

Shepherd 4-Year-Old & K-Prep Activities

Date: March 20, 2020

Theme: The Desert

Book: Cactus Hotel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoBKz38yZqY>

Hug Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xn0yvkceLTA>

Craft: Nature Collage

Literacy: Words That Start With “N”

Math: Comparing More Than/Less Than/Equal To

Science: Cacti Facts & Cactus Simulation Experiment

Outdoor Activity: Nature Walk

Bible Lesson: “Saul is Changed”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA8YQTO4qh0>

Song: “The Animals in the Desert”

Recipe: Crunchy Cactus Rods

Outdoor Activity & Craft: Nature Walk and Collage

The outdoor activity today is to gathering sticks, flowers, rocks and any other interesting item that your child finds as you take a walk around your back yard or on a desert trail. Some great places to walk are Lost Dog Trailhead, Stonegate Equestrian Park, on the Indian reservation, Scottsdale Ranch Park, or in your own neighborhood!

Collages can be arranged on a tray or plate and your child can take a photo and share it with their teacher—this way it can be an evolving work of art. You can also take a piece of paper and glue items on it in any particular pattern.



Literacy: Words That Start With “N”

N, N, What Starts with N? – Let’s make a list!

Help your child write this list! You can do this by writing the word on a separate piece of paper and having them copy, by dictating the letters and having them write them as you say them, or by lightly writing the word and having them trace over it.

Remember that each child is at a different stage and it may take some trial and error to find your child’s comfort zone. Most importantly, your child should have fun and feel successful—perfection is not the goal, practice is!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Math: Comparing More Than/Less Than/Equal To



Find 10-12 similar items. This can be lego blocks, stuffed animals, pencils, etc.—toys are good motivators. Make two piles with these items and have your child count the items in each pile.

Ask your child which pile has the most items and explain each time that this one is “more than” the other. Ask your child which one has fewer items and explain that this one is “less than” the other. Do this several times and make sure to take the opportunity to create piles that are the same size as well explaining that the number in this pile is “equal to” the other.

Science: Cactus Facts

- There are about 2000 types of cacti
- Cactus are xerophytes, specializing in hot, dry climates such as deserts
- Cactus lifespan is somewhere in the ranges from 10 to 200 years
- A cactus plant can be very small or very big
- The saguaro cactus is the largest cactus in the United States
- The tallest saguaro cactus ever was over 78 feet tall
- The spikes on the outside can be very sharp some can be poisonous to humans
- They are very good at conserving water especially during long dry periods.
- The outside of a cactus is a waxy skin texture which helps it hold in water.
- Some cactus can be eaten and some grow fruit and most grow flowers.
- Cactus flowers can be yellow, red, pink, white, orange, or blue.
- The vast majority of cacti have no visible leaves.
- Scientists have discovered fossils of cacti dating back 25 million years.



Prickly Cactus

Cactus Simulation Experiment

Have you ever wondered how desert plants live on very little water? Find out about some of their distinctive features with a cacti simulation experiment.

What You'll Need:

- Paper towels
- Water
- Cookie sheet
- Paper clips
- Waxed paper

Step 1: Wet three paper towels until they are saturated with water but not dripping.

Step 2: Put one of the paper towels flat on a cookie sheet.

Step 3: Roll up the second paper towel, paper clip it to keep it rolled up, and put it on the cookie sheet, too.

Step 4: Put the third paper towel on a piece of waxed paper that is the same size. Roll up the waxed paper and the paper towel together, and paper clip them so they stay rolled up.

Step 5: Leave all three paper towels where they are for 24 hours. Then check them.

Here's what you'll find:

The flat one will be dry. The rolled one will be dry or mostly dry. But the paper towel that is rolled up with the waxed paper will still be wet.

Now, you may be asking, "What does this have to do with plants in the desert?"

Here's the answer: Cacti and other desert plants are like the paper towel that is rolled up with waxed paper. These plants have waxy coverings that keep moisture from evaporating into the dry desert air. That's part of the reason they can survive on the little water they get in the desert.

Song: “The Animals in the Desert”

The Animals in the Desert

(Sung to: The Wheels on the Bus)

Verse 1:

(Jackrabbit—jump in place)

The jackrabbit in the desert hops like this, hops like this, hops like this.

The jackrabbit in the desert hops like this, all night long.

Verse 2:

(Coyote—cuff hands and howl)

The coyote in the desert howls awww, awww, awww; awww, awww, awww;
awww, awww, awww.

The coyote in the desert howls awww, awww, awww, all night long.

Verse 3:

(Rattlesnake—have your child hiss exaggerating the tongue movement)

The rattlesnake in the desert goes hiss, hiss, hiss; hiss, hiss, hiss; hiss, hiss, hiss.

The rattlesnake in the desert goes hiss, hiss, hiss, all night long.

Verse 4:

(Roadrunner—run in place)

The roadrunner in the desert runs fast like this, fast like this, fast like this.

The roadrunner in the desert runs fast like this, all night long!

Recipe: Crunchy Cactus Rods



Ingredients:

- Green Candy Melts or White Vanilla Chips & green food coloring paste
- Pretzel Rods
- White Sprinkles OR Shredded Coconut

1. Melt candy melts or chips according to package directions. Add coloring if necessary.
2. Dip rods in melted mixture and place on wax paper to cool. Beware as melted liquid is hot—this is a parent job or highly supervised step!
3. Sprinkle with sprinkles or coconut, cool completely and enjoy!