



# Desert Habitat

---

PRE K • TK • KINDER

SUMMER LESSONS



Extended Learning Partnership

# Deserts: What is a Habitat?

Deserts are places that don't get much rain, and are very dry. They can be either hot places, or cold places. Because deserts don't have much water, plants and animals that live in the desert are able to conserve water and animals can keep their body temperature at the right level. Some animals that live in the desert are, camels, foxes, rabbits, tortoises, snakes, lizards, bugs and spiders.

**Mammals:** In the video we got to meet a fennec fox, which is a desert mammal. A mammal is an animal that has a back bone, has hair or fur on its body, and they feed their babies milk. Fennec foxes have long, thick, soft fur coats the help keep them warm during cold nights and protects them from the hot sun during the day. They also have big ears to help keep them cool and they hunt for their food at night after the hot sun goes down.

**Reptiles:** There are many reptiles that live in the desert. A reptile is an animal that has a backbone, they have dry scales on their skin, they are cold-blooded, and most reptiles hatch from eggs. In the video we got to meet some reptiles like the desert tortoise. The desert tortoise is a reptile and is cold-blooded so it cannot regulate his own body temperature. They use the hot sun to keep themselves warm or they can keep cool underground by digging a burrow with their strong legs and nails. They can go a long time without drinking water.

## Activity:

- With an adult, talk about the kinds of things you wear when it is cold outside (Exp: jacket, gloves, beanie, boots). What kinds of things do you wear when it is hot outside? (Exp: cooler clothes, sun hat, sunscreen, sun glasses).

## Writing prompt:

- Draw a picture of one desert mammal, and one desert reptile that you learned about today in the video. Tell an adult what mammals and reptiles have on their skin.

## Math:

- There are 2 snakes and 3 lizards on a rock. How many reptiles are there all together?
- There is a family of 7 rabbits resting in the desert sun. 3 rabbits hop away into their burrow. How many rabbits are left?

## Check for Understanding:

- Name one kind of animal that has scales on its skin.

