



Crafty Kids Program

Lesson: Holiday Wreath

The wreath teaches children about a couple of the animals at White Sands as well as a plant within the monument and also about recycling. Because many of the items needed for this craft can be found in recycling bins or at a thrift store, children also learn about the second life of items you just throw away can take on. In the end the wreath is a colorful representation of the child as well as some important pieces of the monument.

The to most talked about animals and the most talked about plant at White Sands are:

- Bleached Earless Lizard: At about four inches long, the bleached earless lizard isn't really earless or bleached. They don't have any external ear openings and lighter colors blend better into the environment, making darker lizard's easier prey. Found throughout the dune field, these lizards like to bury themselves just under the surface in loose, sandy soil.

They are identifiable by two black spots on each side.

- Roadrunner: New Mexico's state bird, the roadrunner, is a member of the cuckoo family and a year-round resident of the park. It is a large, long-tailed bird with a shaggy, streaked appearance and a short, ragged crest, which is often raised. Its preferred prey includes lizards, snakes, and rodents. You may see this solitary bird darting across a desert road racing full speed (up to 15 mph) after a lizard.

- Soaptree Yucca: The soaptree yucca uses stem elongation to stay above the advancing dunes. This yucca produces cream-colored blooms in May. The yucca is a virtual "store" in the desert as American Indians used most parts of the plant. The young flower stalks are rich in vitamin C. The flower pods can be boiled or roasted like a potato. The leaf fibers were used for the fabrication of rope, matting, sandals, baskets, or coarse cloth. The roots were chopped and boiled to produce soap to wash hair, blankets, and rugs.

Materials Needed:

- Glue
- Print outs of animals
- One inch hole punch
- Old Puzzle Pieces
- Wreath Template
- Cardboard or study cardstock

Preparation:

1. Using template, draw wreaths on cardboard or cardstock.
2. Use scissors to cut out wreath. There is no trick to cut out the center portion. Folding the wreath in half helps though.
3. Using the one-inch hole punch, punch out the animals that you would like to use. Cutting the paper in strips before hand will give you a better angle to punch. Tip: If you would like the animals to be red print the images on red paper.

Directions:

1. Take the wreath and write the child's name on the back of it.
2. Flip it over and put a ring of glue around the wreath.
3. Place puzzle pieces however you would like around the ring of glue.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 two more times. You should no longer see the cardboard/cardstock anymore.
5. Take the print outs of the animals and have the children place them on the wreath where they would like using a dot of glue.
6. It is best to let the wreath dry for 10-15 minutes or longer to let the glue set up a bit before trying to hang or display.

Wreath Template

