

Lesson Subject: African Deserts

Lesson/Activity Length: 60 Minutes

Activity: Create your own Desert Habitat

Grade Level: K-3

Materials:

Interactive Desert Station items: mittens, sunglasses, water bottle, fan, umbrella, scarf, hat, beanie.

Activity Items: white construction paper, watercolor paints, markers, crayons, colored pencils, sand, and glue

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will know the key characteristics of African Deserts.
2. Students will be able to identify the variety of animals that may be found in African Deserts.

Instruction:

1. Begin with a discussion focusing on deserts by asking students: What is a desert? How do we know that a habitat is a desert habitat? What types of animals would you find in the African desert? How do you think animals survive in these extremely hot and dry habitats?
2. Have students imagine they are going on a trip to the African Desert. Show them the various station items and have them decide which items they would need to take with them. **Students should select all items. Deserts are hot during the day, but may be very cold at night.**
3. Animals are not able to take off and put on jackets, mittens and hats the way we do. So what are some adaptations they have to survive? At this time, discuss adaptations for desert animals. Some examples might include: by digging burrows underground to remain out of the sun or by obtaining water from the foods and plants they consume.
4. Show students various pictures of African desert habitats and animals which can be found within this habitat.

Activity Procedure:

1. Explain to students that they will be creating an African desert habitat of their own.
2. Have campers draw a rough sketch of their desert habitat before starting their final copy. Students should include at least three different animals (i.e. bird, mammal, reptile, etc) in their habitat.
3. Using all art materials have students create a picture of an African desert habitat.

