

Chapter 1 : Scorpion Habitat - Scorpion Facts and Information

There are also semideserts, which are desert like, but get more rain (up to 16 inches per year). True deserts have very few plants. Semidesert habitats have enough rainfall to support more plant and animal life.

Habitats What Are Habitats? A habitat is the immediate environment in which a living organism an animal or plant , exists. A habitat can exist in any size and can even be as small as a rock pool or a log that is decaying on the forest floor. The word habitat however, generally refers to the grouping of animals and plants, together with their surroundings. Habitats contain both living organisms and non-living objects and can contain anywhere from just a few species to thousands of them, all coexisting in a very small space. Factors That Shape Habitats Geology has the most fundamental influence on the creating of habitats , along with climate. Mountain ranges, deserts and rainforests are all shaped by the changes beneath the surface of the earth and then rely on the climate to make them come alive. Habitats can vary from the enormous wet oceans , to the arid, dry deserts and are found everywhere you look on Earth. Temperature and rainfall are two of the biggest climatic factors that help to shape habitats , and changes in these factors can have devastating effects on habitats and animals all around the world such as the ice melting in the polar regions. Chemical Cycles In every habitat on earth constant chemical cycles are taking place, as chemicals are transferred from one organism to another. Out of the 25 elements that are critical to the making of living organisms , only four hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and carbon make up the bulk of all living things. Carbon particularly is passed between organisms as it is taken from the air by plants, which use it in photosynthesis the process used by plants in order to create energy from the sun. The main release of carbon into the atmosphere comes from the burning of fossil fuels. Biodiversity For years now, the incredible variety of species and the variety within species has fascinated scientists all around the world. It has been noted that the greatest levels of species richness are in the regions surrounding the Equator, and the lowest levels of biodiversity are found at the poles. No-one is really sure as to the reason why the Earth is filled with such an incredible number of animal species , but more and more people are slowly becoming concerned about the effects that climate change, pollution and deforestation will have on habitats that are rich in species such as coral reefs and tropical rainforests. Animal Distribution Habitats are spread across enormous areas of the world such as the South American Amazon Rainforest which covers 5,, km2, while the African Sahara Desert covers 8,, km2 both of which are enormous regions of the planet. Animals however, are not spread out across the earth so evenly as many are still inhabiting the same regions where they first evolved millions of years ago. The colder parts of the world, such as the polar regions have little in the way of species variation as animals inhabiting these areas must be specially adapted to the cold. However, what the polar regions lack in biodiversity they make up for in population numbers as the Antarctic Ocean is home to millions and millions of crab-eater seals , which are the most numerous large mammals on the planet. Some animals are also distributed around the world in accordance with the plants that grow there, as certain species of animal must eat certain species of plant like a giant panda needing to inhabit areas where bamboo grows. Changing Habitats Habitats are constantly changing due to bursting rivers, fires, storms and changes in climate. Animal species are often capable of adapting to their altered surroundings although some species of animal require very specific conditions in order to survive. Ice ages come and go, taking life with them and forcing animals into areas which they previously would not of inhabited. In the modern world, natural climate change is accelerated by the levels of pollution that are produced from the burning of fossil fuels by people, which is speeding up the naturally occurring climatic changes. Levels Of Life No matter where an animal lives in the world, it is always surrounded by other animals that live together in the same habitat , whether they are from the same species or from different ones. These interactions between animals and other species of animal , produce a range of different ecological levels. Starting with the individual an animal that is independent in finding food , who is part of a population animals from the same species living in the same area , which is part of a community different species inhabiting the same area that depend on each other to survive , which belongs to a habitat or ecosystem , which makes up a small part of the biosphere the collection of all environments on earth. Share

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Chapter 2 : Coyote Fact Sheet

Well, this has to do with Habitats and how animal How would a Polar Bear do if you put it in the desert? Not well. But why? are suited for living in one place over another. In this episode.

This is because they reflect more of the incoming light and their albedo is higher than that of forests or the sea. The structure of the sheet consists of thin horizontal layers of coarse silt and very fine to medium grain sand, separated by layers of coarse sand and pea-gravel which are a single grain thick. These larger particles anchor the other particles in place and may also be packed together on the surface so as to form a miniature desert pavement. They form perpendicular to the wind direction and gradually move across the surface as the wind continues to blow. The distance between their crests corresponds to the average length of jumps made by particles during saltation. The ripples are ephemeral and a change in wind direction causes them to reorganise. They form downwind of copious sources of dry, loose sand and occur when topographic and climatic conditions cause airborne particles to settle. As the wind blows, saltation and creep take place on the windward side of the dune and individual grains of sand move uphill. When they reach the crest, they cascade down the far side. As this wind-induced movement of sand grains takes place, the dune moves slowly across the surface of the ground. When these are extensive, they are known as sand seas or ergs. Barchan dunes are produced by strong winds blowing across a level surface, and are crescent-shaped with the concave side away from the wind. When there are two directions from which winds regularly blow, a series of long, linear dunes known as seif dunes may form. These also occur parallel to a strong wind that blows in one general direction. Transverse dunes run at a right angle to the prevailing wind direction. Star dunes are formed by variable winds, and have several ridges and slip faces radiating from a central point. Rounded mounds of sand without a slip face are the rare dome dunes, found on the upwind edges of sand seas. In "eolian deflation", the wind continually removes fine-grained material, which becomes wind-blown sand. This exposes coarser-grained material, mainly pebbles with some larger stones or cobbles, [36] [47] leaving a desert pavement, an area of land overlaid by closely packed smooth stones forming a tessellated mosaic. Different theories exist as to how exactly the pavement is formed. It may be that after the sand and dust is blown away by the wind the stones jiggle themselves into place; alternatively, stones previously below ground may in some way work themselves to the surface. Very little further erosion takes place after the formation of a pavement, and the ground becomes stable. Evaporation brings moisture to the surface by capillary action and calcium salts may be precipitated, binding particles together to form a desert conglomerate. Other landforms include plains largely covered by gravels and angular boulders, from which the finer particles have been stripped by the wind. In some places the wind has carved holes or arches and in others it has created mushroom-like pillars narrower at the base than the top. Here the Colorado River has cut its way over the millennia through the high desert floor creating a canyon that is over a mile 6, feet or 1, meters deep in places, exposing strata that are over two billion year old. One of the driest places on Earth is the Atacama Desert. The cold Humboldt Current and the anticyclone of the Pacific are essential to keep the dry climate of the Atacama. Some weather stations in the Atacama have never received rain. Evidence suggests that the Atacama may not have had any significant rainfall from to The desert surface is evidence of this with dry stream channels known as arroyos or wadis meandering across its surface. These can experience flash floods, becoming raging torrents with surprising rapidity after a storm that may be many kilometers away. Most deserts are in basins with no drainage to the sea but some are crossed by exotic rivers sourced in mountain ranges or other high rainfall areas beyond their borders. The River Nile, the Colorado River and the Yellow River do this, losing much of their water through evaporation as they pass through the desert and raising groundwater levels nearby. There may also be underground sources of water in deserts in the form of springs, aquifers, underground rivers or lakes. Where these lie close to the surface, wells can be dug and oases may form where plant and animal life can flourish. A lake occupied this depression in ancient times and thick deposits of sandy-clay resulted. Wells are dug to extract water from the porous sandstone that lies underneath. They are usually shallow and saline, and wind blowing over their surface can cause stress, moving the water over nearby low-lying areas. When the lakes dry

up, they leave a crust or hardpan behind. This area of deposited clay, silt or sand is known as a playa. The deserts of North America have more than one hundred playas, many of them relics of Lake Bonneville which covered parts of Utah, Nevada and Idaho during the last ice age when the climate was colder and wetter. The smooth flat surfaces of playas have been used for attempted vehicle speed records at Black Rock Desert and Bonneville Speedway and the United States Air Force uses Rogers Dry Lake in the Mojave Desert as runways for aircraft and the space shuttle. Problems they need to solve include how to obtain enough water, how to avoid being eaten and how to reproduce. Photosynthesis is the key to plant growth. It can only take place during the day as energy from the sun is required, but during the day, many deserts become very hot. Opening stomata to allow in the carbon dioxide necessary for the process causes evapotranspiration, and conservation of water is a top priority for desert vegetation. Some plants have resolved this problem by adopting crassulacean acid metabolism, allowing them to open their stomata during the night to allow CO₂ to enter, and close them during the day, [68] or by using C₄ carbon fixation. Cacti are desert specialists and in most species the leaves have been dispensed with and the chlorophyll displaced into the trunks, the cellular structure of which has been modified to allow them to store water. When rain falls, the water is rapidly absorbed by the shallow roots and retained to allow them to survive until the next downpour, which may be months or years away. Saguaro grow slowly but may live for up to two hundred years. The surface of the trunk is folded like a concertina, allowing it to expand, and a large specimen can hold eight tons of water after a good downpour. Other xerophytic plants have developed similar strategies by a process known as convergent evolution. Some are deciduous, shedding their leaves in the driest season, and others curl their leaves up to reduce transpiration. Others store water in succulent leaves or stems or in fleshy tubers. Desert plants maximize water uptake by having shallow roots that spread widely, or by developing long taproots that reach down to deep rock strata for ground water. Some desert plants produce seed which lies dormant in the soil until sparked into growth by rainfall. When annuals, such plants grow with great rapidity and may flower and set seed within weeks, aiming to complete their development before the last vestige of water dries up. For perennial plants, reproduction is more likely to be successful if the seed germinates in a shaded position, but not so close to the parent plant as to be in competition with it. Some seed will not germinate until it has been blown about on the desert floor to scarify the seed coat. The seed of the mesquite tree, which grows in deserts in the Americas, is hard and fails to sprout even when planted carefully. When it has passed through the gut of a pronghorn it germinates readily, and the little pile of moist dung provides an excellent start to life well away from the parent tree. Even small fungi and microscopic plant organisms found on the soil surface so-called cryptobiotic soil can be a vital link in preventing erosion and providing support for other living organisms. Cold deserts often have high concentrations of salt in the soil. Grasses and low shrubs are the dominant vegetation here and the ground may be covered with lichens. Most shrubs have spiny leaves and shed them in the coldest part of the year. Xerocole Animals adapted to live in deserts are called xerocoles. There is no evidence that body temperature of mammals and birds is adaptive to the different climates, either of great heat or cold. In fact, with a very few exceptions, their basal metabolic rate is determined by body size, irrespective of the climate in which they live. One well-studied example is the specializations of mammalian kidneys shown by desert-inhabiting species. Deserts present a very challenging environment for animals. Not only do they require food and water but they also need to keep their body temperature at a tolerable level. In many ways birds are the most able to do this of the higher animals. They can move to areas of greater food availability as the desert blooms after local rainfall and can fly to faraway waterholes. In hot deserts, gliding birds can remove themselves from the over-heated desert floor by using thermals to soar in the cooler air at great heights. In order to conserve energy, other desert birds run rather than fly. The cream-colored courser flits gracefully across the ground on its long legs, stopping periodically to snatch up insects. Like other desert birds it is well-camouflaged by its coloring and can merge into the landscape when stationary. The sandgrouse is an expert at this and nests on the open desert floor dozens of kilometers miles away from the waterhole it needs to visit daily. Some small diurnal birds are found in very restricted localities where their plumage matches the color of the underlying surface. The desert lark takes frequent dust baths which ensures that it matches its environment. Kangaroos keep cool by increasing their respiration rate, panting, sweating and moistening the

skin of their forelegs with saliva. The arctic weasel has a metabolic rate that is two or three times as high as would be expected for an animal of its size. Birds have avoided the problem of losing heat through their feet by not attempting to maintain them at the same temperature as the rest of their bodies, a form of adaptive insulation. Being ectotherms, reptiles are unable to live in cold deserts but are well-suited to hot ones. They have few adaptations to desert life and are unable to cool themselves by sweating so they shelter during the heat of the day. In the first part of the night, as the ground radiates the heat absorbed during the day, they emerge and search for prey. Lizards and snakes are the most numerous in arid regions and certain snakes have developed a novel method of locomotion that enables them to move sideways and navigate high sand-dunes. These include the horned viper of Africa and the sidewinder of North America, evolutionarily distinct but with similar behavioural patterns because of convergent evolution. Many desert reptiles are ambush predators and often bury themselves in the sand, waiting for prey to come within range. In fact, the few species that are found in this habitat have made some remarkable adaptations. Most of them are fossorial, spending the hot dry months aestivating in deep burrows. While there they shed their skins a number of times and retain the remnants around them as a waterproof cocoon to retain moisture. Heavy rain is the trigger for emergence and the first male to find a suitable pool calls to attract others. Eggs are laid and the tadpoles grow rapidly as they must reach metamorphosis before the water evaporates. As the desert dries out, the adult toads rebury themselves. The juveniles stay on the surface for a while, feeding and growing, but soon dig themselves burrows. Few make it to adulthood. Invertebrates, particularly arthropods, have successfully made their homes in the desert.

Chapter 3 : Land Habitats | Different Habitat Types | DK Find Out

Most desert animals stay underground or beneath shady rocks during the day. Many of them come out to hunt for food at night, when it's cool. If you plan to explore a desert, be sure to pack water, sunscreen, and protective clothing.

Therefore there are some species specialized to survive in certain environments; that is to say, the place where the scorpions grow and from which they obtain the necessary resources to survive. Some researchers classify the habitat of scorpions into three zones that have specific characteristics.

Intertidal zone Several species of small scorpions with a length less than 35 mm penetrate to the intertidal zones of the Earth, and because of this, they have the name of coastal scorpions. They feed on small animals and sea creatures in a state of decomposition. Some scorpions can withstand heights of more than 5, meters.

Tropical zone Many of the species living in tropical regions settle near termite mounds and feed almost exclusively on them. High areas Only some genera of scorpions can withstand the temperatures and heights of more than 5, meters. This type of scorpions is small and live for months under the rocks or in burrows covered with snow. The distribution of scorpions comprises subtropical and tropical regions around the world. They are absent from the icy climates of Antarctica and other areas of intense cold, but there are records of scorpions living in some regions of the Himalayas, which again remarks their high adaptability. Based on cases and scientific research, the Australian scorpions are not lethal to humans as has always been thought, regardless that this place is known to have some of the wildlife with the highest levels of venom toxicity. Scorpions live in a wide variety of habitats including tropical forests, monsoon forests, temperate forests, savannas, prairies, deserts and semi-desert regions with extreme temperatures. Sandy soil or covered with dirt or litter are preferred places for them. They walk on rocks, cobbled ground, caves, epiphyte plants, tree trunks, and branches. Scorpion in their natural habitat Scorpions also dwell in urban places, but the difference is that they are at greater risk of being killed or exterminated, since most people perceive them as a danger and will not take any chances. Tree scorpions have extraordinary abilities to climb to high trees. The anatomy of scorpions goes hand in hand with their type of habitat and their way of life. Tree scorpions are usually small and have extraordinary abilities to climb to high trees or constructions. Those who live in sandy soil have long and thin legs that allow them a better balance and avoid sinking in the loose sand. Rock dwellers have a flatter, elongated body with curved elements in the legs for easy movement and better adhesion to rocks and crevices. Scorpions that move through burrows are corporally thick and short-legged, but they have long and powerful pincers and pedipalps. Dark cave dwellers do not require their sight to feed or perform any survival activity, so their eye size is very small or, in some cases, completely absent.

Animals, a visual encyclopedia. Students and teachers are allowed to use this information for school projects and homework.

Chapter 4 : Desert Habitat: Facts (Science Trek: Idaho Public Television)

Desert Habitat: Facts Animals have developed adaptations for living in the dry environment. Some have developed the ability to slow their life cycles while others.

Facts What is a Desert? There are actually four major types of desert. The deserts known as the hot and dry deserts are found close to the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. They are much different from the cold deserts like the ones found in the arctic regions of the world. The semiarid deserts and the coastal deserts are scattered all around the globe. But just what is a desert? There seems to be a wide range of definitions and guidelines the world over as to what is classified as a desert and which type of desert an area fits into. Generally speaking, a desert is any area that receives minimal rainfall, less than 12 inches per year.

Hot and Dry Deserts Hot and dry deserts are, well, hot and dry. Because they are hot and dry, very few plants can live there. The few plants that do exist in a hot and dry desert are capable of conserving water. They have hard, thick coatings and some are covered in prickly spines to prevent water loss and to protect them from animals who might try to chew through them to get to their moisture. Most animals in the hot and dry desert tend to be nocturnal or burrowing animals that can hide from the sun and its heat. Many can go long periods without water or can get water from their food.

Cold Deserts Cold deserts can be found in the Antarctic, Greenland, and other cold climate areas. Cold deserts are too cold to support much plant life. Mosses and lichens will grow in the springtime, and sagebrush and a few deciduous vegetation will make their homes here. Precipitation is largely snow and the soils are often heavy and sometimes salty. Animals that live in the cold deserts are often burrowing animals that head underground to keep warm. Sometimes deer will find their way to the cold desert in search of food.

Semiarid Deserts Semiarid deserts have the lowest amount of rainfall during the winter months. While the daytime can be relatively warm, the nights are much cooler. This cooling allows for the formation of dew which can be beneficial to the plants and animals. Soil can be gravel-like or sandy in the semiarid desert and have less salt than soils of the cold desert. Plants may have silvery or reflective leaves to protect themselves from the sun. They may have spiny surfaces and a bad odor or taste. Animals in the semiarid desert tend to burrow or stay in the shade of plants and rocks. Insects, small mammals, and reptiles live in the semiarid desert.

Coastal Deserts Coastal deserts tend to have mild temperatures that change gently between winter and summer. They are usually located along western ocean coasts where the wind blows and prevents the moisture from moving inland. There are no temperature extremes in these deserts as we might see in other habitats. Soils have good drainage and are fine, textured and porous. Plants have the ability to store water so they have it for survival when rain is scarce. Animals have developed adaptations for living in the dry environment. Some have developed the ability to slow their life cycles while others speed up their life cycles in order to improve survival. For example, some insects lie dormant for long periods until environmental conditions improve.

Desert Variations One thing to consider is that even within a specific type of desert, there are variations in the temperatures, the amount of rainfall, and the plants and animals that live there. Some deserts even have an area known as an oasis. An oasis is a fertile area within the desert borders. Natural underground springs feed a region and provide the moisture necessary to give life in an otherwise desert environment. National Geographic has a great site about oases you may want to visit. All four are located in the western part of the United States. The Great Basin Desert is considered a cold desert, while the other three are hot and dry deserts. The Missouri Botanical Garden has a map and additional information about these deserts. This desert is the largest of four in North America, much of it above 4,000 feet in elevation. It is a cold desert characterized by cold winters and hot summers. While snow is a common sight in the winter, overall moisture is limited to about 4-12 inches a year. Miles and miles of sagebrush and wildflowers such as sunflower and yarrow blanket this part of Idaho. The Great Basin Desert covers an arid expanse of about 300,000 square miles and is bordered by the Sierra Nevada Range on the west, the Rocky Mountains on the east, the Columbia Plateau to the north and the Mojave and Sonoran deserts to the south.

How Desert Plants Survive How do desert plants save water? Each time a plant opens its pores, some water escapes. This is called transpiration. Replacing this lost water is not easy with so little annual moisture,

and if the water cannot be replaced, the desert plants will die. So desert plants have acquired special adaptations that help them reduce water loss. Here are some of their adaptations: Smaller, fewer, and deeper pores – Many desert plants have smaller, fewer, and deeper pores than other plants. Waxy cover – Plants not only lose water through their pores, they also lose it through the cell walls on their leaves. The leaves and stems of many desert plants have a thick covering that is coated with a waxy substance, allowing them to seal in and protect what moisture they already have. Nocturnal – Plants typically lose a large amount of water through transpiration, especially on hot, sunny days when they are doing photosynthesis like crazy. So if transpiration occurs during daytime hours, high temperatures can cause water to evaporate quickly. But if the process occurs at night, less water is lost. Often times, desert plants do not open their pores until the sun goes down and temperatures fall. Little leaves – Most desert plants have small leaves, spikes for leaves, or no leaves at all. The smaller or fewer leaves a plant has, the less water is lost during transpiration since it has less surface area open to the sun and wind. For desert plants with small leaves or none at all, the twigs and stems help to carry out photosynthesis. Some plants simply position themselves so they have less exposure to the climatic elements on a hot, sunny day. Such plants are called drought deciduous. These kinds of plants carry out photosynthesis only during the moist periods. How Do Plants Get Water? One way desert plants, trees, and shrubs suck up as much water as possible is by growing very deep taproots. Sometimes these roots can get to be more than feet long. The above-ground parts of a plant may remain small for years simply because the plant puts most of its energy into developing its taproot system. Desert plants may have a huge, tangled network of shallow roots that spread out from the plant in all directions. The roots can be as long as the plant is tall, allowing the plant to quickly absorb water from the slightest rainfall. Why Do Plants Shrink and Swell? Desert plants can soak up water, store it, and prepare to use it during drought. For example, cacti and many other desert plants store water in their fleshy leaves and stems. Desert plants may also have other adaptations for water storage, such as pleats or folds that will allow the plant to swell with added water when it can. The pleats or folds can almost disappear if the plant soaks up a lot of water; then the plant can shrink, and its pleats or folds can become visible again as drought sets in and the plant makes use of water it has stored. Though many desert plants die to the ground during the hottest part of each year, the water they have stored in underground roots, tubers and bulbs will sustain them until the next moist period. Why do plants grow hairs and spines? The hairs and spines that grow on desert plants help reduce moisture loss by breaking the effects of the wind. They also help to cast small shadows on other desert plants, which can protect them from the sun. Lastly, hairs and spines can help protect plants from hungry animal predators. Scientists believe that desert plants may produce and give off chemicals from their leaves or roots that keep other plants from growing nearby. It is thought that plants do this to reduce competition, especially when water is scarce. As a result, during drought they are present only as seeds in the soil. When the right amount of rain falls and soaks into the soil, they sprout and bloom. Most of these fast-growing desert plants do not last very long. So aside from having seeds that are adapted to drought, they have few or no special adaptations to desert conditions. This is why desert plants of this kind sprout, flower, and leave behind a generation of seeds as quickly as possible. Short-lived desert plants like this are called ephemerals. With little water available to help them grow, dormant ephemerals are covered and protected by natural chemicals called inhibitors. The primary function of inhibitors is to keep seeds from germinating until enough moisture and specific temperatures are present. Once the inhibitor has been washed off, the seeds can sprout. Desert Misfits Today there are some plants found in the desert that do not belong there. These plants are misfits and do not benefit the ecosystem in which they were introduced. Idaho is no different. It, too, has its share of misfit plant species.

Chapter 5 : Plants Adaptations in Different Habitats

20 Amazing Animal Adaptations for Living in the Desert. BY Craig S Baker talk about the incredible ways that some creatures have adapted to survive in the desert. Is a Living Desert.

Coyote Identifying Features Coyotes are often mistaken for small to medium sized domestic dogs. They have a long, bushy black-tipped tail, pointed ears and a narrow pointed face. Their fur varies in color, from light brown to grayish. The fur on their belly is usually white. [Click here to hear coyote sounds](#)

Adaptations Coyotes adjust their hunting style to what foods are available. When they hunt small prey alone, they usually stalk it and then pounce. If the prey is larger like a deer, they will often hunt in small packs and work together to kill the prey.

Habitat Coyotes are known for how well they adapt to different habitats. They can even be found living in and around large cities. In the Sonoran Desert, coyotes can be found in all habitats from desert scrub, grasslands, foothills as well as in populated neighborhoods.

Wild Status Currently the coyote population is stable. They are not listed as threatened or endangered.

Diet Coyotes are omnivores, which means they will eat or try to eat just about anything. In the Sonoran Desert coyotes vary their diet with the seasons. Cactus fruit, mesquite beans, flowers, insects, rodents, lizards, rabbits, birds, and snakes make up some of their dietary choices.

Predators The most common enemy that coyotes face is disease. Bears, wolves and mountain lions will also prey upon coyotes. Humans pose problems for coyotes as they try to navigate across our busy roads. Many coyotes are struck and killed by cars every year

Home Coyotes have a central den site which is used for rearing the pups and sleeping. They will scent mark the area around the den and defend it from other coyotes. The den can be a burrow dug into the ground, or under a rock outcropping, a tree or a bush. If the area gets disturbed the mother will often move the pups to a safer location.

Life Span In the wild, coyotes live between years. In captivity they are known to live much longer, as many as 20 years.

Size A desert coyote usually weighs between 15 to 25 pounds. They stand about 25 inches tall and are 4 feet in length.

Quick Facts Coyotes "sing" as a way to communicate with other coyote families and as a way to keep track of their own family members. Because coyotes are not picky eaters, they have even been known to eat domestic cats and small dogs.

Comparison Compare with a Dingo of the Australian Desert.

Chapter 6 : Conservation - The Living Desert

A desert is not the kind of habitat that favours the presence of amphibians, with their requirement for water to keep their skins moist and for the development of their young. Nevertheless, some frogs live in deserts, creating moist habitats underground and hibernating while conditions are adverse.

In some rainforests it rains more than one inch nearly every day of the year. The largest rainforest in the world is the Amazon rainforest in South America. Plants adaptation to rain forest: For better survive in the hot, wet tropics, plants of the tropical rainforest have had to develop special features called adaptation. Some adaptations of plants are following: The smoothness of the bark makes it difficult for other plants to grow on their surface. The leaves of rainforest trees have adapted to survive with the large amount of rain. Plants need to shed water to avoid growth of fungus and bacteria in the warm, wet tropical rainforest. The cover of rainforest is connected by creepers and ferns, and mosses grow on the trees. Lianas are climbing woody creeper that wraps rainforest tree. They have their roots in the ground and climbing high into the tree canopy to reach available sunlight. Many large trees have huge ridges called buttresses near the base that can rise 30 feet high before blending into the trunk. Some trees have above-ground roots called prop or stilt roots which give extra support to the trees. These roots can grow about 85 cm in a month. Epiphytes are the plants that grow mainly on the twigs, trunks, and even the leaves of rainforest trees so that they can get sunshine. The roots of these plants are not in soil, because of this get their food from air and water. In the rainforests competition for light is intense so that plants arranged their leaves at different angles so that a plant avoids shading its own leaves. Most stranglers killer tree are found in rain forest. The seed of the strangler starts their life as an epiphyte high in the trees. After some time they sends their seedling and long roots down to the ground from where it begins to surround the host tree. It grows quickly and finally suffocates the host: They act as a sunscreen by reflecting red light whilst the leaf is still young. Savanna occupies half the global tropical zone Lehmann et al. In Savannas summer season is wet for about 6 to 8 month while winter season is dry. The dry season is marked by months of drought and fire but these conditions are essential for the maintenance of savannas. Savannas also maintain an open canopy despite a high tree density. The open canopy allows sufficient light to reach the ground to support an unbroken herbaceous layer consisting primarily of grasses. Plants adaptation to Tropical Savannah: Tropical savannas plants survive with dry soil, periodic fires and threats from herbivores. They are very well adapted for these extreme conditions. Some of these adaptations of plants are following: During the time of sufficient water grasses in tropical savannas grow very quickly and when water becomes insufficient, they turn brown to minimize water loss. They store nutrients and moisture in their roots while waiting for rain. With food and water reserves stored below ground, the grasses are able to survive the effects of fire. This fire stimulates new growth and refills the soil with nutrients. During the wet season the Baobab tree produce leaves in the form of tiny finger-like clusters. This small size of leaf helps to decrease water loss. The baobab tree can store up to , litres of water in its trunk and this stored water helps Baobab tree to survive in the long months of drought. It also has thick bark which can protect it against fire and helps it to retain more of its moisture. The acacia tree can survive drought conditions because it has developed long tap roots that can reach deep, ground water sources. It is also fire resistant. Some varieties re-sprout from the root crown when the above ground portion of the tree is damaged by fire. The Kangaroo Paw has adapted to dry conditions so it requires less water than most other plants and it can also tolerate high temperatures. These perennial plants are noted for their unique bird attracting flowers. The Kangaroo Paw has tiny woolly hairs also which hold onto water droplets. Most of the trees of Savannah have the ability to drop its leaves during dry periods so it can conserve energy and water.

Chapter 7 : Desert - Wikipedia

Different areas of the world are home to different types of habitat. Hot, dry areas, for example, are often covered in hot deserts. Warm, wet regions may give rise to tropical rain forests.

Algae, Hydrilla, Water-lily, Water-hyacinth and some Weeds. Plants, Animals and Micro-organisms. The various non-living things in a habitat are soil, rocks, air, water, sunlight and temperature. The abiotic components of a habitat are: Different kinds of plants and animals live in different habitats. The desert habitat has very little water available in it. The plants and animals which live in desert have developed some specific features in their bodies due to which they can survive in hot and dry conditions present there. A living thing can survive in a particular habitat if its body is suited or adapted to the environment or conditions of that habitat. The presence of specific feature which enable a plant or an animal to live in a particular habitat is called adaptation. Adaptation in Camel The body structure of a camel helps it to survive in desert conditions. The fish is adapted to live life in water because of its following special features: Over thousands of years, the abiotic factors of a region change. Terrestrial Habitats Some of the important terrestrial habitats are: The dominant factors in the desert habitat are scarcity shortage of water and high temperature. The plants and animals have to protect themselves from excessive loss of water and too much heat. The animals like desert rats and desert snake survive in the hot desert having lack of water due to the following adaptations: Adaptation in cactus Cactus is the most common plant found in deserts. The mountain habitats are usually very cold and windy. Adaptation in Plants to Mountain Habitats 1 There is lot of rain in mountain regions. On the high mountains, it is also more windy. Adaptation in Animals to Mountain Habitats The adaptation in some animals such as yak, mountain goat and snow leopard which live in mountain regions are: This reduces the heat loss from the body of snow leopard. And a large area of grass covered land used for grazing is called grassland. Due to this, speed is important for the animals which live in grassland habitats so that they can run away from their enemies. The lion lives in a forest habitat. This helps it in catching the prey. The lion is light brown in colour. Deer is another animal which lives in forest habitat. Aquatic Habitats The habitats having water all around are called aquatic habitats. The important aquatic habitats are: Oceans, Ponds, Lakes and Rivers. Ocean water contains a lot of salts dissolved in it, so ocean water is very salty. On the other hand ponds, lakes and rivers are called fresh-water habitat. But when squids and octopus move in sea-water, they make their body shape streamlined. The streamlined shape of sea animals is an adaptation for swimming in water. The presence of nostrils in dolphins and whales is an adaptation for breathing. The three types of aquatic plants: The stems of aquatic plants are soft, hollow and light, having large spaces filled with air. In some plants, the leaves are highly divided so that water can easily flow through them without damaging them. The thin leaves of submerged plants also allow the minerals to pass into them easily. The leaves of floating plants are, however, similar to those of land plants. Frogs spend most of their time on land but come back to water to lay their eggs. Frogs are adapted to live life in water as well as on land in the following ways: This adaptation helps the frogs to live life in water. This adaptation helps the frogs to live life on land. We say that our body has acclimatised or got used to the mountain environment.

Chapter 8 : List of Desert Animals

Animals and Habitats Tell It Again!â„¢ Read-Aloud Anthology grade 1 Core Knowledge Language ArtsÂ© â„¢ New York Edition â„¢ Listening & Learningâ„¢ Strand.

This program was started in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game, when the desert tortoise was listed as threatened. [Click here to learn more!](#) She brought the owl to the NWCP for evaluation and treatment. The Western Screech Owl is one of the smallest owl species in the country, topping out at just half a pound. They are found year-round in the Western United States, usually in areas that are forested. During the daytime, Western Screech Owls rest in tree cavities, blending in perfectly with the tree bark around them due to their feather coloration. By night, they hunt anything they can catch, including rodents, birds, bats, fish, and insects. A determined screech owl can even catch a small rabbit! Upon arrival at The Living Desert, the screech owl was lethargic and had a visibly injured right eye. The keeper reported that she found the owl in the road, so it is likely that the owl was hit by a car. Veterinary staff determined that the owl did not have any broken bones and administered fluids and vitamins to help stabilize the bird. Eyedrops were also prescribed for the affected eye. The owl began to perk up and quickly became feisty and alert. Rehab staff hand-fed the owl until it could feed itself again. The pupil in the right eye started to look more normal and the owl could perch well and navigate its surroundings. Patients at the NWCP progress from indoor housing to outdoor enclosures as they heal and recuperate. Once the owl was feeding itself, it was moved to an outdoor flight space to reacclimate to the temperatures, stretch its wings, and be tested for the ability to catch live prey. Upon release, the owl flew to a tree and blended into the bark perfectly to rest until night came to hunt. This owl was found in the winter months, at nighttime. This story is a reminder to always be on the lookout for wildlife, regardless of the time of day or season. As we head into another busy season helping animals, please remember to call or email the NWCP or your local rehabilitator with any wildlife concerns you may have. Thank you for helping wildlife!

Chapter 9 : Animals - The Desert Habitat

Describes desert life and ten animals living in desert areas of the world: the kit fox, Arabian camel, caracal, gemsbok, roadrunner, onager, sidewinder, antelope jackrabbit, addax, and ringtail. These videos are found in our library.

Many plants and animals have adapted to the specific challenges for survival in the desert ecosystem. Desert animals have adaptations including special coloring, structures and behaviors, and desert plants have developed ways to collect and store water in order to survive in this harsh climate. Desert habitats receive less than 10 inches of rain per year. Many deserts receive much less rainfall. Desert categories are hot and dry, semi-arid, coastal and cold. On the other hand, cold deserts may receive snow. Because extremely low rainfall typifies the desert habitat, all desert organisms must be adapted to survive with very little water.

Barrel Cactus The barrel cactus is a staple of the American desert. Easy to recognize by its cylindrical appearance, it can grow anywhere from 5 to 11 feet tall with many parallel ridges. The barrel cactus is festooned with inch spikes. It has 1- to 2-inch leaves and small yellow flowers.

Joshua Tree The Joshua tree now grows only in the vicinity of its namesake national park. The tree was originally named by Mormon settlers who thought it resembled the biblical Joshua beckoning them to the Promised Land. A Joshua tree can reach 15 to 40 feet in height and 1 to 3 feet in diameter. The palo verde has yellow flowers and smooth green bark. The name means "green wood" in Spanish. The bark of the shrub is waxy and covered in thorns. It collects water with its extensive root system. It can grow up to 10 to 18 feet tall and has palm-like leaves and small white flowers.

Gila Monster The Gila monster is one of only two venomous lizards in the world and can grow up to 2 feet long and weigh 3 pounds. It can be colored pink, orange or red.

Bobcat A bobcat is like a domestic cat, but bigger. In fact, it weighs 15 to 20 pounds and is 2 feet tall. It can grow up to 3 to 4 feet long. A bobcat will catch rabbits, mice and squirrels to survive in the desert biome.

Coyote Coyotes can grow large, up to 4 feet long, and weigh up to 30 pounds. Coyotes are found in the western United States.

Desert Tortoise Desert tortoises have well-developed front legs for digging burrows. A desert tortoise can weigh in at 8 to 15 pounds. It is a protected animal and should not be approached.

Thorny Devil The thorny devil lizard is covered in spines. A nonaggressive lizard, it prefers to use camouflage instead of fighting. It can change colors to blend in with the sand. The thorny devil can be yellow, reddish brown or black.