

DESERT MUSEUM TEACHER INFORMATION FOR SELF-GUIDED VISIT K-2

INTRODUCTION

To the Teacher

Welcome! This information is designed to help teachers, chaperones and students prepare for a Self-Guided Visit to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and to enhance the educational value and enjoyment of the field trip. We recommend that a Museum visit coincide with classroom studies of desert ecology or natural history. We developed this Sonoran Desert information and activities to contribute to your classroom ecology unit; it is not intended to be a complete curriculum on its own. All material is designed to be used by students in grades K-2 and may be duplicated for student and chaperone use. We hope you'll find this information useful and easy to incorporate into your science curriculum. For more information on the Desert Museum and the Sonoran Desert, visit our web site at www.desertmuseum.org.

This packet contains pre- and post-visit information and activities to accompany the *Explorer's Guide* to the Desert Museum.

- **Pre-visit Information and Activities:** Pre-visit activities and handouts provide students with background information on plants, animals, and environmental conditions of the Sonoran Desert Region. By completing pre-visit activities, students will gain a foundation to help them more thoroughly understand what they see at the Desert Museum.
- **Explorer's Guide:** The purpose of the *Explorer's Guide* is to encourage students to make careful observations of plants, animals, and artifacts while on their field trip by providing chaperones with questions to guide these observations.
- **Post-visit Activities:** Post-visit activities give students a chance to synthesize information learned before and during their trip; and construct their own understanding of the components and ecology of the Sonoran Desert Region. Suggested activities and extensions also provide teachers with opportunities to introduce concepts of stewardship, native uses of plants, and introduce themes through music and theater.

We welcome and value your comments, suggestions and/or questions concerning these curricula. The information and activities have been developed and revised based on teacher, chaperone, student and staff recommendations over a number of years. If you develop any lessons or activities related to desert ecology and a Museum visit that work well with your students, please send us a copy. We will give you credit for any materials we use.

Sincerely,
ASDM Center for Sonoran Desert Studies
Education Department

Objectives

Through the use of these materials and a visit to the Museum, your students should:

- Become familiar with the diversity of life in the Sonoran Desert,
- Understand that all components of a desert ecosystem are important and interconnected,
- Describe plant and animal adaptations that help each survive and thrive here,
- Become aware of differences between the desert grasslands, mountain islands and riparian corridors within the Sonoran Desert Region,
- Describe some effects humans can have on the Sonoran Desert Region,
- Develop an appreciation of the beauty, wonder, and intrinsic value of the desert.

Arizona Academic Standards Correlation

The pre- and post-visit activities and the self-guided tour with the *Explorer's Guide* correlate to the Arizona Academic Standards listed below. See each activity for specific standards and performance objectives met.

SC00-S1C1-02, SC00-S1C3-01, SC00-S4C3-01, SC00-S4C3-02, SC01-S1C1-02, SC01-S4C1-03, SC01-S4C3-03, SC02-S1C1-01, SC02-S1C1-02, SC02-S1C3-01*

Science Standards:

Strand 1: Inquiry Process

Concept 1: Observations, Questions, and Hypotheses

Concept 3: Analysis and Conclusions

Strand 4: Life Science

Concept 1: Characteristics of Organisms

Concept 2: Life Cycles

Concept 3: Organisms and Environments

Concept 4: Diversity, Adaptation and Behavior

*The shorthand for each standard is read this way:

