



The Booklist Project

Focus: DESERT

Developed by: Laura M.
Mongeon

SPRING, 2014

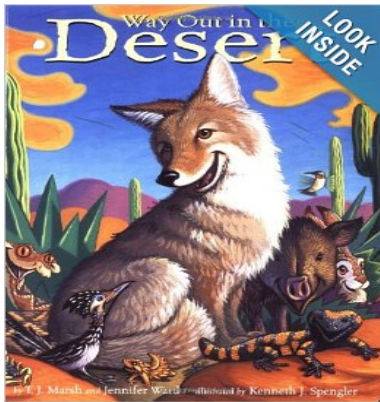
THE DESERT

by Laura Mongeon



Grades 3-7

Proficiency Level Span: Beginning & Expanding



1. Way Out in Desert

Marsh, T.J and Ward, R. (1998). *Way out in the desert*. AZ: Northland Publishers. ISBN: 0873588029

Description: WAY OUT IN THE DESERT uses poetic rhyme while the reader searches for the hidden number within each picture. All the animals and vegetation are that of the Sonoran Desert. Each page describes a characteristic of the creature and their habitat within the desert. The vocabulary is contextual in naming of the animals and plants of this desert. The remaining vocabulary is simple and repetitive. The counting scheme is the increasing number of each animal's babies. The pictures are vibrantly colored but the colors are representative of the real animal or plant. Older readers would enjoy reading this book in discovery of the desert. Patterned text makes it a good choice for ELLs.

Book Level 3.2

Lexile Measure 590

Guided Reading Level: L

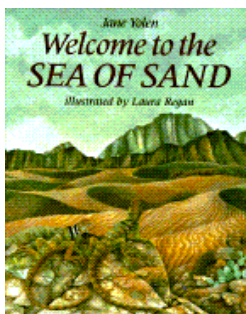
WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing

Formats available: Hardcover, preview: <http://www.amazon.com/Way-Out-Desert-T-Marsh/dp/0873588029>

On-line resources:

<http://www.jenniferwardbooks.com/Tools%20Way.pdf>

<http://www4.nau.edu/clde/lessonplanpdf/DesertAnimals.pdf>



2. WELCOME TO THE SEA OF SAND

Yolen, J. (1997). *Welcome to the sea of sand*. (1997). New York: Scholastic. ISBN-10: 060616796X.

Description: A poetic narrative of Arizona's Sonora Desert. The author uses catchy phrases such as "a huddle of ocelots at noon..., in the shadow of a cave..., ...a slither of green lizards..., ...the dither of butterflies...." The variety of wildlife, weather, and conditions in this text makes it interesting for readers. A page in the back of the book provides more information about the desert and some creatures shown in the pictures but not identified in the text. Patterned, repetitive text makes this book a good one for ELLs.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing

Grade level Equivalent: 2.9

Lexile Measure 830L

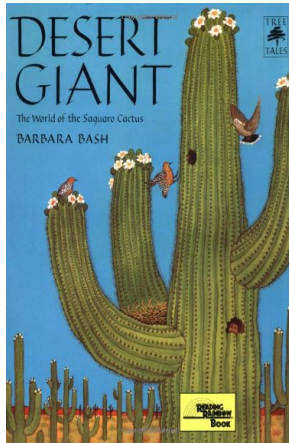
DRA: 34-38

Guided Reading: P.

Formats available: paperback, hardcover

Online resources:

http://www.sparta.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_956967/File/Curriculum/G2_ScienceCurr2013_F wo a ssess.pdf



2. DESERT GIANT: THE WORLD OF THE SAGUARO

Bash, B. (2002). *Desert giant: the world of the saguaro*. SF: Sierra Club Books for Children. ISBN 1578050855.

Description: This picture book explains how the saguaro plays a significant role in desert life. The animals that rely on the saguaro provide interesting reading for readers. This book combines an informative, readable text with interesting pictures. Realistic pictures and available in video format make this a good book for ELLs.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing

Grade level Equivalent: 4.3

Guided Reading Level: R

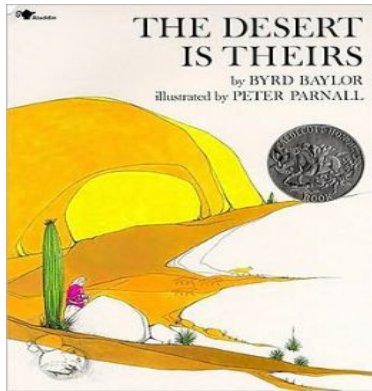
Lexile Measure: 980L

Formats available: paperback, online Reading Rainbow and Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Desert-Giant-World-Saguaro-Cactus/dp/1578050855/ref=la_B001H6GXHU_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1396198073&sr=1-1amazon

Online resources:

Reading Rainbow book and guide: <http://server.shopdei.com/126.0062g.pdf>

<http://guides.rilinkschools.org/content.php?pid=435566&sid=3564257>



4. THE DESERT IS THEIRS

Baylor, B. (2007). *The desert is theirs*. NY: Aladdin. ISBN 143520736X.

Description: In this Caldecott Honor Book shows how the Papago Indians know the desert's beauty and its secrets. You may think of the desert as a harsh, dry place where no one would ever want to live. Simple, poetic text and illustrations describe the characteristics of the desert and its plant, animal, and human life. The poem format with little text on each page and simple pictures make this a good choice for ELLs.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Expanding

Grade level Equivalent: 4.8

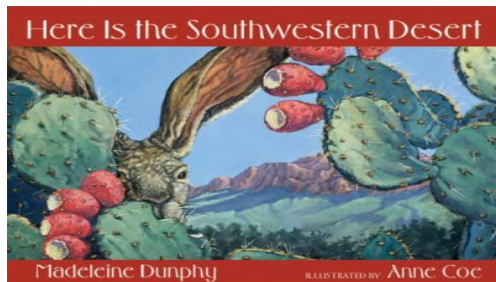
Lexile Measure: 520L

Formats available: paperback, hardback, eBook, audio, preview: <http://www.amazon.com/The-Desert-Theirs-Byrd-Baylor/dp/0689711050>

Online resources:

<http://alliance.la.asu.edu/model/geoliteracyCD/LessonFiles/Wood/WoodDesertT.pdf>

Author study: <http://www.webenglishteacher.com/baylor.html>



5. HERE IS THE SOUTHWESTERN DESERT

Dunphy, M. (1995). *Here is the southwestern desert*. NY: Hyperion. ISBN 9780977379569.

Description: In a "This is the House That Jack Built" style rhyming chant shows the food chain of desert animals. A beautifully illustrated cumulative tale featuring the animals and plants of the Sonoran desert habitat ("Here is the cactus / that is covered with spines / and can live without rain / for a very long time.") A National Geographic pop-up book depicting life in Arizona's Sonoran Desert. There are lifting flaps to look under, tabbed animals that move across the spread, and creatures that pop out of pages. Illustrations are colorful and detailed. Patterned, rhyming text makes it a good selection for ELLs.

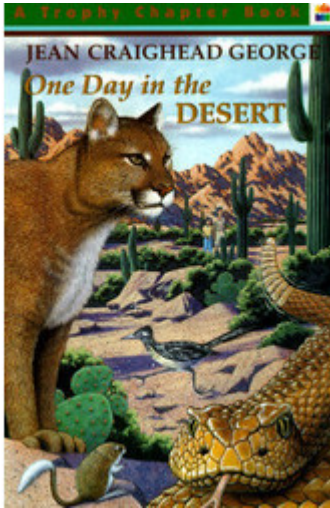
WIDA Proficiency Level: High Beginner/Developing

Lexile: 3.1

Formats available: paper and hardback, online Reading Rainbow, preview:

http://www.amazon.com/dp/0977379566/?tag=mh0b-20&hvadid=2478736779&ref=pd_sl_ppfgn8nyh_ee

Online resources: <http://www.carolhurst.com/subjects/deserts.html>



6. ONE DAY IN THE DESERT

George, J.C. (1983). *One day in the desert*. NY: HarperCollins. ISBN 0690043414.

Description: The book spends a hot July day in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona observing the plants and animals. This is a very short book that still packs plenty of information about the wildlife and habitat of the desert. The storyline mixed in with interesting animal, plant, and geological information. Vibrant and realistic pictures make this a good choice for ELLs.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Bridging

Grade level Equivalent: 4.5

Lexile Measure: 860L

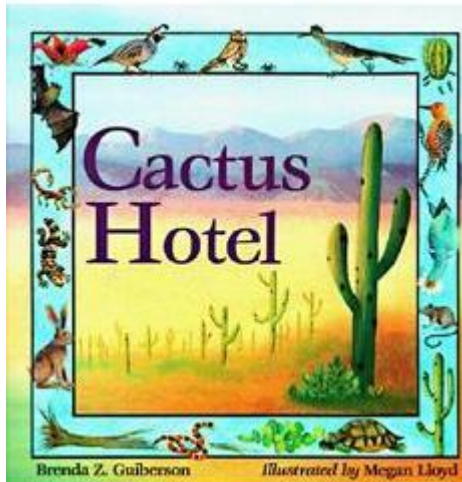
Guided Reading Level: P

Formats available: paperback, hardback, preview:

http://www.amazon.com/dp/0064420388/?tag=mh0b-20&hvadid=3525317391&ref=pd_sl_3otsjpf0v_ee

Online resources:

http://www.ltl.appstate.edu/litcircleunits/litcirunits_avery01/environment/des_woods/dessert1.html,
<http://elainevickers.blogspot.com/2013/04/one-day-in-desert-by-jean-craighead.html>,
<http://www.jeancraigheadgeorge.com/>



7. CACTUS HOTEL

Guiberson, B. (1991). *Cactus hotel*. NY: Holt Publishers. ISBN 0805029605.

Description: A saguaro cactus is an ecosystem within the desert ecosystem. This book shows how each thing that happens to the cactus starts a chain of events affecting many animals and plants in and around it. This book brings to life the life cycle of the remarkable Saguaro cactus. With easy-to-understand illustrations and simple text make it a good choice for ELLS.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Expanding

Grade level Equivalent: 4.8

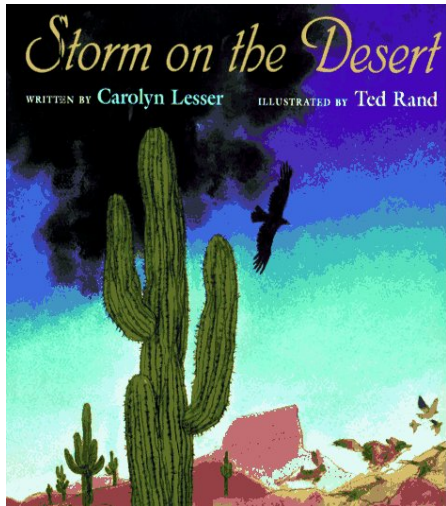
Lexile Measure: 790L

Available formats: paperback, hardback, preview: <http://www.amazon.com/Cactus-Hotel-An-Owlet-Book/dp/0805029605>

Online resources: <http://www.brendazguiberson.com/learning/cactus.php>

<http://wc-trc.wikispaces.com/file/view/Cactus+Hotel+Lesson+Plan+~+3rd+Grade.pdf>

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8. STORM ON THE DESERT

Lesser, C. (1997). *Storm on the desert*. NY: Harcourt. ISBN 0152721983

Description: A fierce summer storm dramatically affects the desert plants and animals of the American Southwest. Poetic language, stunning illustrations, and careful research combine to create a sense of the intense drama of the desert while communicating factual information about desert plants and animals. There are many books about the desert but this is the only one I know of that deals with a desert storm and its effects on the wildlife. Vibrant pictures and text in short, phrased lines make this book a good choice for ELLs.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Expanding/Bridging

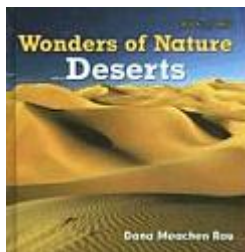
Grade level Equivalent: 3.6

DRA: 30-34

Available formats: paperback, hardback, preview: <http://www.amazon.com/Storm-Desert-Carolyn-Lesser/dp/0152721983>

Online resources: <http://storytrail.com/SWCL/pages/sod.html>

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/3613>



9. WONDERS OF NATURE: DESERTS

Rau, D. M. (2007). *Wonders of nature: deserts*. NY: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark. ISBN-10: 0761426671.

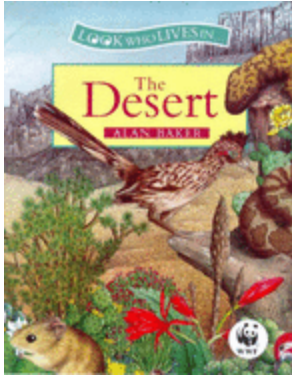
Description: Provides a basic introduction to deserts, including geographical information and plant and animal life. Written in English on the top and Spanish on the bottom. Photographs with simple text in both English and Spanish on each page make this a great choice for ELLs.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Beginning

Guided Reading Level K

Available formats: paperback, hardcopy, preview: <http://www.openisbn.com/preview/0761426671/>

Online resources: <http://danameachenrau.com/>



10. LOOK WHO LIVES IN...THE DESERT

Baker, A. (1999). *Look who lives in...the desert*. NY: Peter Frederick Books. ISBN-10: 0872265412.

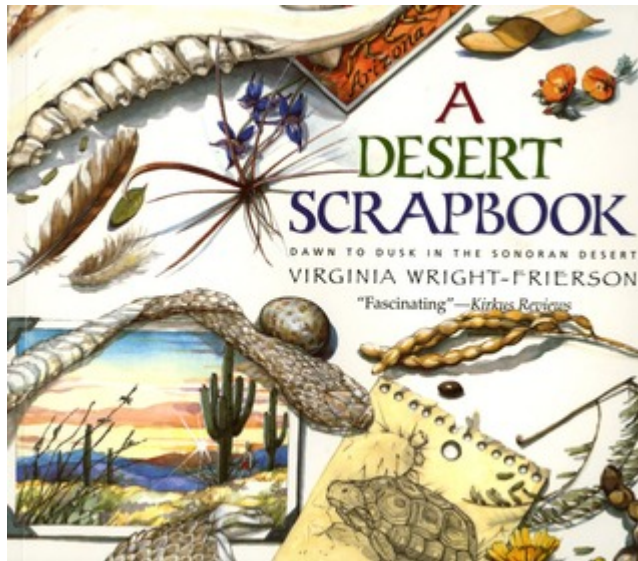
Description: A beautifully illustrated, educational book for grade school children. It is wonderfully illustrated and informative. There are eleven animals and insects featured, as well as a map of where the world's deserts are located. The graphic illustrations and colors are great. Some of the animals are the ant, roadrunner, scorpion, horned lizard, kangaroo rat, toad, woodpecker, rattlesnake, gila monster and puma. The final picture is very nice with all of the animals together. The animals on the pages sequence from one to another. The animal clues on one page is revealed on the next page. Not a lot of text on each page and a large font. This patterned, repetitive text makes it a great choice for ELLs.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing

Reading Level: NA

Formats available: hardcover, paperback, preview: <http://www.amazon.com/Look-Lives-Desert-Alan-Baker/dp/0872265412>

Online resources: http://www.brookebessesen.com/lwld_curriculum.html



11. A DESERT SCRAPBOOK: DAWN TO DUSK IN THE SONORAN DESERT

Wright-Frierson, V. (1996). *The desert scrapbook*. NY: Simon & Schuster ISBN-13: 9780613518154.r.

Description: An artist takes her paints and notebook and heads into the Arizona Sonoran Desert to explore its treasures. Sketching, painting, and writing, she records all that she sees and as night falls, she spreads out her pictures to make this scrapbook of her day, from dawn to dusk.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Expanding

Reading Level: 5.0

Formats available: hardcover, preview: <http://www.amazon.com/Desert-Scrapbook-Dawn-Dusk-Sonoran/dp/0689850557>

Online resources: <http://guides.rilinkschools.org/content.php?pid=416333&sid=3564260>,
<http://www.wincbooks.com/VirginiaWright-Frierson.htm>
<http://guides.rilinkschools.org/content.php?pid=435566&sid=3564257>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



The Booklist Project

A Project of the
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



Feinstein School of Education and Human
Development
Rhode Island College

For Further Information, Contact:

Nancy Cloud, Ed.D., Director

ncloud@ric.edu

Rhode Island College

600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue

Providence, RI 02908