



THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE DESERT PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

Link to our [the World: ...](#)

LIFE IN THE DESERT

Deserts are tracts of bush-covered land with much bare ground exposed and with less than 10 inches of precipitation annually. The vegetation and animals are adapted to the conditions of infrequent rains, and the habits of animals are adapted to the heat and aridity. Some deserts are hot, some become cold in the winter.

GAME

desert. Use the clues and our diorama to solve the riddles.

- ▶ I belong to the family of Cactaceae
- ▶ I am quite tall for a plant and people call me a "giant"
- ▶ Instead of leaves, I have spines.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I am a plant that lives in dry areas and that can survive long periods of drought
- ▶ I can collect water very efficiently by storing it for long periods of time in my stems
- ▶ My flowers produce seed-bearing pears.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I am a bird that makes nesting holes in the stems of cacti, and changes nesting holes every year.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I resemble a counter-top vegetable and mistletoe berries.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I am a cat or dog that I use to mark my territory.
- ▶ I am the largest of my family and I have white stripes over my eyes and white spots on my back.
- ▶ I have an unusual "chug-chug" call and use a vocabulary of "growl, peep, buzz, and rattle" to communicate.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I am a small mammal with white stripes on my back from my neck to my tail.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I am omnivorous. I can feed on seeds, plants, invertebrates, vertebrates, and succulent food items.
- ▶ I have a long, thin tail that I use to balance myself.

- ▶ I live on rocky foothills from desert to lowland woodlands, with vegetation such as grasses.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I am a large, yellowish lizard.
- ▶ I am carnivorous and I eat small mammals that eat meat and I am most active during the night.
- ▶ I can live for months without food, thanks to the fat that I can store in my tail.
- ▶ I was first spotted after the Colorado River Basin in the United States.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I yield a crop of seeds that have many uses. The oil produced from my seeds is used in lubricants, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and in manufacturing of ink, varnishes, waxes, and paints.
- ▶ I grow best in sandy soils, in decomposed granite soils, or in rocky soils.

😊 I am the _____

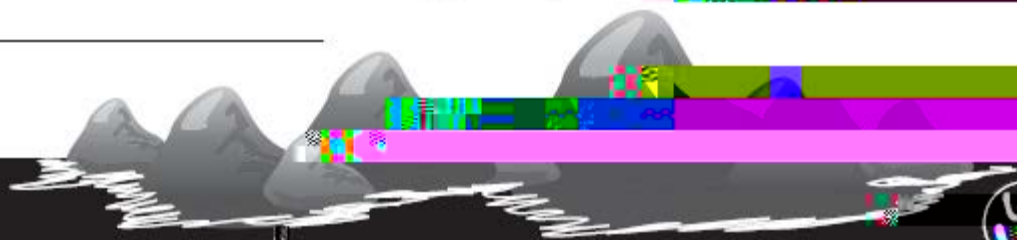
- ▶ I am a cold-blooded creature and my body temperature is close to that of the surrounding environment.
- ▶ I am largely carnivorous. When I'm young, I start on crickets and freshly hatched worms, and later feed upon

vegetables.

- ▶ I am most noted for upright running on my hind legs.

😊 I am the _____

😊 I am the _____





- ▶ I am a pear-shaped bird with short legs and roundish wings. I have a very interesting head plume.
- ▶ I eat seeds of forbs, grasses, shrubs, tree leaves and cacti as well as herbivore material, fruits and berries.
- ▶ I live in the southwestern United States, including the Colorado Plateau and west to California and southern Nevada.

😊 I am the _____

- ▶ I am named after my tail, which is shaped like a cotton ball and after my favorite habitat, that is, my desert-like grasslands and shrublands.
- ▶ I am a herbivore, and eat a variety of plants, including my own scratch.

😊 I am the _____

GAME 2: Look at the specimen in our display and color this large, venomous lizard.

Gila Monster
(*Heloderma suspectum*)

