

Coyote Raid in Cactus Canyon

Written and Illustrated by Jim Arnosky

Lesson plan by Linda Troutt

A group of bullying coyotes chases the native wildlife in Cactus Canyon. When there are no more animals to chase, they brawl among themselves, disturbing a nearby rattlesnake. The coyotes back down, run away and all the animals come back out again to a peaceful canyon.

Language Arts

Reading/Literature

Standard 5: Comprehension/Critical Literacy

3. a. Retell or act out narrative text by identifying story elements and sequencing the events.

Using stick puppets made from pictures, the students will act out the actions of the animals in the story. The students may research the animals and create their own puppet face, or photos may be printed from the internet. Cut out and attach the pictures to a popsicle stick, ruler, or tongue depressor.

Resources:

Deserts by Nicola Davies. Kingfisher, 2005.

The Dry Desert : a Web of Life by Philip Johansson. Enslow, 2004.

Life in the Desert by Gerald Legg. Children's Press, 2005.

A Walk in the Desert by Rebecca L. Johnson. Carolrhoda Books, 2001

<http://www.desertanimals.net/index.html>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/coloring/desert.shtml>

coyote:

<http://sdsnake.com/Coyote/Coyote6RC.jpg>

cactus wren:

<http://caplter.asu.edu/explorers/protocol/birds/cactuswren.htm>

cottontail:

http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.saguaro-juniper.com/i_and_i/mammals/rabbits%26hares/06-05cottontail_4762.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.saguaro-juniper.com/i_and_i/mammals/rabbits%26hares/cottontail.html&h=365&w=720&sz=44&tbnid=iWEatBOEsJ::&tbnh=71&tbnw=140&prev=/images%3Fq%3Ddesert%2Brabbit&hl=en&sa=X&oi=image_result&resnum=3&ct=image&cd=1

gambrel quail:

http://www.finatic-photography.com/birds/gambrelsquail/slides/IMG_5062_04a.html

antelope squirrel:

<http://fireflyforest.net/firefly/2005/05/05/harris-antelope-squirrel/>

rattlesnake:

http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/images/SpeciesImages/JServoss/Sonoran_Sidewinder2.jpg

Visual Art

Standard 3: Visual Art Expression

2. Use a variety of subjects, basic media and techniques in making original art including drawing, painting, weaving, sculpture, and ceramics.

Desert Sandpaper Printing

Materials

- Sandpaper- half of a sheet per child, any grain size (a variety will provide different looks in the prints)
- A piece of scrap drawing paper the same size as the sandpaper
- Old crayons for coloring on the sandpaper
- 9 x 12 manilla paper
- Newspapers and an iron

Have each child practice drawing a very simple desert landscape on scrap paper, paying close attention to foreground and background. Draw large simple objects as it is hard to color details on the sandpaper. Then copy the drawing over to sandpaper using crayons and coloring heavily. The entire piece of sandpaper may be colored, filling in sky and ground, or some areas may be left uncolored. Turn the sandpaper upside down, centered on the sheet of manilla paper and place these between sheets of newspaper. Iron over the sandpaper transferring the color to the manilla paper.