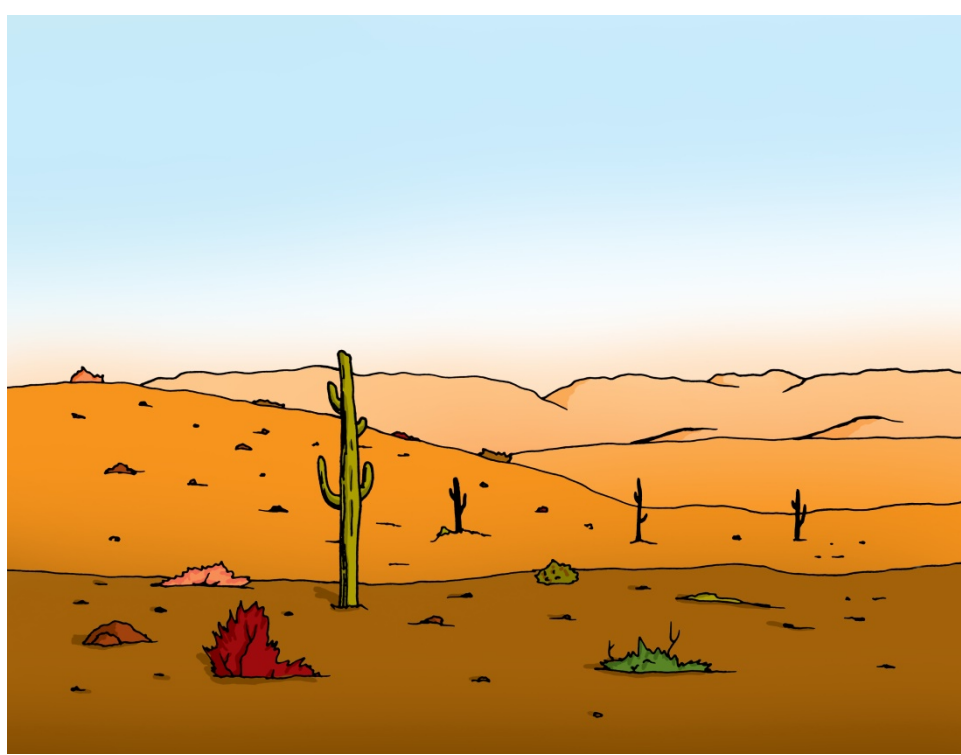


Desert Wildlife

A desert is a type of **habitat**. Deserts are very dry places that get very little rain. They can be hot or cold. Often deserts are very hot during the day but cool at



night. Many desert animals hide under the ground while it is really hot and come out to eat as it starts to get dark. Most desert plants and animals do not need very much water. Deserts are found all over the world.

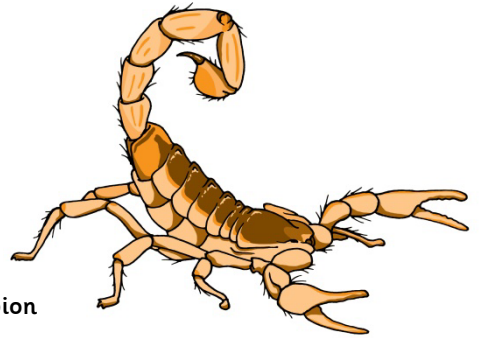
Some of the major deserts of the world are:

- Sahara Desert
- Kalahari Desert
- Atacama Desert
- Mojave Desert
- Gobi Desert
- Namib Desert

FACT

Elf owls make their nests inside **cacti**.

Deserts are not easy places for animals to live. Animals who live in them often have special **features** that help them survive. For example, camels can drink a lot of water at a time and then go for a long time with no water. A scorpion has a hard shell that helps keep water inside its body.



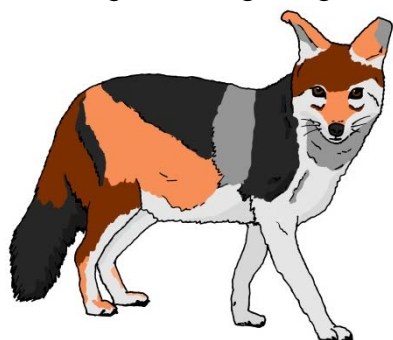
Scorpion

Desert Predators

Some desert animals are **predators**. They hunt other animals in the desert. Hawks and eagles might eat rabbits, snakes, mice and other birds. Large **mammals** like **coyotes** hunt rabbits and mice at night. During the day, coyotes live in burrows in the ground.

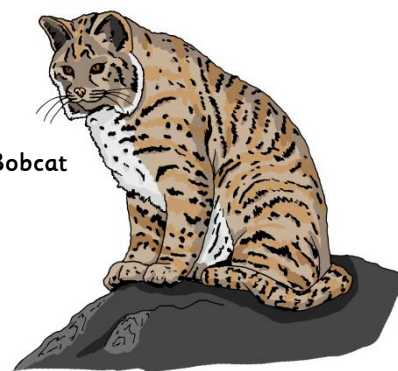


Hawk



Jackal

Jackals are fast and fierce hunters. They can catch creatures like meerkats. They also **scavenge** dead animals, eating flesh that would otherwise rot.

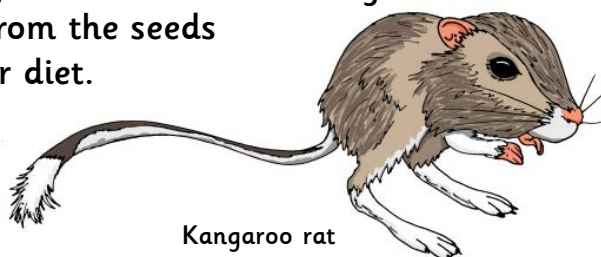


Bobcat

Some bobcats live in desert habitats. They use their senses of sight, smell and hearing to hunt their **prey** which can range from deer and snakes to insects.

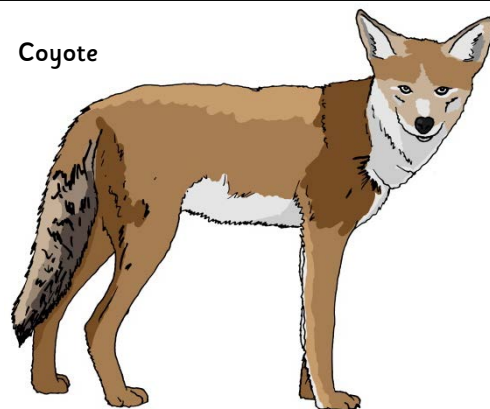
Did you know?

Kangaroo rats that live in the USA can live their whole lives without ever drinking. They get all the **moisture** they need from the seeds in their diet.



Kangaroo rat

Coyote



A perentie is a two-metre long lizard that lives in the Australian desert. It will eat anything from birds' eggs to a small kangaroo. It can live for 20 years as nothing threatens it once it is adult.



Perentie

Meerkats live and hunt in gangs. At night they rest in burrows linked by tunnels. They eat insects and scorpions. Their little ears fold back when they dig to stop soil getting inside.



Meerkat

Where in the world are deserts located?

Give three names of deserts.

Which feature of a non-fiction text is used when the desert names are listed?

Why do you think a fact box is used on the first page?

What is special about the information shown in a “Did you know?” box?

How are the meerkats adapted to their life in burrows?

Why do you think that perenties live for such a long time?

Why do many desert animals come out at night?

Where in the world are perenties found?

Desert Wildlife – Vocab 1

The following words were highlighted in the text. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to find out their meanings and write them down.

habitat _____

features _____

cacti _____

moisture _____

predators _____

mammals _____

scavenge _____

prey _____

coyotes _____

Desert Wildlife – Vocab 2

Find out some information your self about a creature that lives in the desert.

Write a paragraph about it below and try to include as many of the new vocabulary words as possible.

Prepositions

through	inside	over	on	in	under
behind	beneath	above	around	next	to

Above is a list of spatial prepositions that we use to show the position of someone or something.

Select an appropriate word for each of the sentences below.

The meerkat slept in a burrow _____ the ground.

The eagle flew _____ the desert hunting for prey.

The jackals ran _____ and surrounded their prey.

The elf owl peeped out from its nest _____ the cactus.

The perentie sheltered _____ the tree in the shade.

The kangaroo rat scuttled _____ the rocks hunting for food.

Desert Wildlife – Oral Teacher Questions

Where in the world are deserts located? **All over the world.**

Give three names of deserts. **Sahara Desert, Kalahari Desert, Atacama Desert, Mojave Desert, Gobi Desert, Namib Desert.**

Which feature of a non-fiction text is used when the desert names are listed? **Bullet points.**

Why do you think a fact box is used on the first page? **To make the information stand out.**

What is special about the information shown in a “Did you know?” box? **Information is surprising or unusual.**

How are the meerkats adapted to their life in burrows? **Ears fold back to prevent sand or soil getting in.**

Why do you think that perenties live for such a long time? **They have no enemies once they are adult.**

Why do many desert animals come out at night? **It is cooler.**

Where in the world are perenties found? **Australian Desert.**

Desert Wildlife – Vocab 1

The following words were highlighted in the text. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to find out their meanings and write them down.

habitat – natural environment or surroundings

features – characteristics, properties

cacti – plants needing very little water which live in desert areas

moisture – wetness, dampness

predators – animals which hunt and feed upon others

mammals – warm-blooded creatures usually with hair or fur

scavenge – feed on animals that are already dead

prey – creatures hunted by others

coyotes – a wild dog similar to a wolf

Prepositions

through	inside	over	on	in	under
behind	beneath	above	around	next	to

Above is a list of spatial prepositions that we use to show the position of someone or something.

Select an appropriate word for each of the sentences below.

The meerkat slept in a burrow **under/beneath** the ground.

The eagle flew **over** the desert hunting for prey.

The jackals ran **around** and surrounded their prey.

The elf owl peeped out from its nest **inside** the cactus.

The perentie sheltered **under/beneath** the tree in the shade.

The kangaroo rat scuttled **over** the rocks hunting for food.