

*Look Who Lives in the Desert!*  
**Informational Reading Comprehension 2**

Read the book carefully, including the facts bars and then answer the questions below.

What four deserts are in the American Southwest?

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Which American desert is the hottest? \_\_\_\_\_

What are two other names for a cougar? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is a cougar unable to roar? \_\_\_\_\_

How does a native tortoise escape the desert's extreme temperatures? \_\_\_\_\_

Which is the most populous group of insects on the Earth? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are Collared peccaries called "javelina"? \_\_\_\_\_

In what two ways do nectar and pollen eating bats help propagate certain desert plants?

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How does a snake use its forked tongue to sense its surroundings? \_\_\_\_\_

Which is the largest hawk in North America? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years does a female tarantula live? \_\_\_\_\_

Why does the kit fox have non-retractable claws? \_\_\_\_\_

Is a jackrabbit a rabbit or a hare? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between newborn rabbits and newborn hares? \_\_\_\_\_

How does a cactus wren clean itself and get rid of parasites? \_\_\_\_\_

What two traits in a Bighorn sheep's feet allow it to effectively leap between rock ledges?

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Why is a bobcat's coat spotted or mottled? \_\_\_\_\_

How do Gila monsters get venom into their prey? \_\_\_\_\_

What trait allows an owl to fly so quietly? \_\_\_\_\_

How far around can an owl turn its head? \_\_\_\_\_

Why can't a stink beetle fly? \_\_\_\_\_

What trait gives the roadrunner such good standing balance? \_\_\_\_\_

*Look Who Lives in the Desert!*  
**Informational Reading Comprehension 2 KEY**

Read the book carefully, including the facts bars and then answer the questions below.

**What four deserts are in the American Southwest?**

*Great Basin*

*Sonoran*

*Mohave*

*Chihuahuan*

**Which American desert is the hottest?** *the Sonoran*

**What are two other names for a cougar?** *mountain lion; puma; catamount; painter; panther*

**Why is a cougar unable to roar?** *The bones in its voice box are too small and tightly connected.*

**How does a native tortoise escape the desert's extreme temperatures?** *They spend most of their time in underground burrows.*

**Which is the most populous group of insects on the Earth?** *beetles*

**Why are Collared peccaries called "javelina"?** *Their sharp canine teeth resemble an ancient spear-like weapon called a javelin.*

**In what two ways do nectar and pollen eating bats help propagate certain desert plants?**

*pollinators; move pollen from flower to flower*                      *eat fruit and disperse seeds in their droppings*

**How does a snake use its forked tongue to sense its surroundings?** *The forked tip picks up particles from the air and then the snake places them into a sensory organ (Jacobson's Organ) in the roof of its mouth.*

**Which is the largest hawk in North America?** *ferruginous*

**How many years does a female tarantula live?** *20-30 years*

**Why does the kit fox have non-retractable claws?** *better traction for running*

**Is a jackrabbit a rabbit or a hare?** *Despite its name, a jackrabbit is a hare.*

**What is the difference between newborn rabbits and newborn hares?** *Rabbits are born hairless and with their eyes closed, while hares are born covered with fur and eyes open.*

**How does a cactus wren clean itself and get rid of parasites?** *dust baths; kicks dirt up into its feathers*

**What two traits in a Bighorn sheep's feet allow it to effectively leap between rock ledges?**

*hard outer edges help catch small projections of rock*                      *soft soles cling and soften the impact*

**Why is a bobcat's coat spotted or mottled?** *camouflage; helps it blend into its surroundings*

**How do Gila monsters get venom into their prey?** *They have a strong, chewing bite and their venom, secreted from glands along the gum line, flows into the open wound.*

**What trait allows an owl to fly so quietly?** *The feathers on its wings have soft edges.*

**How far around can an owl turn its head?** *270 degrees; three-quarters of the way around*

**Why can't a stink beetle fly?** *Its wing covers (electra) are fused and its flying wings are missing.*

**What trait gives the roadrunner such good standing balance?** *X-shaped feet; zygodactyl; two toes facing front and two toes facing back.*