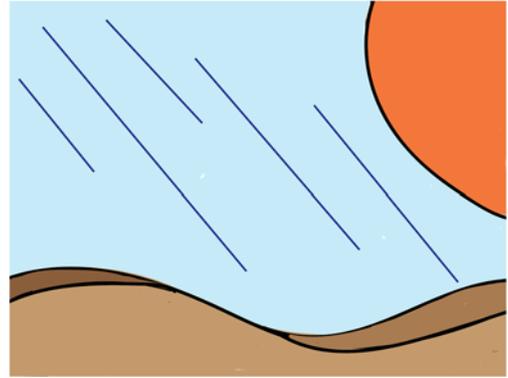


Name: _____

The Desert Habitat

There are living and non living things in the desert habitat. Living things include the plants and the animals and the non living things include the rocks, sand, dirt and bodies of water. Plants and animals need air and water to survive. Some animals need to make a home in their habitat. The desert can be a very hot and dry place. Some deserts are flat, some deserts are hilly and many just have lots and lots of sand. The days can be very, very hot and the nights can be quite cool or cold. It



seldom rains in the desert. Most plants have ways of storing the water in their stems much like a cactus which is how the plants adapt to have very little water. The roots of desert plants are very, very long which helps the plants to retain the little bit of rain the desert gets. Plants grow farther away from each other allowing these roots to spread over a larger area. The animals in the desert know how to adapt to the hot days. Some animals hide or burrow into the ground such as scorpions and desert owls. Other animals make their home in cactus plants. Some animals like the desert tortoise sleeps through the summer to stay cool. Animals will eat smaller animals or insects to survive while other animals will survive by eating some of the desert plants. Animals in the desert can be herbivores or carnivores. Camouflage is an important adaptation for desert animals which helps them blend into their environment and not be noticed.

Questions:

- 1 Explain how plants adapt to the desert?
- 2 Explain how animals adapt to the desert?
- 3 Compare and contrast the area you live with a desert.
- 4 Use one sentence to describe what a desert can be like.
- 5 How does a desert animal find food? avoid danger? adapt to the climate?