



Crafty Kids Program

Lesson 3: Staying Cool

In a desert inside a desert, it is HOT, HOT, HOT! How do animals stay cool under the scorching sun? We will discover creatures we may not ever see in the day time, and their tips on how to beat the heat and get water from the desert. Going over some basic desert safety we'll make fans or visors with White Sands influenced designs that the kids can use on their hikes in the dunes!

Animals and their adaptations:

Black tailed Jackrabbit:

Large ears help this hare with hearing and also have many veins that will dilate to keep their body temperature much cooler.

Bleached Apache Pocket Mouse:

This little guy can stuff hundreds of seed into his fur-lined cheek pouches. Through the seeds, he can extract water so he doesn't have to drink a drop! They also have efficient kidneys that can conserve precious fluids by concentrating the urine.

Darkling Beetle:

Being so dark in the dunefield you would think these guys would get really hot, but the dark coloration actually acts as a way to block the heat. They mostly forage on wet, decaying matter that help keep them cool to.

Kit Foxes, Coyotes, Rattlesnakes, and Badgers:

All of these animals hunt at night to avoid the hot temperatures during the day.

Human Desert Safety Tips:

- Bring one gallon of water per person
- Being high energy and salty snacks
- Wear a wide-brim hat
- Wear sunglasses
- Use sunscreen
- Hike in the cooler parts of the day
- Know the temperature and your limits

Materials needed:

- Foam Sun Visors
- Fans (wooden ones work better for the craft)
- Decorations to glue on the visors
- Glue
- Crayons or markers

Directions:

Have kids decorate visors or fans. If glueing items on to them make sure they dry before the kids use them.