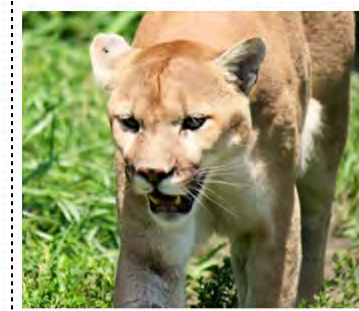


Desert Kangaroo Rat INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE



strong, rough

tough



an animal that
hunts and eats
other animals

predator



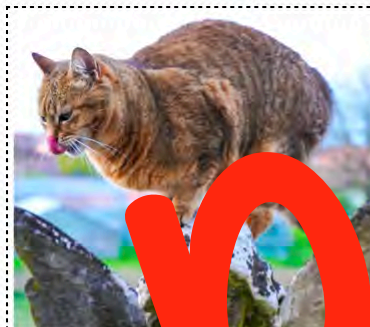
types of a
specific animal

species



a hole dug by
an animal for a
home

burrow



evenly
distributed
might stay
steady

balance



an animal that
eats plants

herbivore



small pockets
in the cheeks
of some
animals used to
store food

pouches



to search for
food

forage

Websites

This animal article comes with a Google Site that students can use for further research. The Google Site contains the same URLs as the QR Codes.

Google Site: [ht
home or: http://](http://www.desertkangaroorat.com/)

[:at/](http://www.desertkangaroorat.com/)

If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube (via SafeShare or SafeTube). There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube link and the other page has the SafeTube link. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

Websites

[http://www](http://www.desertkangaroorat.com/)

[https://ww](https://www.desertkangaroorat.com/)

[https://ww](https://www.desertkangaroorat.com/)

YouTube

[https](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCSj...)

[https](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCSj...)

[yVCSj](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCSj...)

SafeShare / SafeTube

[https:/](https://www.safeshare.com/watch?v=VCSj...)

[https:/](https://www.safetube.com/watch?v=VCSj...)

Includes link to a Google Site

Websites



Desert Kangaroo Rat



Videos

Internet Resources

Desert Kangaroo Rat INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

Desert Kangaroo Rat

The kangaroo rat lives in the tough desert environments of the United States and Mexico. There are 22 different species, but all have very similar body shapes.

To survive, the desert kangaroo rat spends the day hidden away in a burrow. It does not forage, or look for food, in the heat of the day. The burrow can be moist and humid. This helps the kangaroo rat stay cool and use less water.

Appearance

The kangaroo rat is a cute rodent with big eyes that see well in the dark, and small ears to hear predators. Its excellent vision helps it avoid predators. With its long tail, it can balance as it hops. The kangaroo rat's tail can be longer than the head and body combined. Including the tail, the kangaroo rat is between 9 and 14 inches long. It weighs 1 to 6 ounces. The kangaroo rat uses its big, powerful hind legs to hop like a kangaroo.

Like hamsters, the kangaroo rat has cheek pouches, which it uses to take extra food back to its burrow. These pouches help it make fewer trips at night, so predators have fewer chances to catch them.

Diet and Feeding

The kangaroo rat is an herbivore and eats seeds and grasses. It is a nighttime forager, which means it searches for food at night. It will sometimes eat other plants and insects. Kangaroo rats store extra food in their burrows, which they can eat at a later time. The kangaroo rat gets all the water it needs from the food it eats. This is helpful in the desert.

Offspring

The female kangaroo rat is pregnant for 32 days. Though she can have seven babies, she usually gives birth to only three. The babies are born blind, deaf, and helpless. They drink their mother's milk until they are four weeks old. When the babies are grown, they will leave the burrow and live on their own until it is mating season.

Predators & Threats

The kangaroo rat has many natural predators. Owls, snakes, foxes, bobcats, badgers, cats, and dogs are some of them. Because the kangaroo rat can have many babies several times a year, its population is large. Animal protection groups do not consider the kangaroo rat endangered.



Desert Kangaroo Rat



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Consistent format for all animal articles

Text in Two Formats

Desert Kangaroo Rat INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE



Note Taking Sheet

Name: _____

What makes the desert kangaroo rat unique?

Describe a desert kangaroo rat's habitat:

Write three facts:

Fact

Describe how desert kangaroo rats are adapted to their environment:

Other Information:

Name: _____

What I Remember About the Desert Kangaroo Rat

1. What does a desert kangaroo rat look like?

2. Describe a desert kangaroo rat's habitat.

3. What and how does a desert kangaroo rat eat?

4. Describe how desert kangaroo rats take care of their offspring.

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Name: _____

Desert Kangaroo Rat Cloze Read

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences.

population	predators	rodent
burrow	forager	herbivore

The kangaroo rat lives in the tough _____ environ-

States and Mexico. To survive, the desert kangaroo rat spends the day hidden at _____ . It does not forage, or look for food, in the he

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The kangaroo rat is a cute _____ with _____ eyes

dark, and small _____

predators mos

rat has cheek

These pouches

The kang

nighttime _____

store extra fo

water it needs

The kang

dogs are some

Desert Kangaroo Rat Labels

Appearance

Habitat

Diet & Feeding

Offspring

Attributes

looks, has, is

Actions

does, can

Environment

where it lives

Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.

<p>There are 2 different species of kangaroo rats.</p> <p>Kangaroo rats live in burrows.</p> <p>The kangaroo rat is not endangered.</p> <p>The kangaroo rat blends in easily with its environment.</p> <p>The burrow can be a moist, humid environment deep underground.</p> <p>Its population is large.</p> <p>They can collect more food than they can eat each time they go out to forage.</p> <p>The kangaroo rat gets all the water it needs from the food it eats.</p>	<p>Its long tail helps it to balance as it hops.</p> <p>They spend the day hidden away in a burrow.</p> <p>The kangaroo rat uses its big, powerful hind legs to hop like a kangaroo.</p> <p>Staying in a burrow during the day helps prevent water loss.</p> <p>Kangaroo rats feed on grasses and seeds.</p> <p>Its excellent vision helps it avoid predators most.</p> <p>Kangaroo rats have cheek pouches used to store food.</p> <p>The kangaroo rat can have many babies several times a year.</p>	<p>Kangaroo rats get most of their water from the food they eat.</p> <p>The kangaroo rat's tail can be longer than the head and body combined.</p> <p>It will sometimes eat other plants and insects.</p> <p>Babies are born blind, deaf, and helpless.</p> <p>Babies are fully weaned at four weeks old.</p> <p>Excess food is stored in their burrows to be consumed later.</p> <p>They have a pale tan or cream-colored coat.</p> <p>It is a nighttime forager, which means it searches for food at night.</p>
--	--	---

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Compare It

Choose another animal and compare the desert kangaroo rat to that animal. How are they alike? How are they different?

same

Desert Kangaroo Rat
Other Animal

**I Wonder**

What questions do you still have about the desert kangaroo rat? Write them in the bubbles.

How can you find the answers to your questions?

[illegible]

Comprehension & Report Resources

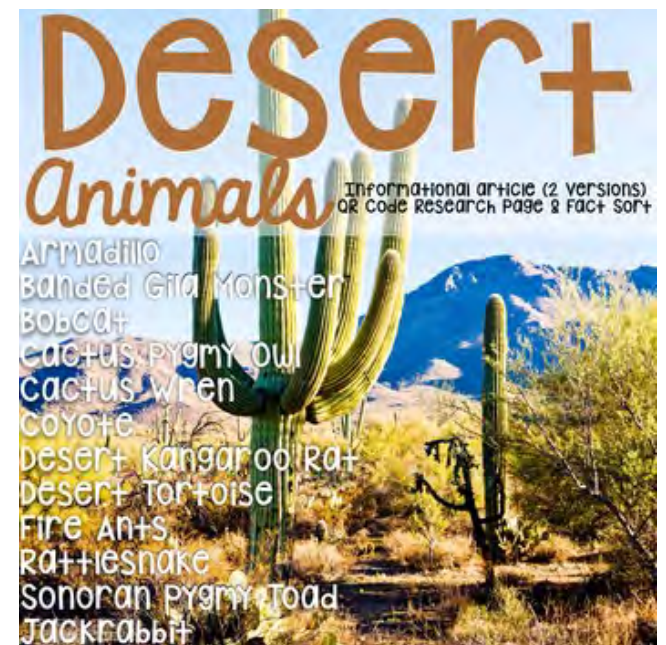
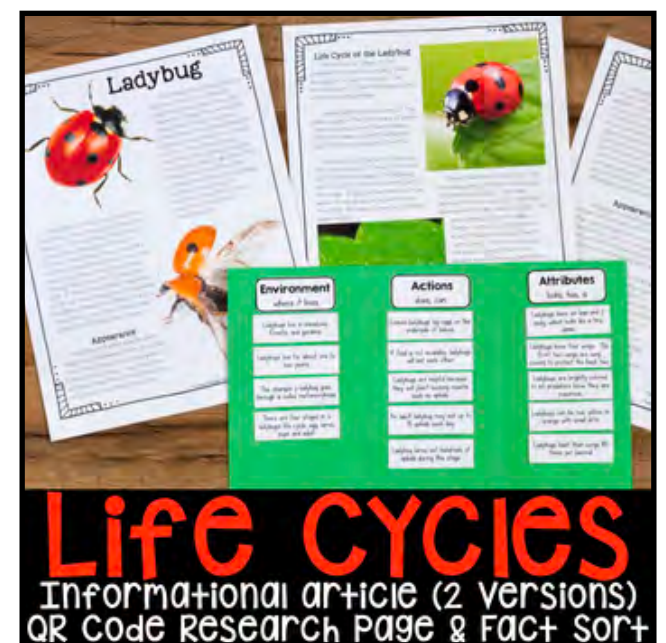


Table of Contents

Table of Contents	p. 3
Teacher Notes	p. 4
Vocabulary	p. 5
Article in Two Formats	p. 10
Websites for Additional Research	p. 13
Note-taking Forms, Comprehension Questions & Activities	p. 16
Writing Pages	p. 25
Answer Key	p. 28

More Animal Articles

Each animal is available individually and as part of a habitat set.



Teacher Notes

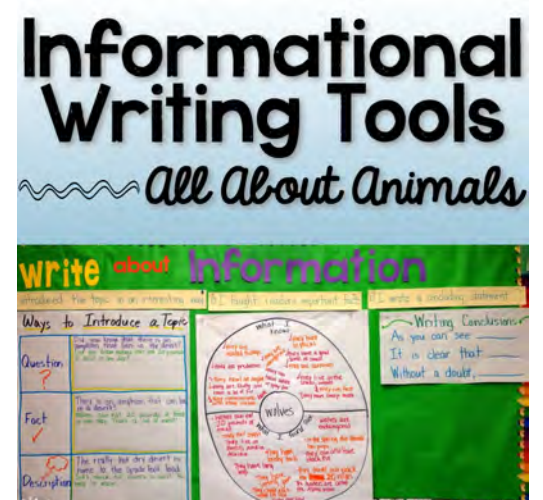
The following article is written at a second and third grade reading level. It follows a similar format to other Animal Articles and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

The article comes in two formats: One full-page black-and-white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for websites and videos that give additional information about the animal. If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube (via SafeTube). There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube links and the other page has the SafeTube links. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

The fact sort sheets contain facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the provided categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.



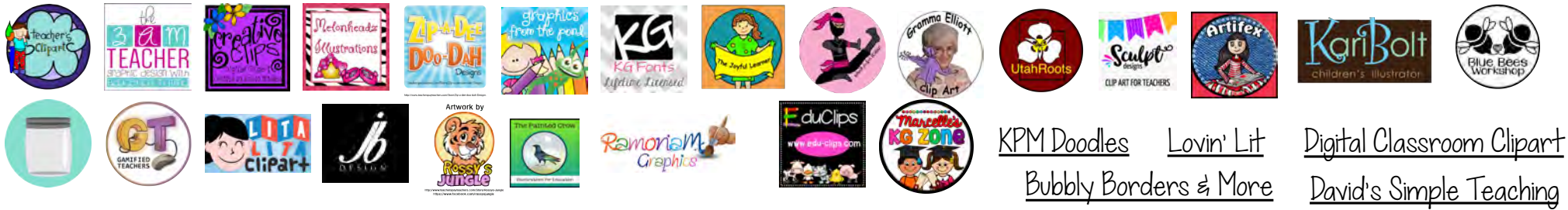
Desert Kangaroo Rat



Informational article (2 versions)
QR Code Research Page & Fact Sort

THANK YOU

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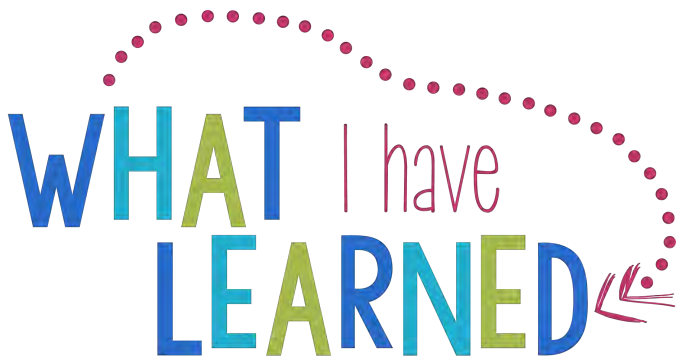
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If you have any questions, please email jessica@whatihavelearnedteaching.com. I'm happy to help.

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WORD PROBLEMS	CURRICULUM MAP TEMPLATE	ADDITION & SUBTRACTION
<p>This is perfect for teachers whose students struggle solving word problems. Have you ever thought of removing the numbers from word problems? Great for first and second grades.</p>	<p>Do you struggle with long range planning? This curriculum map template will get you started on planning for your whole year!</p>	<p>Two-digit addition and subtraction can be tricky for students. Here is a sample of resources to help them explore different models and strategies.</p>
Name: <input type="text"/>	Name: <input type="text"/>	Name: <input type="text"/>
Email*: <input type="text"/>	Email*: <input type="text"/>	Email*: <input type="text"/>
Grade (choose the best fit): <input type="text"/>	What Grade Do You Teach?*: <input type="text"/>	Grade (choose the best fit): <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>	<input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>	<input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>

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