



## Tour Theme: Animals (grades K-2)

### Pre-Visit Activity #2 Animal Powers

#### Objectives:

- The students will acquire knowledge about the adaptations that some desert animals use to help them survive in such a harsh environment.

Keep the following materials in a box decorated and labeled, "The Desert Box." When a group of students is ready for the activity, the facilitator will remove the items and explain the animal's specific adaptation while attaching each piece using a clothespin.

#### Materials:

Clothespins

Pieces of tan felt

A few wooden spoons or dowels

A hand rake

A sun visor with two large googly eyes glued to it

A swimmer's nose plug

Small sponges

Take each item out of the "Desert Box" one at a time and explain and do the following:

- Tan felt represents camouflage in a desert animal. Desert animals are often a subdued color such as tan because the color helps them blend in with many of the desert shrubs. Using a clothespin, attach the piece of tan felt to a child's clothing.
- Long limbs enable animals to keep their bodies off hot surfaces. Hand a wooden spoon or dowel to a child to hold to represent these long limbs.
- Many desert animals use their sharp claws to help them burrow underground to get away from the scorching heat. Hand a child the hand rake.
- Many desert animals are nocturnal and have large eyes to help them see at night. Have a child wear the visor with the large googly eyes.

- Many desert creatures have modified physical structures to help keep sand out of their nose, mouth, eyes and ears. Have a child wear the swimmer's nose plug.

Desert animals have to store water in their bodies so that they don't dehydrate in the hot desert climate. Attach a sponge to a child's clothing to represent water conservation and storage.