



Tour Theme: Animals (grades K to 2)

Pre-Visit Activity #1 Animal Sort

Objectives:

- The students will be able to sort desert animals (pictures) into one of four categories: mammals, reptiles, birds and insects.
- The students will know the characteristics of these four groups.

Part A:

Have the students work in small groups to sort the desert animal cards into four correct piles (according to the animal group they fit into). Examples of the cards would be:

Gila Woodpecker
Roadrunner
Gambel's Quail
Red-tailed Hawk

Tarantula Hawk
Honeypot Ant
Dragonfly
Mosquito

Sidewinder
Collared Lizard
Desert Tortoise
Gila Monster

Pocket Mouse
Desert Cottontail
Gray Fox
Kangaroo Rat

Part B:

Read a list of characteristics that one of the desert animals may possess and see if the students can identify the animal. For example:

I have a bulky body.

I have small ears.

I have hoofed feet.

I have short, black and gray bristly fur.

I have long canine teeth.

Who am I?

Show pictures or give examples of desert creatures camouflaging in their natural environment.