

Colorado National Monument

Environmental Education

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Animal Adaptations: Pre-Field Trip Activity
(4th grade, *An Alcove for an Abode, Desert Dwellers*)

Name _____

List three reasons why it would be hard for you to live in the desert:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The animals below have **adaptations** that help them survive in the desert.

**Animals
Depend on their
Activities and
Parts
To
Survive**

Adaptation: an activity or physical feature of an animal or plant that helps it survive in its environment.

Who Am I?

Draw a line to match the description with the animal.

I can swoop down at speeds over 250 mph to capture my prey, smaller birds.



Ringtail

I am an excellent jumper and get all the water I need from the plants I eat.



Desert Cottontail Rabbit

I pant like a dog to keep cool in the heat of the summer.



Desert Bighorn Sheep

My big ears release heat to help me stay cool.



Peregrine Falcon

My large tail helps me balance as I climb through the trees in search of food at night.



Kangaroo Rat

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Answer Key

List three reasons why it would be hard for you to live in the desert:

- 1) _____ **It is hot.** _____
- 2) _____ **There is not much to eat.** _____
- 3) _____ **There is not enough water. There is not much shade.** _____ **Etc., etc.** _____

The animals below have **adaptations** that help them survive in the desert.

Animals Depend on their Activities and Parts To Survive

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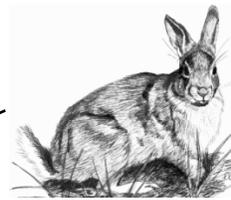
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Ringtail



Desert Bighorn Sheep



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Kangaroo Rat

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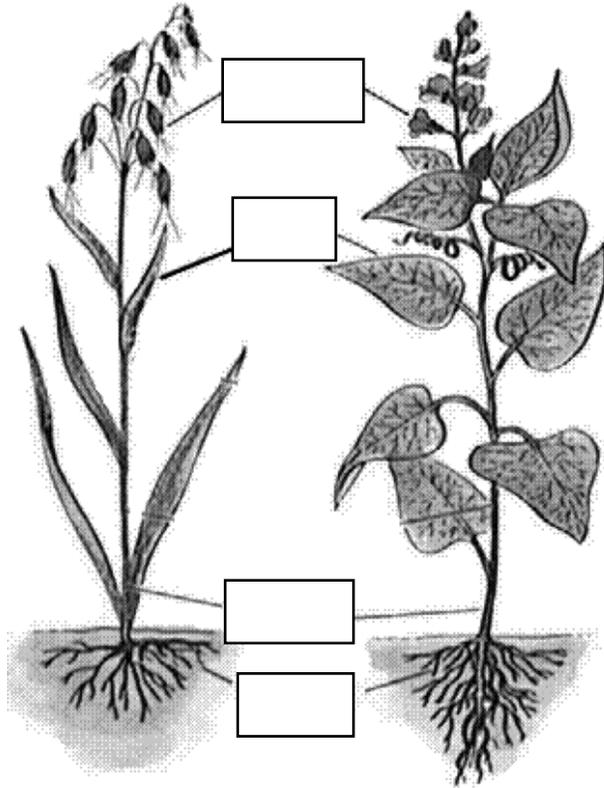
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Plant Adaptations: Pre-Field Trip Activity
(4th grade, *An Alcove for an Abode, Desert Dwellers*)

Name _____



As you will see during your field trip to Colorado National Monument, plants come in all shapes and sizes. Even though they look different, they all have the same parts.

Label the parts of the plant using words from the word bank.

Word Bank

Stems	Leaves
Roots	Flowers

Use the word bank from above.

Write the name of the plant part next to the definition.

Absorbs water and nutrients for the whole plant _____

Moves food and water between the roots and leaves _____

Where pollination takes place and seeds are formed _____

Uses sunlight, Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) to make food _____

Colorado National Monument is a high elevation desert. Hot summertime temperatures, cold winters, and an average rainfall of about 10 inches describe the climate here.

List two reasons living in the desert is a challenge for plants.

1. _____

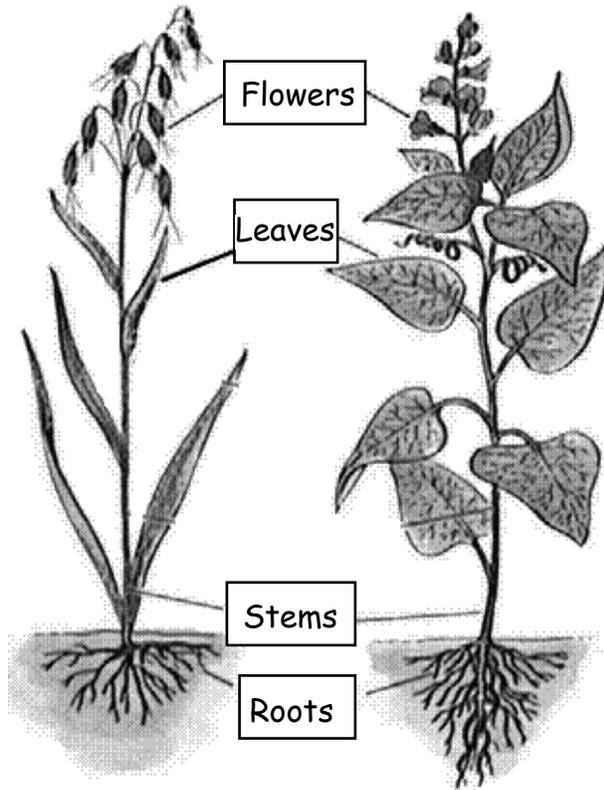
2. _____





Plant Adaptations: Pre-Field Trip Activity
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Answer Key



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Word Bank

Stems	Leaves
Roots	Flowers

Use the word bank from above.

Write the name of the plant part next to the definition.

Absorbs water and nutrients for the whole plant _____ Roots

Moves food and water between the roots and leaves _____ Stems

Where pollination takes place and seeds are formed _____ Flowers

Uses sunlight, Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) to make food _____ Leaves

Colorado National Monument is a high elevation desert. Hot summertime temperatures, cold winters, and an average rainfall of about 10 inches describe the climate here.

List two reasons living in the desert is a challenge for plants.

1. _____ Answers will vary. Getting enough water is a challenge.

2. _____ Too much sun, losing water, animals eating plants are all challenges.

