



# Desert Habitat

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1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE • 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

SUMMER LESSONS



Extended Learning Partnership

# Deserts: What is a Habitat?

Today we watched a video on desert habitats. Desert habitats are special because they have very little water. Deserts can be very hot and sandy – or cold and rocky. Deserts all get low amounts of rainfall so the animals that live there have special ways to get and keep water. All animals and plants need water- in the desert animals can get water for their bodies by eating things with water in them. Many Desert animals have the same adaptations even though they live in different areas of the world. Desert animals, like camels and leopard geckos, can store fat in their bodies because fat is mostly water. Some other desert animals like the fennec fox and cheetah, have long thin legs and small bodies that keep them off of the hot sand and let their bodies release heat. Desert plants like cactus and baobab trees have sponge like ‘wood’ that holds water, these plants also have tough outsides like bark and spines to protect them from the animals that would eat them.

## Activity:

- Watch the video and choose three animals. On a piece of paper draw those animals. Circle the similar adaptations in green. Do some of your animals have long thin legs or bodies? Are any of your animals' sandy brown, or have desert camouflage? Do any of your animals eat plants or have the body that stores fat?

## Writing prompt:

- If you had to live in the desert how would you change your environment to help you live there? Draw or write about the things you would need to take. Could you use what was already in the desert?

## Math:

- The leopard gecko ate 27 bugs in one week, the next week it ate 25 bugs, how many bugs did it eat altogether?
- Amber is going to the desert. She is taking 20 gallons of water. When she is in the desert, she drinks 5 gallons, and uses 5 gallons to wash her hands. How many gallons are leftover?

## Check for Understanding:

- How are deserts different than other kinds of habitats?

