

## **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

Go to [www.ZoomSchool.com/biomes/desert/desert.shtml](http://www.ZoomSchool.com/biomes/desert/desert.shtml) for a description and picture of desert animals.

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 the 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

**Related Links**

[www.ZoomSchool.com/biomes/desert/desert.shtm](http://www.ZoomSchool.com/biomes/desert/desert.shtm)

[www.EnchantedLearning.com](http://www.EnchantedLearning.com)