Desert Habitat Lesson Plan
Who Am I?

Grade Level   K-2

Overview
Students will learn about many different animals that live in deserts. They will learn what they look like and characteristics that enable them to live in the harsh environment of desert habitats.

Connections to the Curriculum
Science
Geography
Language
Art

Connections to Geography Standards
Standard 3 - How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on earth’s surface
Standard 4 - The physical and human characteristics of places
Standard 8 - The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on earth’s surface

Time
About two hours. Can be divided into segments to be used at different times

Materials Required
• Computer with Internet
• Printable Pictures from Internet Site
• Crayons and/or markers
• Writing paper and pencils

Objectives
Students will:
• Identify desert animals and the characteristics that enable them to adapt to the harsh environment
• Create riddles from information about their animals
• Analyze the distribution of deserts around the world

Geographic Skills
Asking Geographic Questions
Acquiring Geographic Information
Organizing Geographic Information
Analyzing Geographic Information
Answering Geographic Questions
Suggested Procedure

Opening
Ask the students what they already know about deserts and make a list. Ask students if they have any questions about deserts and write them down.

Development
Remind students what we need to live each day:
- Food
- Water
- Shelter

Tell the students that you will be talking about animals that live in a very harsh environment. List the characteristics of a desert habitat that make it a difficult place to live. Show the class the website or make a list of the animals on the website. Have students choose animals and read the facts about each one. Discuss with the class the different ways animals get food, water and shelter in the desert habitat. Allow each student to choose one of the animals and print out the picture that is available. Students can color the print outs according to the descriptions so that they can recognize the animal in other sources.

Closing
Remind the students about the list of questions written before reading the information about the desert habitat and the animals that live there. Ask if all they questions have been answered. Add the new facts that students have learned to the list of known facts made at the beginning of the lesson.

Suggested Student Assessment
Have the students create a riddle from descriptive words on the printout of their animal.
Example: I have
- A bulky body
- Short brown, black and gray bristly fur
- Small ears
- Small eyes
- A flat snout
- Long canine teeth
- Hoofed feet
- Short legs

Display all the animal pictures the students have colored. Have each student read his/her riddle and allow other students to guess which animal the riddle matches.
Extending the Lesson

- Create vocabulary list from the words used on the animal printouts.
- Create a desert animal book from all the pictures by making a cover and laminating the printouts. Put it in the classroom library.
- Have students write a story about each of their animals.
- Use the website to obtain a world map and discuss the different locations of deserts throughout the world

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