

All About Our Earth's Ecosystems!

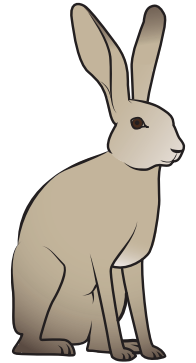
THE DESERT



RED-TAILED HAWK

About the Desert:

When most people think of deserts they think of hot, dry land, with sand, cactuses and few plants. Deserts can actually be very hot or very cold (technically Antarctica is a desert!), but they all receive very little rainfall. Plants and animals that live here are highly adapted to deal with the extreme conditions, including little water, high heat, and little plant life. Animals and plants that make hot deserts their home include coyotes, cactus, camels, lizards, many kinds of insects and arachnids, snakes, jackrabbits, and many types of birds. In hot deserts, rainfall will often come in heavy storms, frequently causing flash floods.



JACKRABBIT

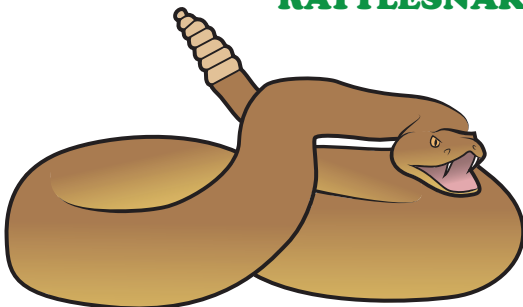
Desert Stats:

- Deserts take up 20% of the Earth's land surface.
- The driest desert in the world is the Atacama desert in South America. It is estimated that some areas didn't receive significant rain between the years 1570 - 1970. That's over 400 years!
- Plants and animals in deserts are adapted to require very little water. In fact, the Kangaroo Rat never needs to drink water: it gets all the water it needs from metabolic processes in its body and from the food it eats.
- Saguaro cacti in the Sonoran desert can grow up to 50 feet tall, and can expand in size to take in and hold water.
- The largest desert is the Antarctic, and the largest hot desert is the Sahara.

Word Search



RATTLESNAKE



Find the desert terms below in the word search. They can be horizontal or vertical.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1) CACTUS | 5) COYOTE |
| 2) RATTLESNAKE | 6) DRY |
| 3) CAMEL | 7) SCORPION |
| 4) SAGUARO | 8) VULTURE |