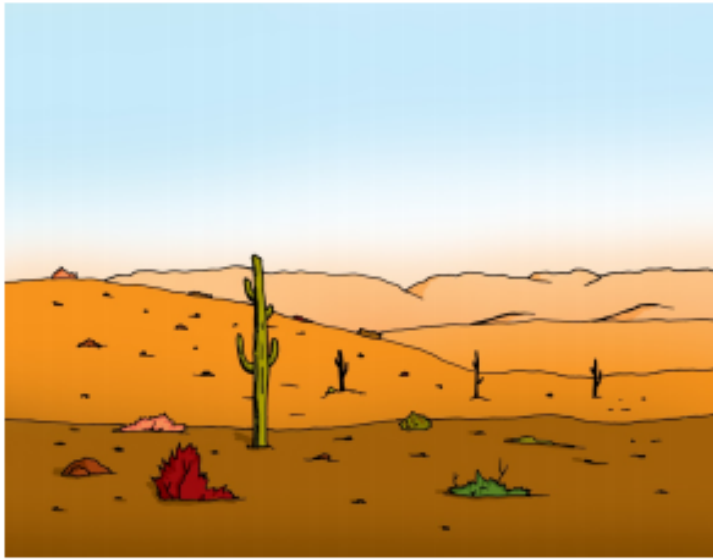




Desert Wildlife

A desert is a type of **habitat**. Deserts are very dry places that get very little rain. They can be hot or cold. Often deserts are very hot during the day but cool at



night. Many desert animals hide under the ground while it is really hot and come out to eat as it starts to get dark. Most desert plants and animals do not need very much water. Deserts are found all over the world.

Some of the major deserts of the world are:

- Sahara Desert
- Kalahari Desert
- Atacama Desert
- Mojave Desert
- Gobi Desert
- Namib Desert

FACT

Elf owls make their nests inside **cacti**.

Deserts are not easy places for animals to live. Animals who live in them often have special **features** that help them survive. For example, camels can drink a lot of water at a time and then go for a long time with no water. A scorpion has a hard shell that helps keep water inside its body.



Scorpion

Desert Predators

Some desert animals are **predators**. They hunt other animals in the desert. Hawks and eagles might eat rabbits, snakes, mice and other birds. Large **mammals** like **coyotes** hunt rabbits and mice at night.



Hawk

During the day, coyotes live in burrows in the ground.



Jackal

Jackals are fast and fierce hunters. They can catch creatures like meerkats. They also **scavenge** dead animals, eating flesh that would otherwise rot.

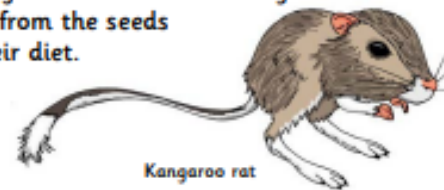


Bobcat

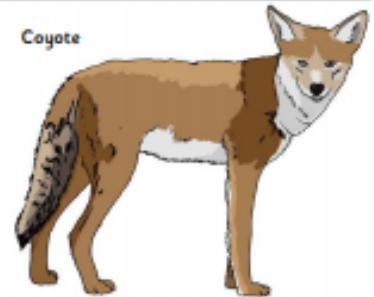
Some bobcats live in desert habitats. They use their senses of sight, smell and hearing to hunt their **prey** which can range from deer and snakes to insects.

Did you know?

Kangaroo rats that live in the USA can live their whole lives without ever drinking. They get all the **moisture** they need from the seeds in their diet.



Kangaroo rat



Coyote

A perentie is a two-metre long lizard that lives in the Australian desert. It will eat anything from birds' eggs to a small kangaroo. It can live for 20 years as nothing threatens it once it is adult.



Perentie

Meerkats live and hunt in gangs. At night they rest in burrows linked by tunnels. They eat insects and scorpions. Their little ears fold back when they dig to stop soil getting inside.



Meerkat

- 1. Where in the world can you find deserts?**
- 2. Name three deserts?**
- 3. How are the desert names listed?**
- 4. Why do you think a fact box is used on the first page?**
- 5. What is special about the information shown in the 'Did you know?' box**
- 6. How are the meerkats adapted to their life in burrows?**
- 7. Why do you think perenties live for such a long time?**
- 8. Why do many desert animals come out at night?**
- 9. Where in the world are perenties found?**