

Lake Mead

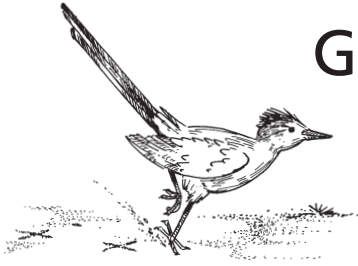
Environmental Education

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



Grade 3 - Field Program Outline

“Nature’s Neighborhoods”



Theme	The Mojave Desert consists of several communities that make up a desert habitat.
Objectives	Students will compare at least two different plant communities in the Mojave Desert. Students will describe at least one animal and one plant in each community. Students will describe at least one animal/plant association.
Vocabulary	<u>desert</u> - an area that receives less than ten inches of rainfall a year, experiences extreme temperatures and has a high rate of evaporation <u>habitat</u> - the place and natural conditions in which a plant or an animal lives <u>plant community</u> - an area with a predictable associated group of plants
Background Information	The Mojave Desert contains several different natural communities. What is a community? It is a place where living things interact in an area of naturally associated species. Plant communities are based on elevation, soil types, amount of precipitation and major habitat features such as cliffs, springs, washes and dunes. Some organisms have very specific requirements for life. For example, the desert primrose lives only on sandy dunes. Others, like jackrabbits, are found throughout the Mojave Desert and beyond its boundaries.
National Science Standards	Organisms have basic needs. For example, animals need air, water and food; plants need air, water nutrients and light. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their needs can be met.
Nevada State Standards	Students know organisms interact with each other and with the non-living parts of their ecosystem. Students understand that living things can be classified according to physical characteristics, behaviors and habitats. Students know animals and plants can be classified according to their observable characteristics.
Arizona State Standards	Identify the living and non-living components of an ecosystem. Describe how environmental factors (e.g., soil composition, range of temperature, quantity and quality of light or water) in the ecosystem may affect an organism’s ability to grow, reproduce, and thrive.

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