

Tracking Your Neighborhood

Life in the desert is hard for animals and humans.

In the desert it can get really hot, cold, and very windy. It doesn't rain for a long time or it can rain a lot in a very short amount of time.

Because there aren't a lot of plants, HERBIVORES have a hard time finding enough food. They also have to find ways of trying to hide from the CARNIVORES that would like to eat them. Animals have found lots of different ways to live in the desert and deal with obstacles.

Here are some examples:

- Most desert animals are small (No Elephants, but lots of insects...)
- Some animals live in burrows
- Some animals are NOCTURNAL (only active during the night)
- Some animals HIBERNATE (sleep through the winter)
- Some animals BRUMATE (sleep through the summer)
- Some animals blend in with their environment
- Some animals MIGRATE and are only here for a short season
- Some animals fly, run, slither, or hop away from people really fast

Desert animals are really hard to see, but we know they are there because they always leave behind some traces!

- When you start looking around you'll find lots of holes in the desert; some tiny, some large, really deep ones, round ones or flat ones.
- You will find prints in the sand; some are easy to see and others are really tiny and hard to find.
- You will probably find some SCAT (another word for poop); it comes in all kinds of shapes from tiny round ones to large piles...(please don't touch!)
- Sometimes you can find other traces like: feathers, egg-shells, snake skins, bones, fur, and many other things.

Put on some sun screen, grab your camera and start snooping around your neighborhood to see what traces you can find!

Let me know what you came across.