



Wild Kids

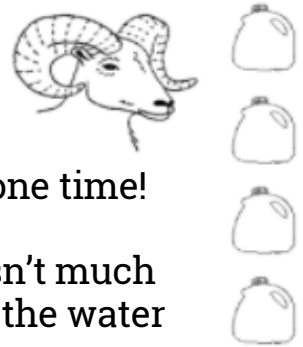
Water Is Life

STUDENT GUIDE

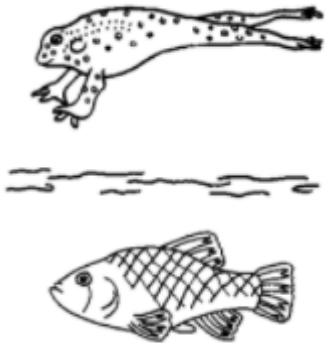
All animals need four things to survive: food, water, shelter, and space. Of those, water is a truly unique one. The bodies of most animals (including you) are made up of mostly water. Without water, animals could not digest food or rid their bodies of waste. But water is not just important when you drink it. It can actually play a role in shelter as well. All animals need water to stay alive and healthy.

Water Is a Thirst Quencher

Some animals must drink water everyday. Did you know, however, that a bighorn ram can go a week without drinking water? When it does find water, it may drink up to 4 gallons at one time!



The kangaroo rat lives in dry areas (like deserts) where there isn't much water. As a result, it doesn't need to drink water. Instead it gets the water it needs from the plants and seeds it eats.



Water Is a Place to Live

Fish and frogs need to live in or near water all their lives. A fish has gills which allow it to breathe by taking oxygen from the water instead of lungs that take oxygen from the air. Frogs need to lay their eggs in water so they don't usually wander too far.



Water Is a Way to Keep Clean

By taking baths, birds keep their feathers clean and free of parasites. However, some desert birds, such as the Gambel's quail, take dust baths instead of water baths.

Water Is a Way to Stay Cool

A cool dip on a hot summer's day is a great way to beat the heat. Elk might overheat if they didn't spend some time in the water or in a mud wallow.



What happens when there isn't enough water?

When there isn't enough rain for a long period of time, water will become difficult to find. Some animals may be able to survive. However, many will not. Do you know what a long, dry period is called? Let's find out.

Read each of the questions below. The answers can be found in the reading you just completed. Spell out the correct answer by writing the letters in the squares. Use one letter per square.

1. A kangaroo rat does not need to drink water. Where does it get its water?

2. Instead of air, where do fish get their oxygen?

3. Without water, what would we not be able to digest?

4. How many gallons of water can a bighorn sheep drink at one time?

5. What do fish use to breathe?

6. We all need water to stay alive and ...

Great job! Did you notice that each answer had at least one letter that was circled? Fill in the boxes below with the circled letters from above. The word you spell out will be the name of a long, dry period!



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TEACHING GUIDE

Overview

In this activity, students read a passage about the importance of water to wildlife. Then, they will use their reading comprehension skills to answer some question and decipher a hidden word.

Suggested Procedures

1. Print the worksheet above. If possible, print it double sided.
2. Ask students to read the information on the first page. Once completed, you may consider discussing the reading or reading it again as a class. It is important that they understand the content because it will be used to answer the next questions.
3. Have the students turn to the second page. Ask them to read each of the questions. The answers to these questions can be found in the reading. They should write their answers in the boxes provided, one letter in each box. Students should be able to figure out, then, that the number of boxes will tell them how long their answer should be.
4. Once they have answered all six questions, have them take the circled letters from their answers and put them, in order, in the final set of boxes. The word that they spell (DROUGHT) will be the answer to the question from the beginning: What is the name of a long, dry period?
5. Discuss the answers then ask some follow-up questions:
 - In what ways is water important to people and wildlife?
 - What is a drought? Which of the animals discussed in the reading would be most likely to survive a long drought?

Grade

2nd

AZ Science Standards

- 2.L.2.U.1.9

Science and Engineering Practices

- Obtain, evaluate and communicate information

Crosscutting Concepts

- Energy and Matter