

Desert Companions

Plants and animals who live in the desert have adapted to survive in extreme temperatures with little or no water. Desert dwellers also help each other survive and thrive. Draw a line from the picture to its interesting adaptation or fact. Think about what you depend on to survive.



Prickly Pear Cactus

I am often found near streams. My leaves provide shelter from the desert sun. Hopi Indians use my roots to carve Kachinas and drums. My seeds are fluffy like cotton.



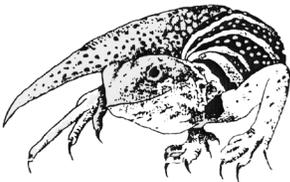
Cottonwood Tree

I am a nocturnal animal. I get water from eating dry seeds. I stay underground during the day to keep cool and forage at night.



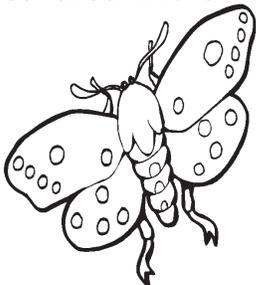
Kangaroo Rat

I am a native cactus that stores water in my leathery pads and fruits. My spines help reduce water loss. My fruit is eaten by desert animals and makes a yummy jelly or salsa.



Collared Lizard

I am a *non-native* plant from Eurasia and have taken over where native plants used to live. My long tap roots drink up to 70 gallons of water a day. My flowers are pink and feathery.



Yucca Moth

I am a scaly reptile that loves to eat insects. Look for me on rocks where I sunbathe and lounge to warm up. I do pushups when someone gets too close. I can move very fast when chased.



Tamarisk

I am the only pollinator for the yucca plant. I come out at night to visit its flowers where I lay my eggs. I also help spread pollen from bloom to bloom.

