

Friday – Reading Comprehension
Desert Wildlife

Read the text on the next page and answer the questions.

1. Why are deserts dry places?

2. How do some animals stay cool during the day?

3. How are meerkats adapted to their life in burrows?

4. Where in the world are perenties found?

5. Why do you think that perenties live for such a long time?

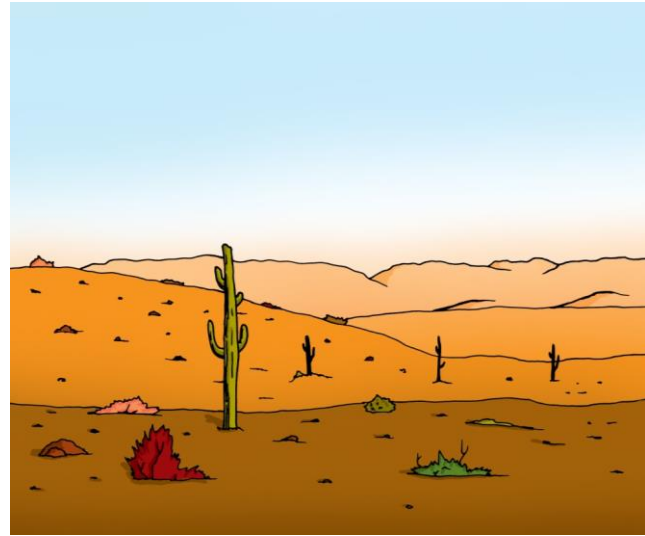
6. List three predators that are described in the text.

7. Write one interesting fact about a kangaroo rat.

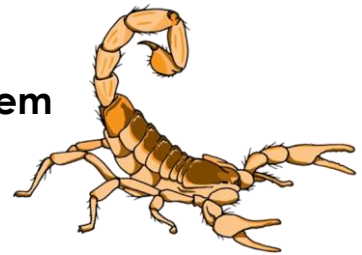
8. What is special about information shown in a 'Did you know?' box?

Desert Wildlife

A desert is a kind of habitat. Deserts are very dry places that get very little rain. Often deserts are very hot during the day but cool at night. Many desert animals hide under the ground while it is really hot and come out to eat as it starts to get dark. Most desert plants and animals do not need very much water.



Deserts are not easy places for animals to live. Animals who live in them often have special features that help them survive. For example, a scorpion has a hard shell that helps keep water inside its body.



Some desert animals are predators and hunt other animals. Hawks and eagles might eat rabbits, snakes, mice and other birds. Large mammals like coyotes hunt rabbits and mice at night.



Meerkats live and hunt in gangs. At night they rest in burrows linked by tunnels. They eat insects and scorpions. Their ears fold back when they dig to stop soil getting inside.



Did you know?

Kangaroo rats that live in the USA can live their whole lives without ever drinking. They get all the **moisture** they need from the seeds in their diet.



A perentie is a two metre long lizard that lives in the Australian desert. It will eat anything from birds' eggs to a small kangaroo. It can live for 20 years as nothing threatens it once it is adult.

