

Science Story Adventures



African Deserts

Learning outcomes

- » Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Life Sciences - Grade 1)
- » Students know examples of diverse life forms in different environments, such as oceans, deserts, tundra, forests, grasslands, and wetlands. (Life Sciences - Grade 3)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Desert Animals by Deborah Hodge

Ali, Child of the Desert by Jonathan London

Muktar and the Camels by Janet Graber

Activities we did

- » We looked at ways different animals have adapted to move around in the desert and acted out their movements. Adapted from 'Desert Relay Race' in *Discovering Deserts* by Judy Braus.

Today's craft: Good Luck Hand (Khamsa)



You will need:

- » Construction paper
- » Scissors
- » Glue
- » Sequins
- » Yarn
- » Crayons or colored pencils
- » Hole punchers

Directions:

1. Trace around your hand on a piece of construction paper.
2. Cut out the tracing.
3. Decorate the hand with sequins, crayons or colored pencils.
4. Punch a hole in the bottom of the hand and draw a string through it to make it into an amulet.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Desert Animals by Michael Chinery. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL116 .C45 1992

An introduction to the animals of the desert and how they live, including the camel, jerboa and bearded lizard.

Desert Life by Barbara Taylor. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5.D4 T38 1998

Examines the variety of life found in the desert, including the Greek tortoise, desert scorpion and jewel wasp.

Desert Mammals by Elaine Landau. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL116 .L35 1996

Describes such animals as camels, pallid bats, and antelope jack rabbits, and how they adapt to life in various deserts around the world.

I Wonder Why the Sahara Is Cold at Night and Other Questions About Deserts by Ann Gaff. (San Francisco Public Library)

Find out how long camels can go without water and if grass ever grew in the Sahara, along with many other fun facts about deserts, their climate, and the plants, animals and people who live there.

Los Desiertos by Lucy Baker. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL116 .B3418 1990.

Information about desert life.

The Sahara by Ann Heinrichs. (San Francisco Public Library)

Comprehensive information on the geography, history, wildlife, peoples and environmental issues of the Sahara Desert

DVDs

Kalahari Supercat Nat. Ctr. Media QL737 .C23 K3 2005
Follows the daily life of one female leopard as she raises her first litter of cubs in the challenging terrain of the Kalahari Desert.

Planet Earth. (volume 2). Nat Ctr. Media QH75.A3 P53 2007

The 'Deserts' episode shows some of the adaptations ani-

mals have made to live in these challenging habitats.

The Meerkats (San Francisco Public Library)

The adventures of a meerkat named Kolo and his family in the Kalahari Desert.

Websites

The Great Sahara Desert

Information from an old Academy exhibit on Africa. This section focuses on the Sahara, the biggest desert in the world.

<http://www.calacademy.org/exhibits/africa/exhibit/sahara/index.html>

The Sahara Desert: Hot Sands of Africa

Find out more about one of the harshest places to live on Earth.

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/geography/saharadesert.htm>

Deserts

This site has links to some astonishing videos: check out the sand storm in Hassakeh, Syria and the gallery of photos of the Sahara.

<http://www.neok12.com/Deserts.htm>

On the Line: The Sahara

Part of the *On the Line* group of pages on deserts.

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/ontheline/explore/nature/deserts/sahara.htm>

Explore the Regions: Sahara

This PBS website looks at the people, plants and animals of the Sahara.

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/explore/sahara/sahara_overview_lo.html