



# Exploring the Desert

## Desert Facts

### Did you know.....

Deserts are typically areas that do not receive a lot of rain and does not have a lot of trees-the opposite of a rainforest! Deserts can be cold or hot! Cold deserts are covered in snow or ice and are called polar deserts. The largest cold desert on Earth is Antarctica and the largest hot desert on Earth is the Sahara in Africa. Hot deserts are normally hot in the daytime and cold at night. Deserts are home to shrubs and cacti, and animals such as lizards and coyote.

<https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/earth/desert.html>

## Sing

### The Animals in the Desert

Sung to: The Wheels On The Bus

The jackrabbit in the desert hops like this, hops like this, hops like this  
The jackrabbit in the desert hops like this, all night long  
The coyote in the desert howls auuu, auuu, auuu  
The coyote in the desert howls auuu, all night long  
The rattlesnake in the desert goes hiss, hiss, hiss, hiss, hiss, hiss  
The rattlesnake in the desert goes hiss, hiss, hiss, all night long  
The roadrunner in the desert runs fast like this, fast like this, fast like this  
The roadrunner in the desert runs fast like this, all night long!

<http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/desert/songs.htm>

## Activity

### Handprint Cactus

**Materials:** Green paint, white paper, glue, rice, salt, orange or brown food coloring, black pepper or poppy seeds, red tissue paper (can substitute with a paper towel and red marker)

**What you will do:** Dip your child's hand in the green paint and make their handprint on the white paper to make a cactus. Glue on rice to make prickly cactus spines. Mix salt with food coloring or paint to make sand and glue it to the bottom of the paper. Clump small pieces of red tissue paper or a paper towel that you color red to make little flowers. Glue them to the ends of the cactus branches. Glue black pepper or poppy seeds to the inside of the flowers

**Discuss:** Explain to your child that cacti come in many shapes and sizes and some can live for 200 years! Cacti are important because they hold water. Cacti can grow fruit and flowers. After it is dry, encourage your child to feel the rice spines and explore how it feels different than a smooth surface.

<https://funfamilycrafts.com/sensory-cactus-craft/>