



The Desert Speaks

#1109 How Desert Creatures Survive
Teacher Information Sheet

Program Description

The kangaroo rat can live its entire life without even a sip of water. Agave cacti provide their own shade. Desert fish can survive extremely high temperatures and periods of draught. How do these and other living things cope? This program focuses on the many clever and unique survival strategies of desert mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, fish and plants.

Teaching Tips

1. Discuss vocabulary words
2. Introduce the episode by giving a brief summary of the program and telling students what information you would like them to gain from viewing the program.
3. Allow time at the conclusion of the program for discussion and the completion of the *Student Viewing Sheet*.
4. Investigate the related web sites listed below.

Vocabulary Words

- adapt to adjust to different conditions or environments
- nocturnal more active at night
- succulent a plant that has fleshy or juicy tissues

Related Web Sites

Desert USA

Click on *Desert Animal Survival* to see how different animals adapt to the harsh desert environment

<http://www.desertusa.com/animal.html>

Enchanted Learning

This web site includes a variety of classroom activities including a collection of informational animal handouts. This site also includes general information about Deserts around the world.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html>

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Student Viewing Sheet

Use the clues below to match the desert plant or animal to its description

A C R O S S

- 4** This desert animal has to cope with bodies of water that can get up to 90 degrees in the summer; it stays cool by going to deeper regions _____ (4 letters)
- 6** This animal has expanded toe tips that allow them to climb really well; they go from an egg to froglet without becoming a tadpole first _____ (11 letters)
- 7** Has the ability to store large amounts of water in their bladder; gets most of their water from their diet _____ (14 letters)
- 8** Has thick waxy leaves that allow them to store water _____ (5 letters)
- 9** This animal can elevate their feathers to create a space between their body and the feathers to help keep out the heat _____ (11 letters)
- 10** Has silvery leaves covered with shiny hairs that reflect the sunlight _____ (12 letters)

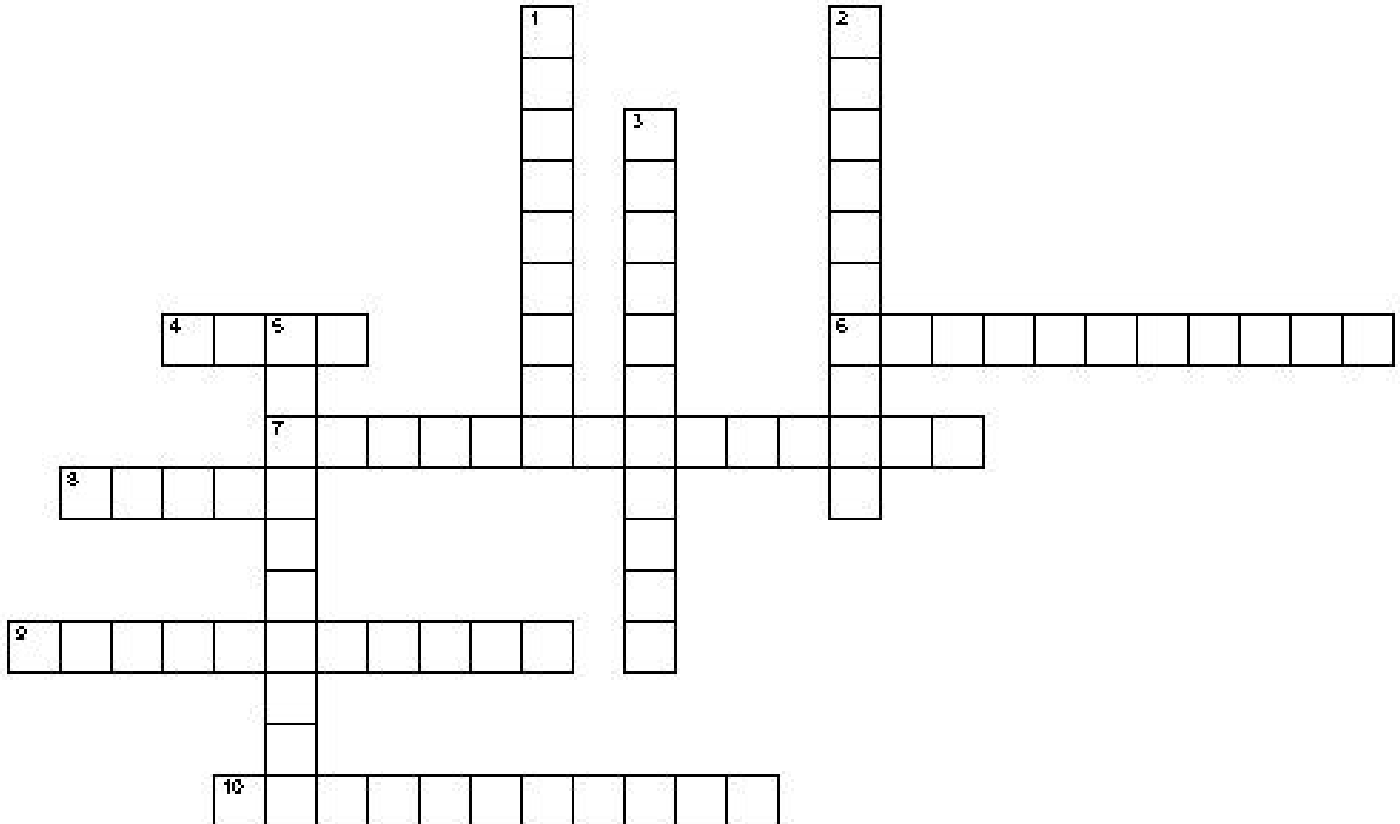
D O W N

- 1** A type of frog that goes from an egg to a tadpole to a little frog in 9 days _____ (9 letters)
- 2** This animal has huge ears that help it radiate away the heat that the body absorbs _____ (10 letters)
- 3** This animal gets water from the seeds that it eats; it plugs its burrow to keep it cooler _____ (11 letters)
- 5** A rattlesnake that has the ability to keep its body elevated up off the ground _____ (10 letters)

* Sidewinder * Desert Tortoise * Agave * Hummingbird *
* Brittlebush * Kangaroo Rat *
* Jackrabbit * Spadefoot * Fish * Barking Frog *

Desert Creatures Crossword Puzzle

Complete the **Crossword Puzzle** using your answers to the clues



- * Sidewinder * Desert Tortoise * Agave * Hummingbird *
- * Brittlebush * Kangaroo Rat *
- * Jackrabbit * Spadefoot * Fish * Barking Frog *

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Answer Key

ACROSS

- 4 Fish
- 6 Barking Frog
- 7 Desert Tortoise
- 8 Agave
- 9 Hummingbird
- 10 Brittlebush

DOWN

- 1 Spadefoot
- 2 Jackrabbit
- 3 Kangaroo Rat
- 5 Sidewinder