



CLASSROOM PROGRAM

Grade 2 - "Nocturnal Detective"

Theme	Nocturnal animals have special adaptations which enable them to function at night.
Objectives	Students will compare at least three senses animals use to help them survive at night. Students will compare characteristics of at least three common nocturnal animals. Students will name at least one reason why some desert animals are nocturnal.
Vocabulary	<u>adaptation</u> - a physical or behavioral feature of an animal or plant that helps it survive in it's habitat <u>nocturnal</u> - active by night <u>senses</u> - the ability to see, hear, smell, taste or touch <u>echolocation</u> - the process used by some animals to identify and measure the distance to objects in the environment. Echolocation involves emission of high -frequency sounds which are reflected back from a surface, thus indicating the relative distance and direction of such surfaces.
Background Information	Desert animals have developed many strategies for living in a hot and dry environ - ment. One of the most common adaptations is to be active at night when the desert cools down. Because nocturnal animals are active at night, they can conserve water, escape the heat of the day, and search for food and water under the cover of darkness to protect them from predators.
Before the Ranger Visits your Classroom	Have each student create their own "night journal". Make sure the journals have a place for the date, time, what the student can see, hear, smell, and their feelings about being outside at night along with any other observations the student would like to record. The students should take about five minutes to observe and record in their journals each night.
After the Ranger Visits your Classroom	Now that the students have learned the importance of being nocturnal, take time to compare one nocturnal desert animal with a diurnal desert animal. Which one would they like to be and why?



Teachers! - check out our new web site at <http://www.nps.gov/lame/classindex.htm>

WHO LIVES HERE?

Grade 1

A short hike will introduce students to life in the desert, including some animals which live here, what they need to survive and what some of their homes look like.

Location: Katherine Landing Picnic Area

FOOD FOR LIFE

Grade 2

Plants and animals living in a community create a food chain. A hike will help students compare what desert animals eat and explore the predator/prey relationship.

Location: Katherine Landing Picnic Area

NATURE'S NEIGHBORHOODS

Grade 3

A challenging hike will enable students to compare the variety of different natural communities that make up the Mojave Desert and observe the relationship between plants and animals in their habitat.

Location: Sacaton Wash

THE FUTURE OF THE PAST

Grade 4

A hike in Grapevine Canyon will introduce students to different types of archeological resources. They will 'discover' artifacts and explore the possibilities of what these relics can tell us about earlier cultures.

Location: Grapevine Canyon

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

Grade 5

Through observation and field work, students will discover, compare and record the diversity of plant and animal life in the Mojave Desert.

Location: Sacaton Wash

WET AND WILD

Grade 6, 7, 8

Through water quality experiments, students will discover the living and non living things that make up the complex, interdependent natural community of Lake Mohave, which includes us.

Location: Katherine Landing Environmental Education Beach

WALKING IN BALANCE

Grade 3

A hike will allow students an opportunity to discover how Desert Cultures used the resources of the Mojave Desert as their "grocery store", "drug store", and "hardware store".

Location: Grapevine Canyon

VERSATILE VEGETATION

Grade 2

A hike will introduce students to desert plants that are able to live in a harsh environment. They will sort and group plants by their fascinating adaptations.

Location: Katherine Landing

BET YOU CAN'T SEE ME!

Grade 1

A short hike will help students compare color variations and observe animal camouflage in the desert.

Location: Katherine Landing Picnic Area

AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

Grade 5

During a hike students will take air and wind measurements in order to understand desert conditions, as well as discovering the daily pressures and adaptations of at least two common desert dwellers.

Location: Grapevine Canyon

TO SEED OR NOT TO SEED

Grade 4

What do plants need to start new life in the desert? Discover the special requirements' plants need to germinate and grow. Students will measure and record weather conditions and compare life cycles.

Location Katherine Landing Picnic Area