

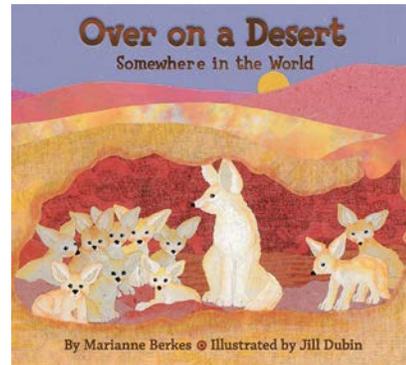
Desert Animal and Habitat Descriptions

Introduction

In the book, *Over on a Desert*, children are introduced to baby animals that live in deserts around the world. In this activity, children identify the adjectives the author has used to describe each animal, such as “tall” mother giraffe. (Grades PreK-2)

Materials

- The book *Over on a Desert: Somewhere in the World*
- Copies of bookmarks, a free download www.dawnpub.com/activity



Procedure

1. Teacher Prep: Print out enough sets of bookmarks so that each student has one.
 2. Read the book up to the page with the world map. Pass out a bookmark to each child.
 3. Ask children, "Can you remember the word the author used to describe the animal that's shown on your bookmark?"
 4. Go back to the beginning of the book and read only the first verse on each page. On the pages for the camel, meerkat, dingo, tortoise, jerboa, desert fox, leave out the adjective that describes them. For example: "Over on a desert resting in the hot sun, lived a _____ mother camel, and her little camel one." On the other pages, as feature of the desert is describe. For example: "Over on a desert on a _____ floor."
 5. Instruct children that when they hear the name of the animal on their bookmark, they should hold up their bookmark.
 6. Ask students holding the bookmarks to say the word (adjective) that the author used to describe the animal or the desert feature. If they don't remember, ask others in the class.
 7. Ask children what reasons the author might have had in choosing the words she did. For example, "Why do you think the author used the word 'tall for the camel?" or "Why do you think the author used 'hot, sandy' to describe the floor?" You'll notice that Jerboas are described by their nocturnal behavior ("where they often go out late").
- Variation: Older children may list one or more synonyms for each of the descriptive words.

Standards Alignment

Common Core ELA (K-2)

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration: K.2,

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