

Desert Animals—An Overview
N.W. Crossing Elementary
Grade One

Developed by:

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In compliance with Northside Standards and Science Curriculum this unit addresses the animals of the desert.

Prior to the teaching of this unit, students will have studied about plants. Now they will learn about the deserts of the world, their characteristics and the animals that live there. They will participate in a variety of activities to learn desert vocabulary. They will learn about desert animals and write and illustrate a five-page report on what they learned.

For research each class will be separated into three groups. Each group will rotate between the library, the lab and the playground.

In the library students will hear stories about desert animals, use a K-W-L chart to determine what they will need to find out about their selected animal and they will use Super3 research techniques to gather animal information from books. The librarian will show the students how to collect facts on a Data Bank Information Sheet, which will be used to write the reports. Students will need to record the sources of their information.

The CIT will assist students gathering information from the Desert Hot List for research on the Internet. The teacher will take a group to the world map on the playground to locate the deserts of the world and to discuss the characteristics of desert life.

When research is complete, students will go to the lab to write and illustrate a five-page report using MS Word and Kid Works II. The report will include the class, home, covering, food, and other interesting facts.

Extension activities include problem solving, map and globe skills, spelling, vocabulary, literature, poetry, music and art. In art students will use a vase to make a desert scene for their selected animals. Students will share their report through oral presentations.

A teacher prepared rubric will be used for evaluation.