted Suillus**. Others appear to parasitize their host plants, causing rot and blistering; examples include the **lobster mushroom**, **honey mushroom**, **cauliflower fungus**, and **dyer's polypore**.

Fungi thrive throughout the Hidden Colony's territory due to its ideal climate for their growth.

Fungi have overtaken many of the snags in the far west, including many of the fungi mentioned above, as well as **veiled polypores** and **false turkey tails**. **Scurfy twiglets** and **silky pinkgills** peek through the grasses across the territory.

Algae, Lichens, & Mosses

Algae can be seen anywhere where there isn't fast-flowing water, so mostly in the west side. Leaf-like lichens, typically colored a vibrant or sage green, can be found on trees and rocks all throughout the Hidden Colony territories. Another variety of lichen resembles foam, branches, or roots, while yet another forms a few odd types of "crust." They all grow among moss, rocks, or bark. There are a variety of mosses in the Hidden Colony, with feather mosses being encountered the most, as they grow practically everywhere.



Out of date!

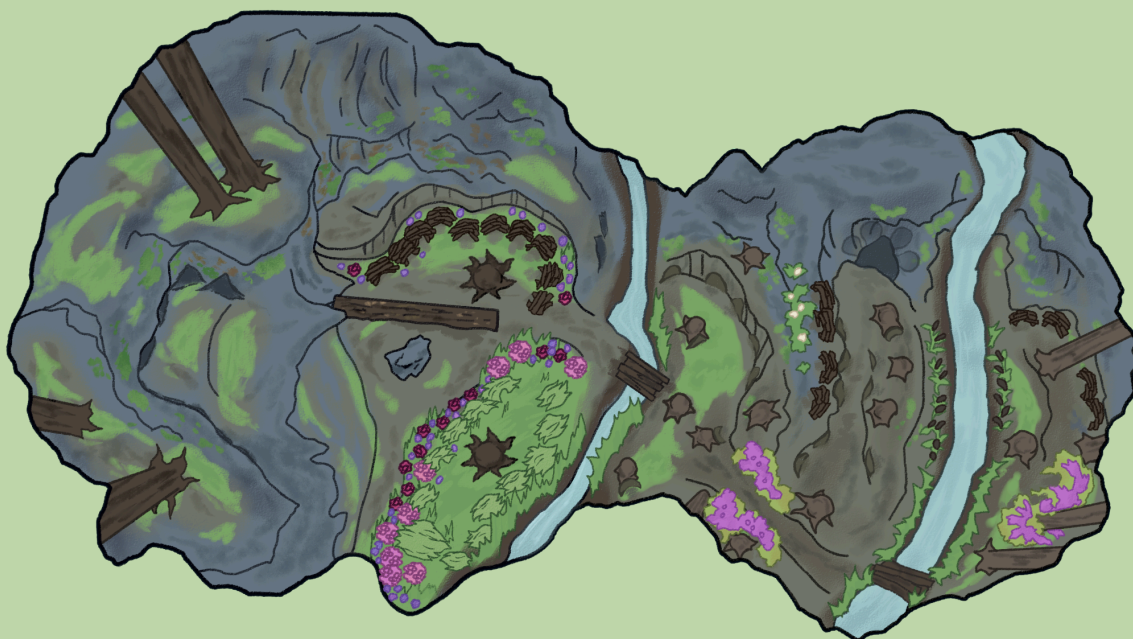
The Hidden Colony's western territory has undergone some changes since this map was made.

Landmarks

Cloudless Sanctuary

The Hidden Colony nestles within a hollow, partly encircled by cliffs, while opposite stands a protective barrier of hardy flora like fireweed, alpine willowherb, lupine, and tall grasses. The cliff walls and layer of stones lining the camp's edges are adorned with black and pale lichen (rock tripe) and soft feather moss. A stream the colony dug into shape serves as a water source, with dens situated around it. A hollowed-out fallen log, teeming with insects and fungi, can be used to access to a cliffside area with dens made out of the rock crevices. Woven dead wood serves as shelter to the dens cats have made from tunnels. The Sage delivers announcements from a rock pillar in the middle of the camp, fittingly named the "Bright Rocks" for its sunlit perch amidst the shadows cast by the branches of nearby trees.

Across from the creek lies an area primarily shaded by bigleaf and vine maples. Tall grasses and black sedge sprouts out of the soft soil, while various types of heather blanket the drier ground. The Hidden Colony cats have dug tunnels into the soft earth along the camp walls and tree roots, and within large clumps of heather. The farthest side of the camp is nestled beside a second stream, which has a more pronounced waterfall than the other. Near the water is a small cave with dens dug from its center.



Hidden Colony Neighbors

This document shows neighboring cats in the Hidden Colony camp.

Half-Cave

A hollow near the camp with such a dramatic cliff overhang that it gives the appearance of a partially enclosed cave. Its rugged clearing is interrupted by large boulders, providing the perfect area for Outriders to work on their ambushing, stealth, and agility skills.

Clear Peak

The mountain's apex, used as a vantage point. Many of the trees in this area show their damage following a landslide, yet clumps of grasses, ferns, and shrubs have grown over the soil, as if contrasting a memory. Roots and vegetation peek through the uneven cliffsides, which show a deep scarring from afar. Glaciers run down the side of the mountains, leading cats down to the Cavern-Hidden border.

Quiet Falls

A waterfall lower on the mountain that maintains its flow even in the dryer summer months, a rare occurrence in their territory. Hidden Colony cats were relieved to find this old landmark wasn't wiped out by the landslide, so they established it as a shrine to bring offerings to, where they wish for the prosperity of their land and colony. Placed by the shrine is a carefully preserved piece of bark carved with markings from every member of the colony, a lasting memorial to each Hidden Colony cat.

Calm Meadows

The expansive meadows of their territory. It bursts with color in the summer as wildflowers "come alive." It's a good spot for catching smaller animals and defines the Hidden-Clover border. The serene sounds of wildlife and pleasant smells offer respite, allowing cats to come here to escape their worries.

Orchid Mire

Named after the Sky Colony leader, who gave the Hidden Colony this land when they fell on hard times. The ground here is soft, with curious plants popping up all over, and the slow, algae-covered water laps at the paws of cats in a way they aren't used to. This area probably isn't for the squeamish.

West to Central

The Hidden Colony's longest and best-maintained tunnel; a transformed rabbit warren. It connects the central territory to the west, allowing Hidden Colony cats to pass the border discreetly. For safety and rest, it has multiple branches, though none lead to an exit under Clover Colony's territory—these sub-tunnels now only serve to shelter cats. As the tunnel reaches the west, it splits again, letting cats remain hidden as they continue north, west, or south.

Deer Hollow

Initially overlooked by the Hidden Colony cats, Deer Hollow only gained significance when they identified the collapsed and eroded tunnels as remnants of the fallen Hill Colony's camp. Alouette named it after the Hill Colony's symbol of good fortune. The hollow is now overgrown with pioneer species such as lichen, mosses, fungi, and tall grasses. While most pre-flood vegetation has died or decayed, there is hope for the land's revival through the growth.

Yellowthroat Hills

Sweeping hills and ridges that provide a lookout over the land and extend into a meadow yet to bloom. This area, among the first explored by the Hidden Colony cats during their expansion, stood out for its abundant life compared to the rest of the territory. It was named after the songbirds inhabiting the area.

Viridian Lagoon

This landmark was named for the algae blooms that once overtook its ponds, creating a

stunning deep green appearance at night. Since then, the ecosystem has stabilized, allowing other aquatic plants to thrive. Many of the dams originally built by Hidden Colony cats have since been taken over by beavers.

Sages & Lightbringers

Current Sage

Alouette • Owned by @peeperonipip

Sleek blue silver classic tabby tuxedo cat

Previous Sages

Jade • Owned by @SunnysWeird

Black tortoiseshell molly

Current Lightbringer

Smolder • Owned by @peeperonipip

Red mackerel tabby molly

Previous Lightbringers

Bast • Owned by @SunnysWeird

Cream mackerel lynx point harlequin molly

History

Beginnings

Two travelers, Jade and Bast, met after experiencing displacement from their original homes. They formed a bond after they realized their shared struggles of losing their parents and homes, and decided to travel together. Along their journey, they encountered other cats facing a similar kind of loneliness, including Talon, Coco, and Poppy. Eventually, they stumbled upon a land of stunning mountains, fascinated by the viewpoints, towering trees, and serene quietness.

Jade became fixated on this territory, insistent it would be the perfect home for all of them. While not everyone was immediately convinced, Jade's enthusiasm swayed them, so they settled in. They collectively decided to name themselves the Hidden Colony. Jade assumed the role of Sage, or leader, while Bast became her Lightbringer, her successor. While the Hidden Colony focused on their own tight-knit group, they remained somewhat open to neighboring colonies like the Clover, Hill, and Lake Colonies, which sent them welcome parties.

The Hidden Colony learned about the Hill Colony's struggles with intrusive coyotes during their visit. Though they offered their sympathy and reassurances, the Hidden Colony decided to maintain their focus on building their colony. Strange things they overheard around their borders, along with warnings from the Web Colony, led them to keep to themselves even more. Even the friendly and familiar wanderer Pinecone would be met with aggression if she were to enter their territory. Alarm bells started ringing in Jade and Bast's heads.

Rumors of the Web Colony taking over the Fire Colony raised larger concerns among the Hidden Colony outriders. Had the Fire Colony fallen—were they all separated? It seemed likely, to the Hidden Colony cats, that some cats may have died in the conflict. Although they hadn't known each other for long, they'd surely hate to lose each other and the home they'd built. They needed to exercise caution around their unpredictable neighbor. They were only strong enough to defend themselves, so... they couldn't get involved. But they did prepare themselves for anything coming their way.

The Hidden Colony cats were surprised to learn that the Web Colony had disbanded. Their former Overlord sought new homes for them, admitting the flaws in his leadership and assuring these cats could peacefully integrate into any colony. Despite some wariness from the Hidden Colony cats towards the ex-Web Colony cats who asked to join, Jade and Bast decided to be understanding and welcome them. Eventually, they decided to stay indefinitely, so Alouette, Beaver, Pigeon, and Stag became outriders of the Hidden Colony.

Shortly after, Estelle, Persephone, and Turnstone joined. Turnstone became the colony's first Seer, developing the Hidden Colony's healing knowledge through their studies. As winter approached and resources became scarce, the Hidden Colony cats trusted the extra paws would help them get through it. The older Hidden Colony cats warmed up to all of the new residents rather fast.

Adversity

The Hidden Colony cats were still adjusting to the weather of their territory, which made hunting in the snow cover a challenge. It seemed that birds were migrating to warmer lands, and many animals hid in their burrows, meaning the Hidden Colony didn't have much to hunt in the first place. There was a sting of disappointment and 'what ifs' that ran through their minds whenever a catch wasn't successful, worsened by a bout of sickness sweeping over the colony. Turnstone worked overtime as they focused on best practices around managing the spreading sickness.

The Hidden Colony residents appreciated knowing they were all in this together. They listened closely to Turnstone's advice and shared good news with each other daily. Another glimmer of hope was the mateship between Jade and Bast, and separately, Beaver and Alouette. Everyone maintained strong morale even as the harsh weather conditions persisted beyond winter.

A cat from the Fire Colony named Cirrus visited the Hidden Colony. The Hidden Colony welcomed him, as they would with anyone, though they were skeptical of the beliefs he was trying to sell them. It seemed like the other colonies often had some ulterior motive, and they weren't sure what to make of it with spirituality in the mix. They sent him back on his way with a smile, distantly wondering if they were missing something about this strange cat.

A sense of apprehension came over the Hidden Colony cats as they felt tremors in the earth. In the days before a major earthquake swept over the colonies, they remained cautious. But their caution wasn't enough, as Stag died in a rockslide and Alouette's vision was impaired by falling debris. The Hidden Colony cats mourned their loss and noticed that the other colonies' territories had been devastated too, such as the Clover Colony's pond being flooded.

Later, the Hidden Colony noticed that the Cavern Colony had expanded its borders. They learned that the Fire Colony had fallen—certainly, this time, and the Cavern Colony had taken over their territory. It was a twisting feeling to realize the first colony was gone at the paws of their neighbors, once again. It made the Hidden Colony cats all too aware of their vulnerability as a smaller colony. They hoped they'd never have to fight so hard for their home as they recovered from the earthquake.

The Hidden Colony gained a new neighboring colony in the Ivy Colony, though this time, no welcome parties were sent. They were all simply too occupied by their own affairs. This was especially true for the Hidden Colony when their only Seer, Turnstone, disappeared without a trace. Persephone and Alouette were eager to step up as the colony's new Seers, as they'd gathered some healing knowledge from Turnstone and didn't want to leave the colony without Seers. Jade and Bast accepted, of course. Persephone and Alouette were left to face this winter without Turnstone's guidance.

New Faces

A new face appeared in the Hidden Colony, a cat named Cream. The Hidden Colony welcomed them as they all made it through yet another winter together. During this time, the Sky Colony was established to the west of them, reportedly founded by ex-Fire Colony cats. Perhaps it was comforting to have those familiar faces around.

Jade and Bast were informed by Cavern Colony cats that the Pyre Colony posed an active threat to the colonies, encouraging them to get involved. But the Hidden Colony remained firm about not interfering in outside affairs. Shortly after, a female cat named Evangeline joined the colony, seeming to feel at home. The wildflowers bloomed in their typical display after she arrived. It was always an amazing feeling for the older residents to see the newcomers feel as awestruck as they once were.

Pigeon was expecting kittens while Beaver and Alouette took in an abandoned litter. The two litters grew up close, breathing new life into the colony. How strange it was for the Hidden Colony cats to finally have the chance to raise their own. These kittens were the Hidden Colony's future... the Hidden Colony cats would have to lay a good foundation for them. The Hidden Colony cats were close to these kittens, as they grew up to see practically all of their seniors as family.

The Hidden Colony celebrated another member, Blaine. Life was going well, though Hidden Colony cats heard that a Clover Colony cat had been killed by an unknown attacker. It was fortunate that Hidden Colony cats almost always traveled as a team. But it seemed like something ominous was always looming over them... the possibility of harm. It weighed heavily on Jade, known for her worrying over possibilities and the damage a small mistake could do. Perhaps, occasionally, the Hidden Colony cats wondered if they'd always done the right thing by being so wary of the other colonies. Would their influence ever have helped the other colonies? If they got involved, what could that mean for their own?

Trials and Tribulations

The Hidden Colony had a rough start in the year following. Evangeline went missing, with signs of a struggle and strange scents left behind. Hidden Colony cats flew into a panic as they wondered what it could mean and whether they'd ever see Evangeline again. It was safe to say it was a kidnapping, but the Hidden Colony cats were completely unaware of who could've done it.

Almost right after Evangeline's disappearance, a landslide struck the Hidden Colony, snowballing from the top of their territory. Hidden Colony cats swam through the snow, debris, and mud as they ran to lower ground, realizing their camp (most of their territory, for that matter) had been completely wrecked. They were forced to monitor the damages from a distance, even when Copper had gone missing in the mudflows. Their family felt lost as their determination to find them was forced to be given up on. Nobody was certain when it'd be safe enough to return to camp.

Jade, Bast, and the Seers worked hard to help everyone recover physically and mentally. But no matter what they did, it was clear that this was a new era for the Hidden Colony. They no longer had the resources to survive within their territory, as much of it had been eaten up by debris, blockages, and mudflows. What were they going to do?

If any colony were to hear of this, they'd assume this was the end of the Hidden Colony. Jade and Bast were tired, too tired to help the colony grow beyond this—how would they even begin to repair this situation? But there was a surprising blaze in Alouette's eyes as they healed the Hidden Colony cats and insisted they'd overcome this, just as they'd overcome everything before this. Jade, Bast, Persephone, Alouette, and Poppy got to talking about the future of their colony, and eventually, it was decided that Jade and Bast would retire and allow Alouette to take over.

To those close to Alouette, it seemed as though the landslide had gotten to them more than they let on. But acting fast was a matter of their children's future. Among the Hidden Colony cats, there was a debate about what course of action to take: disbanding, seeking new territory, merging with another colony, or staying. Some, like Pigeon, Grove, and Moonpenny, confidently voiced their opinions, while others, such as Smolder, Twilight, and Beaver, mostly looked to their peers and the new Sage. Alouette was determined to do everything in their power to maintain the Hidden Colony's territory and independence, realizing that leaving would mean not only abandoning their home but also potentially their culture and values. Also, considering the Hidden Colony's beginnings, it seemed cruel to displace so many cats a second time.

So, Alouette decided to work with their closest neighbors; the Clover Colony, Sky Colony, and Cavern Colony. They tread carefully as they spoke to each colony's leader, aware that they were showing a lot of vulnerability.

The Creek Colony had recently fallen, allowing the Sky Colony to take over their territory. This meant the Sky Colony could offer some of its own territory to the Hidden Colony—meaning they'd finally have enough to eat and clean water to drink! Doubly, this finally gave the Hidden Colony a chance to expand, which the Hidden Colony cats were eager for due to their growing numbers. Additionally, the Cavern Colony offered to let Hidden Colony cats take resources from a section of their territory.

But everything comes with a price. Not wanting to be eternally indebted to the Cavern and Sky Colonies, Alouette insisted upon offering something in return sooner than later.

Wars had been waged against the Flytrap Colony, a colony that'd been kidnapping cats from other colonies. The Sky and Cavern Colonies asked for the Hidden Colony cats to fight partially (Sky) or wholly (Cavern) on their behalf. The Hidden Colony never got involved with outside affairs, but... could they say this was the affairs of outsiders when Evangeline had so clearly been kidnapped by those Flytrap cats? Alouette hesitated, torn between living up to the legacy of their gentle predecessor and giving their children a future in the Hidden Colony.

Alouette's paw drew forward, agreeing upon the deals of the Sky Colony and Cavern Colony as their colonymates had backed their decision. They were given their land and resources as it'd been agreed upon and the Hidden Colony cats prepared for war. The Flytrap Colony wouldn't trace this back to them, at least, as they had no idea who the Hidden Colony cats were and the Sky Colony and Cavern Colony were the ones publicly declaring war. Hidden Colony cats weren't thrilled to be the Cavern Colony and Sky Colony's mercenaries, but it could mean getting Evangeline back in one piece, and it most certainly meant the Hidden Colony wouldn't fall.

Meanwhile, the Clover Colony agreed to send their travelers as aid, and in return, the Hidden Colony would help them with safe passage through their territory in the future. The Hidden Colony cats relied on them to make repairs to their camp and territory while Persephone trained the Hidden cats in anticipation of their war against the Flytrap Colony. Alouette planned to send the unaware Clover Colony travelers out of their territory as soon as they had to go to war. The Hidden Colony would need the space to focus on their part in the conflict.

A Hollow Tomorrow

Many cats had joined the Hidden Colony, inspired by its struggle in the search for a home. While this could have strengthened the colony's forces, Alouette refused to involve these newcomers in a conflict they didn't yet

understand. Instead, they were sent on hunting patrols and assigned the same repair duties as the Clover Colony travelers.

Not long after, the Hidden Colony received word through its neighbors that the Flytrap Colony had ended its isolation and launched an attack against another colony with the aid of an outsider group. Keeping the Clover Colony travelers in their territory any longer was too great a risk. Besides, with the support of their newcomers, Alouette and Persephone decided they had enough resources to send the travelers on their way. The Hidden Colony cats thanked the travelers for their work, amazed by the repairs they had accomplished.

The Hill Colony, the Hidden Colony's neighbor, fell after a flood tore through its lands. Much of its territory was ruined—damaged plant life could be seen from afar, the scent of rot lingered, and the chirping of birds was absent. It was likely the Hill Colony was disbanded for good. Yet Alouette and many others began to personally hope for its recovery when an ex-resident, Arcturus, joined their ranks. Comfrey and Sierra followed soon after, waiting for Comfrey's Hill Colony brother. For many Hidden Colony cats, their arrival stirred memories of the days they feared losing their own homeland—divided families, unfamiliar territories, the uncertainty of their futures together. The Hill Colony had suffered a fate the Hidden Colony had barely managed to escape.

As the Hidden Colony welcomed in another member, Comfrey's brother Yarrow, Alouette decided they needed more space in their camp. Together, Alouette, Persephone, and Shale worked on making this expansion's layout accessible to all their members. While the senior Hidden Colony residents focused primarily on training and strategizing, the newcomers took on camp work. Much like they'd felt with the travelers' work, seeing the Hidden Colony thrive in some ways excited its cats—flickers of hope when they were stagnant and uncertain. It made the wait to be used as mercenaries more bearable.

Meanwhile, the Clover Colony expanded into the higher elevations of the former Hill Colony territory—areas less affected by the flood. Inspired by this and the state of the ex-Hill Colony residents, Alouette believed the Hidden Colony could serve as the damaged lands' stewards. Maybe to some outsiders, it'd seem like a foolish investment; the land would require time and energy to manage and would not contribute resources for a long while. But Alouette saw it as an investment in their ex-Hill residents—giving them back their land, at least until the day, if it ever came, the Hill Colony could restore itself.

The newcomers were assigned to Alouette's project to repair parts of the former Hill Colony's territory. Their reports painted a grimmer picture than initially expected. Though the land would recover from the flood, it would never again be the home the Hill Colony once knew. Its iconic red trees were snapped and rotting, the lowlands had transformed into wetlands choked with sickly-smelling algae blooms, tunnels had collapsed, and their camp was impossible to find in the rubble.

However, when the Sage accompanied their cats to the far west, the silence was broken by recognition—not of what had been lost, but of what had *survived*. When the ex-Hill Colony's camp was eventually rediscovered, Alouette named the ruined site Deer Hollow, inspired by the colony's symbol of good fortune. Other cats followed suit, with the landmark names Yellowthroat Hills and Viridian Lagoon catching on—recognizing the land's beauty in its ongoing recovery and sharing excitement over the signs of returning life they did find. Alouette and the Seers managed their colonymates' reports on the land, guiding them in resource management and ways to aid its recovery, such as

building dams.

Meanwhile, it was clear the central territory had recovered as the Calm Meadows burst with color. The Hidden Colony cats embraced the sight with relief and joy, but as time passed, melancholy set in. Though the Hidden Colony made many new friends, no number of them could replace Evangeline. The older residents wished to see her return in time for the meadows' bloom, but there was no hope that would happen.

It was during this period that Juniper, Alouette and Beaver's son, went missing in a Flytrap Colony attack. Hidden Colony cats interpreted the struggle differently—some believed he had escaped alive, others thought he had been captured, and a few, who knew better than to say it aloud, feared he escaped *dead*. Given their attempts at finding him were futile, the Hidden Colony could do nothing but wait and wonder.

Elsewhere, Felicity, a Beach Colony resident, approached the Sky, Ivy, and Cavern Colonies, seeking resistance against the Flytrap Colony. This defied her chief's orders, and outsiders familiar with the situation advised against taking action now. Alouette agreed with their caution, believing the Flytrap Colony was not yet weakened enough to be taken down. They believed it'd only lead to the Flytrap Colony gaining knowledge against their opponents—including potentially exposing the Hidden Colony's involvement—and failure.

But the Hidden Colony had to make good on their deal with the Cavern and Sky Colonies, and what they wished for was to use their mercenaries against the Flytrap Colony. So, Beaver led a party, including Pigeon, Marigold, Comfrey, Ezra, Twilight, Shale, and Raziel. Alouette allowed only two newcomers to join—one as an on-field medic, and the other for their personal stake in the fight. Sky Colony cats would fight alongside them, though the Cavern Colony wouldn't send their cats. One Cavern Colony molly, Kelp, joined the fight against Lupa's orders.

The attack was a disaster. Some prisoners were freed, but more were taken by the Flytrap Colony. Pigeon was killed by Foxglove while attempting to rescue the prisoners. Shale was among those captured. Marigold was returned in critical condition with a broken leg. The colony struggled to process the whirlwind of what'd just happened, but their Sage held them together, expressing their appreciation for the Outriders and Seers who fought. They slowed the discussion around who was to blame for this incident, not wishing for grudges to be held against the Sky and Cavern Colonies, as there were greater things to focus on—a cat to mourn.

Not long after, Copper returned to the Hidden Colony after months of being missing. Everyone knew better than to run into explaining the colony's current circumstances to them, so cats treated them gently, explaining everything bit by bit... including their parent's death. Many cats were excited for their return—perhaps because a win in the Hidden Colony was so hard to come by, or because they wanted to show their appreciation for Copper, but this wasn't the right approach.

The Hidden Colony would do the same for Marigold as she adjusted to her new way of life. Everyone was uncertain of how Marigold's recovery would go; if her leg would heal properly. They didn't know much at all... if the Flytrap Colony knew their involvement now, if Shale and Evangeline would return safely with tensions higher than ever, and why Juniper wasn't among the prisoners.

Winter came, bringing the kind of weather Hidden Colony cats were accustomed to—rain, high winds, snowfall, avalanches... it was nothing they couldn't handle! Their central territory was beginning to look up as well, with cats

being able to gather more resources than they'd anticipated; it was a relief to not *have* to rely on their deals with the Cavern and Sky Colonies.

The newcomers (well, not so new anymore) continued their work on the far western territory, hoping for signs of recovery come spring... perhaps the resurgence of coyotes was one such sign. The rest of the residents waited for the moment they'd be called to war. Many of them wanted this to end and were willing to fight, yet they were afraid of what would happen "next time." All the preparation in the world and the Flytrap Colony still outnumbered them; killed, took another prisoner, and they were only getting bolder. They weren't just carrying out hit-and-run attacks against lone, unsuspecting cats anymore—they were targeting entire patrols. The Hidden Colony cats remained on-guard—all this worry couldn't have been good for their hearts—and all this anticipation amounted to nothing.

Shale and Evangeline returned to them one unassuming day, bringing news of the Flytrap Colony's defeat. The Hidden Colony cats couldn't believe their ears, but they set aside their abundant questions to care for the two. Alouette ordered the Seers to check their health, given the poor conditions they'd endured... Evangeline had been trapped there for *years*. Afterward, a few cats—Cora, Halibut, Muriel, Fescue, Sierra, and those closest to the two—excitedly called for a celebration. The Hidden Colony cats decorated camp and shared a rare feast. For just two days, they forgot about their worries and the months of distance from their loved ones.

Two days, because Sierra and Comfrey announced they were mates now... another celebration was in order.

With the Flytrap Colony's reign over, the Cavern and Sky Colony deals had fallen through—the Hidden Colony hadn't been of much use. Though they were comfortable not serving the Cavern and Sky Colonies anymore, in terms of their resources, there was discomfort in not knowing how the colony leaders took their failed use. Some cats worried they were still indebted to the two colonies. And besides those worries, there was the considerable loss they were left to sit with.

No amount of projects Alouette created would make up for what was lost. They created new futures, though the Hidden Colony cats had to accept these futures weren't the ones they once envisioned, with the cats and homes they lost. Maybe it was easier for the newest members to accept, but it was a truth they'd eventually have to face as well. Still, was it right to let this hopelessness and clinging to the past influence them? Time marched forward, and for now, they had each other. That was the most important part.

"Rest"

The Hidden Colony finished winter with the arrival of a mother and her kittens, found in an abandoned tunnel. They helped Nightfall—her name was—settle into the colony while she planned to find an adoptive parent for her kittens. Spider took the two in, naming them Venom and Marathysa, and the Hidden Colony cats slowly introduced themselves to the little ones. They'd soon have more introductions to make, with two ex-Muse Colony cats joining the colony after theirs fell. Alouette would keep an eye out for ways to help them receive closure, though for now, the remains of their colony were too scattered.

Having been faced with a generation younger than their own children, Alouette was reminded they wouldn't be able to continue their leadership for much longer. They didn't know if they'd done enough to lead the Hidden Colony

through the worst of times, but when war was looming, they knew they couldn't bring someone young into that kind of responsibility. With the Hidden Colony having found peace, they had to consider who would be best suited to become a Lightbringer. And once they trained that Lightbringer, they would join Poppy, Beaver, and Spider as Wise Ones... Rest was quite a while off for them.

Alouette's mind went back to Nightfall sheltering in the tunnels, as well as the surge in coyote populations. With the far west territory's recovery going smoothly, it was time for the Hidden Colony to make a new improvement: the ex-Hill Colony's tunnels' renewal, and work on burrows in the central territory. Having cats maintain the tunnels would make those parts of their territory safer, it'd allow the Hidden Colony cats to travel discreetly, and their travel times would be reduced—it seemed a smart way for the Hidden Colony to adapt. After discussing it with their colonymates, the Sage announced the introduction of the Hollowkeepers.

Relations

Sky Colony	Clover Colony	Cavern Colony
<p>The Hidden Colony served as the Sky Colony's mercenaries during the Flytrap Colony war and is now on neutral terms with it.</p> <p>As part of their deal, the Hidden Colony was granted land to alleviate their resource drought. In exchange, they secretly fought as mercenaries for the Sky Colony. For the Hidden Colony, this agreement was made out of necessity—they did what they had to do to remain in their territory and protect their own. Still, some of the Sky Colony's decisions have left Hidden Colony cats with complicated feelings. The Sky Colony called them to fight despite warnings from those who better understood the Flytrap Colony's circumstances. That decision arguably led to Pigeon's death, Shale's capture, and Marigold being nearly killed—all for nothing. But at least the Sky Colony cats</p>	<p>Hidden Colony cats are most acquainted with the Clover Colony, as they're the longest-standing colony. They were able to reconnect after a period of the Hidden Colony's radio silence. This was due to the agreement that the Hidden Colony would grant them safe passage and guide them through their territory in exchange for aid in repairing their territory after it was devastated by a landslide.</p> <p>Hidden Colony cats see the Clover Colony as a very different colony, though these differences are mostly admired. The Clover Colony has always been more politically involved than the Hidden Colony, taking stances on larger topics that the Hidden Colony never would've spoken up about. They were fortunate to be able to.</p>	<p>The Hidden Colony served as the Cavern Colony's mercenaries during the Flytrap Colony war and is now on neutral terms with it.</p> <p>As part of their deal, the Hidden Colony was allowed to hunt on a part of the Cavern Colony's land, and in exchange, they secretly fought as mercenaries for them. The Cavern Colony is a huge colony and the Hidden Colony cats are very aware of the power imbalance between them. The Hidden Colony's deal to serve as their mercenaries was made out of necessity and came at the cost of their peace, while what the Cavern Colony gave in return was a drop in the bucket for them. However, it did allow the Hidden Colony cats to remain in their territory while it recovered, and to fight for the freedom of their captured colonymate.</p>

fought alongside them.

The Sky Colony was formed from the ashes of the Fire Colony. Hidden Colony cats are either familiar with the Sky Colony cats through personal experience or the stories passed down about them, and that's quite rare for cats as isolated as the Hidden Colony cats. Older Hidden Colony cats sometimes wonder whether they should've gotten involved in the conflicts that shaped the Sky Colony, and perhaps there's resentment to hold over that for some of the Sky Colony cats.

Already regarded as opportunistic for their history in the colonies, it was no surprise when the Cavern Colony agreed to Felicity's ambush on the Flytrap Colony, despite warnings against it. That decision arguably led to Pigeon's death, Shale's capture, and Marigold being nearly killed—all for nothing. Unlike the Sky Colony, the Cavern Colony made the executive decision not to fight alongside the Hidden Colony.

Trivia

- Hidden Colony cats enjoy playing hide-and-seek. It's a great test of their stealth!
- The Wise Ones have a lot of influence in the colony. Poppy, the oldest Hidden Colony cat, is highly respected and will likely be featured in many of the Hidden Colony's future legends.
- Swimming scares most Hidden Colony cats. They're generally okay with standing and shallow waters, though. It's crucial to keep a close eye on rushing currents and not to underestimate water.
- Hidden Colony cats used to fear the Web Colony before they took in their refugees. Treating cats you differ from with kindness and curiosity is an important value in the Hidden Colony now.
- Hidden Colony cats are amazing at picking up shifts in the weather. They pay close attention to the sky and the cues of plants and animals.
- Winters last long in the Hidden Colony due to their elevation and place in the territories. Their flowers bloom after the snowmelt, typically in late spring. The "display" ends around the start of fall.

- All Hidden Colony cats are expected to know sign language. It was adapted to be more tactile and versatile due to Persephone and Alouette having an injured front leg and impaired vision respectively.
- Hidden Colony medicine is quite advanced. Hidden Colony cats attribute this to the efforts of Turnstone, Persephone, and Alouette, as well as the colony's isolationism. They believe their priorities and long-lasting peace enabled them to focus on developing their skills and knowledge.
- Additionally, Hidden Colony cats are well-trained in defense. Their battle and hunting tactics have been a major focus, so Hidden Colony cats know the right formations and strategies in most emergencies.
- Not everyone was able to make a mark on the bark at the Quiet Falls shrine. These marks would later be painted on instead, showing that they're still in the Hidden Colony cat's memories. This is done for cats who went missing as well.
- Hidden Colony cats are very acquainted with the stars. They use the stars for navigation and may assign special meanings to ones they recognize. They believe death and creation are linked to the sky, and so it feels rather comforting to stargaze for a lot of Hidden Colony cats.
- A story commonly shared with Hidden Colony kittens is about a magical creature who lives in the woods. Her looks are up to the kittens' interpretations, though she always is described with stars in her eyes. She loses her forest home to a fire and is led to safety by the wind carrying its ashes and the sparkling stars in the sky. They bring her to other creatures suffering from the same loss, to whom she finds solace in, and they all build a new home together.
- A *kind* of story commonly told to Hidden Colony kittens is the legend of the Beast, a black wolf-like creature that steals kittens who stray too far from home. Cats present the Beast in different ways: sometimes they encountered it when they were young or it's told through a "secondhand account."
- Hidden Colony cats enjoy playing games with insects, slugs, and snails—mostly these are seen as children's games, but everyone needs entertainment sometimes.
- Deer are seen as a symbol of good luck, a belief that was carried down to the Hidden Colony by ex-Hill Colony cats.
- The Hidden Colony was originally developed and owned by SunnysWeird. It was transferred nearly three years later. Thank you Sunny!

Hidden Colony Community

Extra information on the Hidden Colony's community.

*Application base created by @peeperonipip
Written by @peeperonipip & SunnysWeird*