

Lake Mead

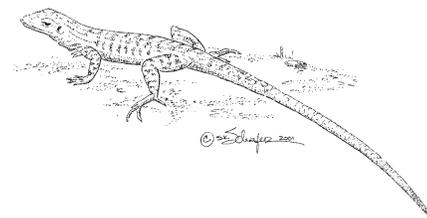
Environmental Education

National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



Grade 1 - Field Program Outline

“Who Lives Here?”



Theme	The Mojave Desert is home to a variety of animals
Objectives	Students will identify three animal homes. Students will identify at least three needs of animals- food, water, shelter and space. Students will explore one way they can protect an animal’s habitat.
Vocabulary	<u>burrow</u> - a hole in the ground made by an animal for its home <u>desert</u> - an area that receives less than ten inches of rainfall a year and has a high rate of evaporation <u>habitat</u> - the place where an animal or plant lives in nature
Background Information	<p>All animals, wherever they live, need food, water and shelter to survive. The desert is a challenging habitat for animals to live in because of its extreme environment. The Mojave Desert receives little annual rainfall (about four to six inches) and drought conditions are a common occurrence. The air is very dry and there is always a varying degree of wind. Though the Mojave Desert has extremely high air temperatures during the summer days, it cools rapidly in the evenings. Due to these high temperatures (110-115 degrees F.), many animals make their homes underground where it can be much cooler.</p> <p>One of the most commonly seen animal homes in the Mojave Desert is a burrow. Animals that make their homes in burrows include ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, tortoises, tarantulas, burrowing owls, cottontail rabbits, and badgers just to name a few. Jackrabbits do not burrow underground, but dig depressions under desert shrubs.</p>
National Science Standards	Organisms have basic needs. For example, animals need air, water and food.
Nevada State Standards	Students know a habitat includes food, water, shelter and space. Students understand that living things live in different places. Students understand that living things have identifiable characteristics.
Arizona State Standards	Identify some plants and animals that exist in the local environment. Compare the habitats (e.g., desert, forest, prairie, water, underground) in which plants and animals live.



Teachers! - check out our web site: www.nps.gov/lake and other educational opportunities for your grade level through our interagency partnership: www.enviroedexchange.org.

For volunteer opportunities: www.getoutdoorsnevada.org