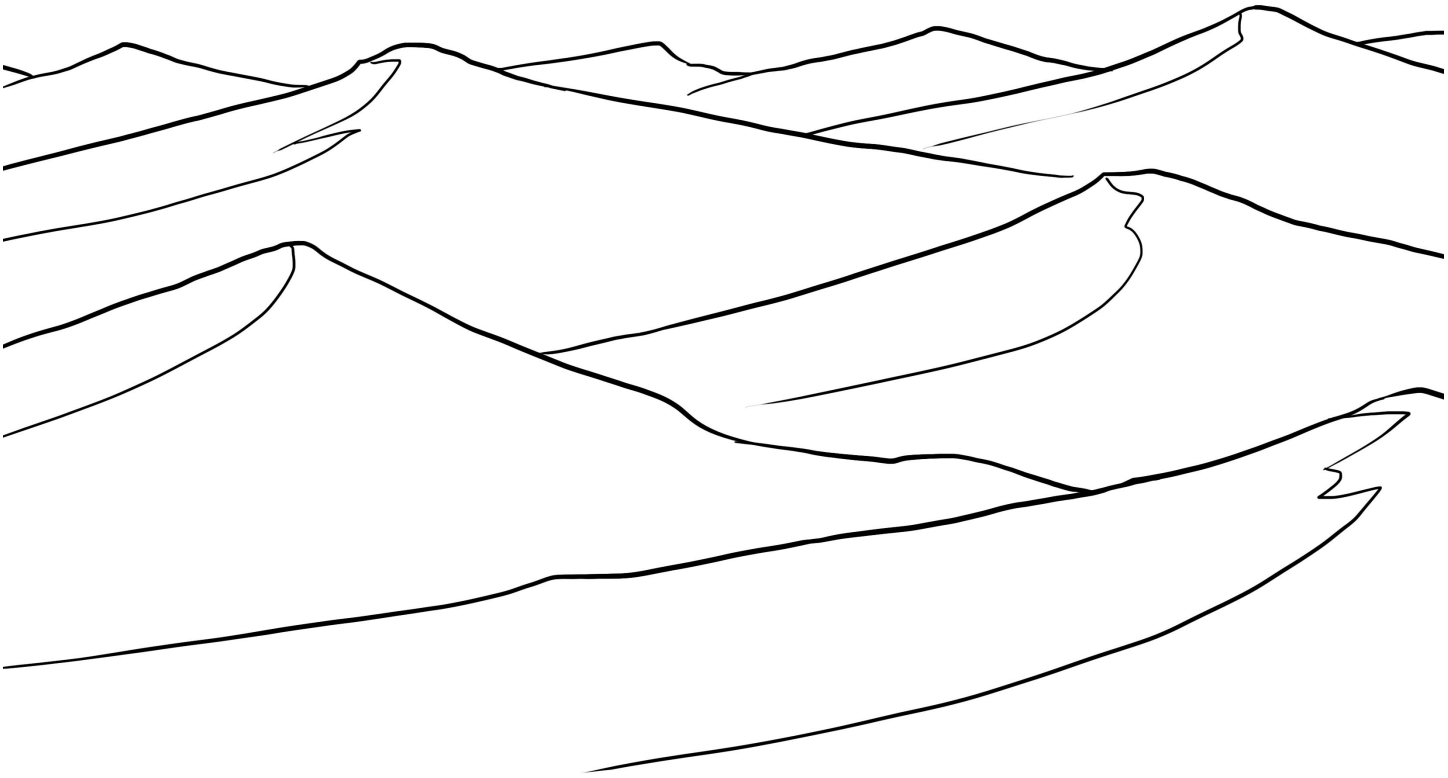
Desert Animal Facts
Color & Copy

Welcome to Desert Animal Facts Color & Copy! In this book, you'll find information about five animals that make the desert their home. Each animal unit begins with a short description of the animal that can be read aloud or independently. Next, students can practice handwriting by tracing key facts about the animal or by copying the facts onto the lined paper that follows. A page is included for students to record additional information about the animal if they wish. Each animal unit concludes with a picture of the animal to color. I hope you enjoy discovering the animals of the desert!



Cactus Wren

The cactus wren is the largest wren in North America and is the state bird of Arizona. These wrens are about 8 1/2 inches (22 cm) long and have a wingspan of about 11 inches (28 cm). Their wings, backs, and tails have streaks of white, brown, and black feathers, and there is a white stripe over each of their eyes. They live in the deserts of the southwest and are very common in Mexico. Cactus wrens like dry areas where there are shrubs and cacti, especially the cholla cactus. They like to build their football-shaped nests in the cholla cactus and trees that grow in the desert. They usually lay three to four eggs at one time, but sometimes lay up to five eggs. After the eggs hatch, both the mother and father feed the young. They sometimes sleep in the nests after the young have left.

They eat animals such as beetles, ants, wasps, grasshoppers, and other kinds of insects. Cactus wrens will often use their bills to pick up small rocks or leaves to look underneath for any insects that may be hiding. They also eat some fruits, such as berries, and seeds.

Enemies of the cactus wren are coyotes, hawks, foxes, and bobcats.





Cactus Wren



Facts

1. About 8.5 inches (22 cm) long

2. Have a wingspan of about 11 inches (28 cm)

3. White stripes over eyes

4. Eat insects such as beetles, ants, wasps, and grasshoppers

5. Usually lay 3 to 4 eggs at a time



Cactus Wren



Facts

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Cactus Wren



Facts

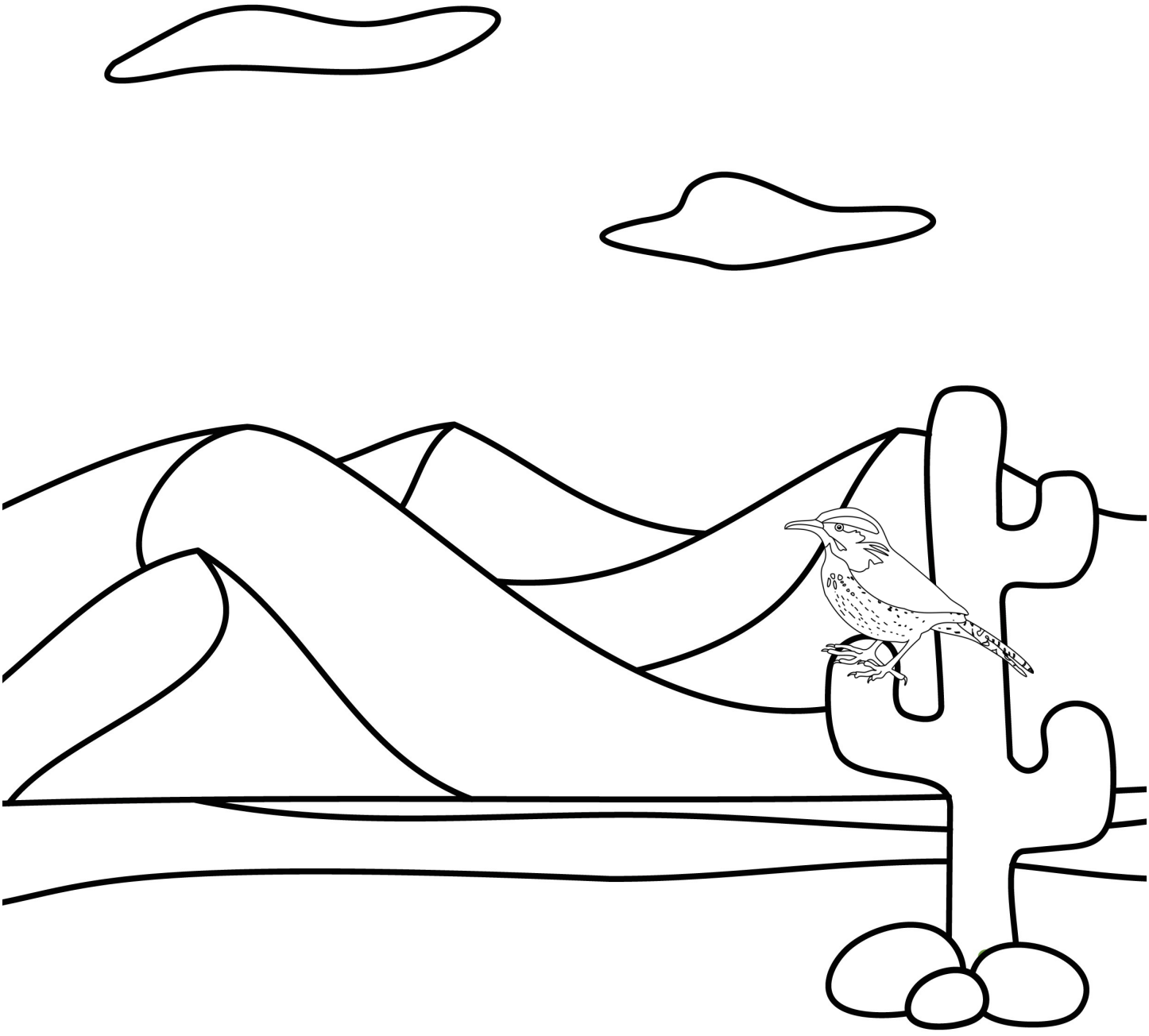
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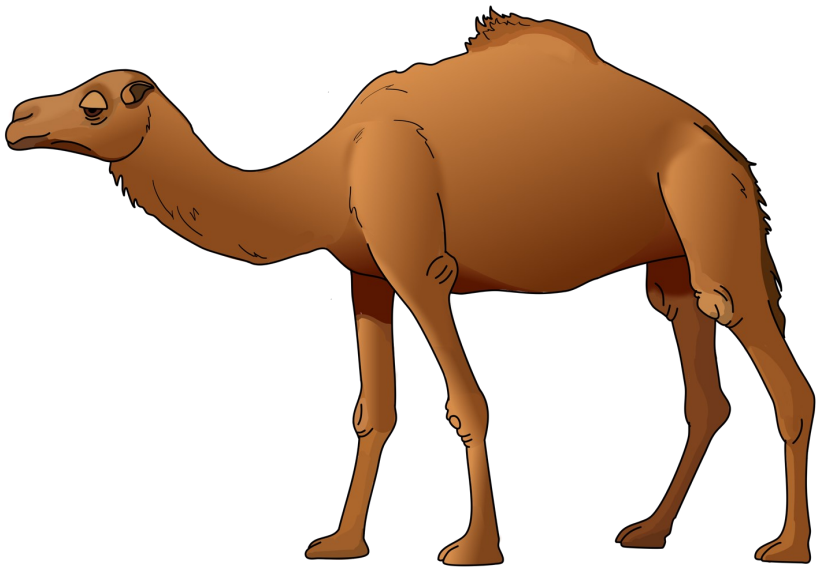
Cactus wren

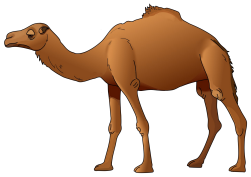
Camel

The camel is a large mammal that lives in the deserts of Asia, Africa, and Australia. There are two main types of camel, the Arabian, or dromedary camel, and the Bactrian camel. Dromedaries have one hump; Bactrian camels have two humps. Camels can walk on the sand without getting stuck like a vehicle would. They have pads on the bottoms of their feet that help them walk easily on sand the way a snowshoe would help a person walk on snow.

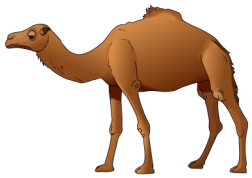
Camels are very hard workers. They are 6 to 7 feet (1.8 to 2.1 meters) tall at the shoulder, about 10 feet (3 meters) long, and can weigh up to 1,400 pounds (650 kg). They can carry loads up to 330 pounds (150 kg) for eight hours at a time. Their fur is bushy and can be many shades of brown. They have only one baby, called a calf, at a time.

Camels' eyes are located on the sides of their heads and are protected from the sand with long, curly eyelashes. They also have thick eyebrows that help shield their eyes from the sun. In addition, they can squeeze their nose shut to keep sand from blowing up their nose. Many people think that the hump on a camel stores water, but this is not true. Camels store fat in their humps so they can use it for energy if they are someplace where there is not enough to eat. Camels can go without drinking water for days, or months if they are not working. The plants they eat give them enough water in cooler weather, and they do not sweat very much. However, in hot weather, a thirsty camel can drink up to 50 gallons (200 liters) of water in one day.





Camel Facts



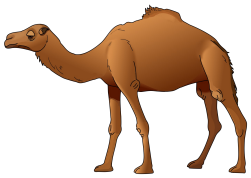
1. Large mammal that lives in the deserts of Asia, Africa, and Australia

2. Dromedaries have one hump

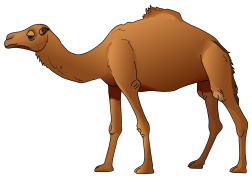
3. Bactrian have two humps

4. Store fat in their humps to use for energy

5. Baby called a calf



Camel Facts



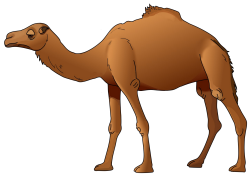
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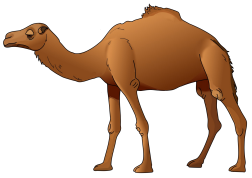
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Camel Facts



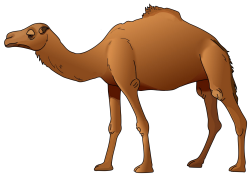
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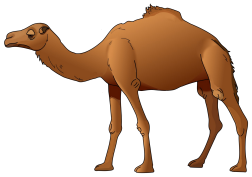
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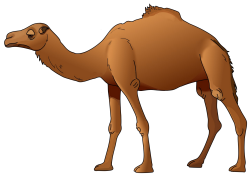
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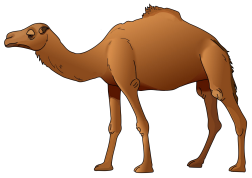
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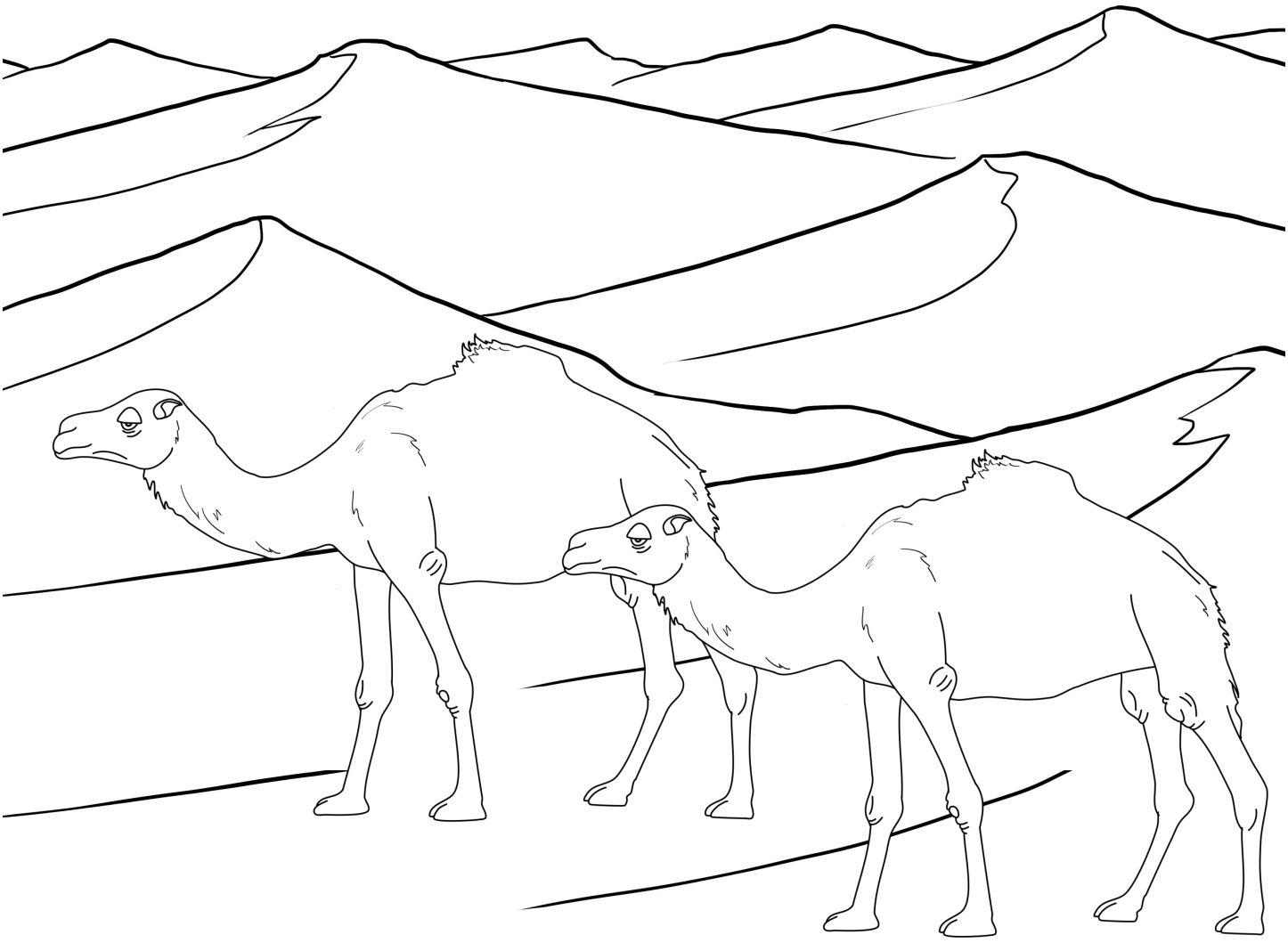
5. Baby called a calf











camel

Desert Tortoise

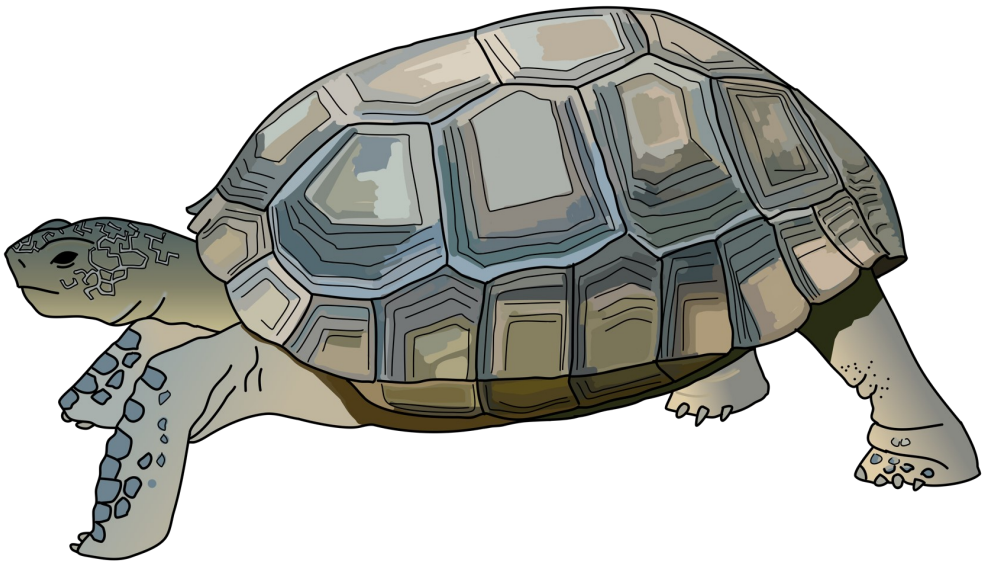
Desert tortoises like hot, dry areas to live in. They are the state reptile of California and can be found on all the continents except Australia and Antarctica.

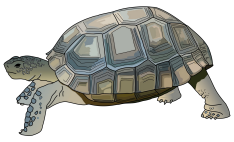
Desert tortoises rest in burrows that they dig in the ground. Their dens are sometimes as much as 30 feet (9 meters) long, but summer dens are not as deep or as long. Average burrows are about 8 feet (2.4 meters) long. Since they are cold-blooded, resting and living in burrows and dens help them regulate their body temperature. They also hibernate for as much as 9 months every year.

Tortoises lay their eggs, usually from 1 to 14 at a time, in a hole in the ground. The mother does not stay with the nest, though, so the young tortoises have to survive on their own.

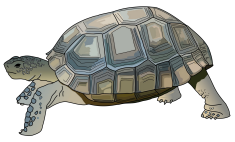
Tortoises are usually about 2-15 inches (5-38 cm) long and have high, domed shells. They also have very good eyesight and a good sense of smell. Their legs are shaped like an elephant's legs, but of course, they are much shorter. They have sharp claws that are very good for digging. Their diet consists mainly of grasses, wildflowers, wild fruit, and parts of cacti.

Ravens are some of the desert tortoise's worst enemies. Ravens also like to eat food in people's garbage and landfills, so ravens have increased as more people have moved to desert areas to live.





Desert Tortoise



Facts

1. Like hot, dry areas

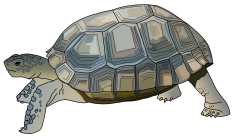
2. State reptile of California

3. Rest in burrows they dig in the ground

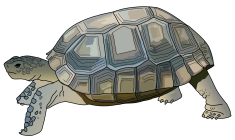
4. Cold-blooded

5. Eat wildflowers, grasses, wild fruit, and parts of cacti

6. Ravens are main enemy



Desert Tortoise



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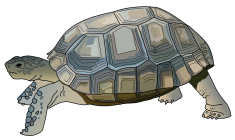
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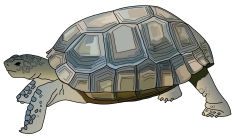
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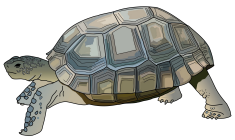
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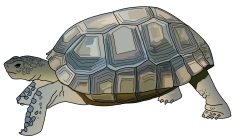
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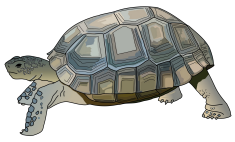
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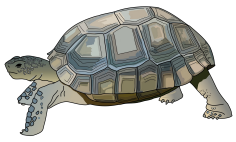
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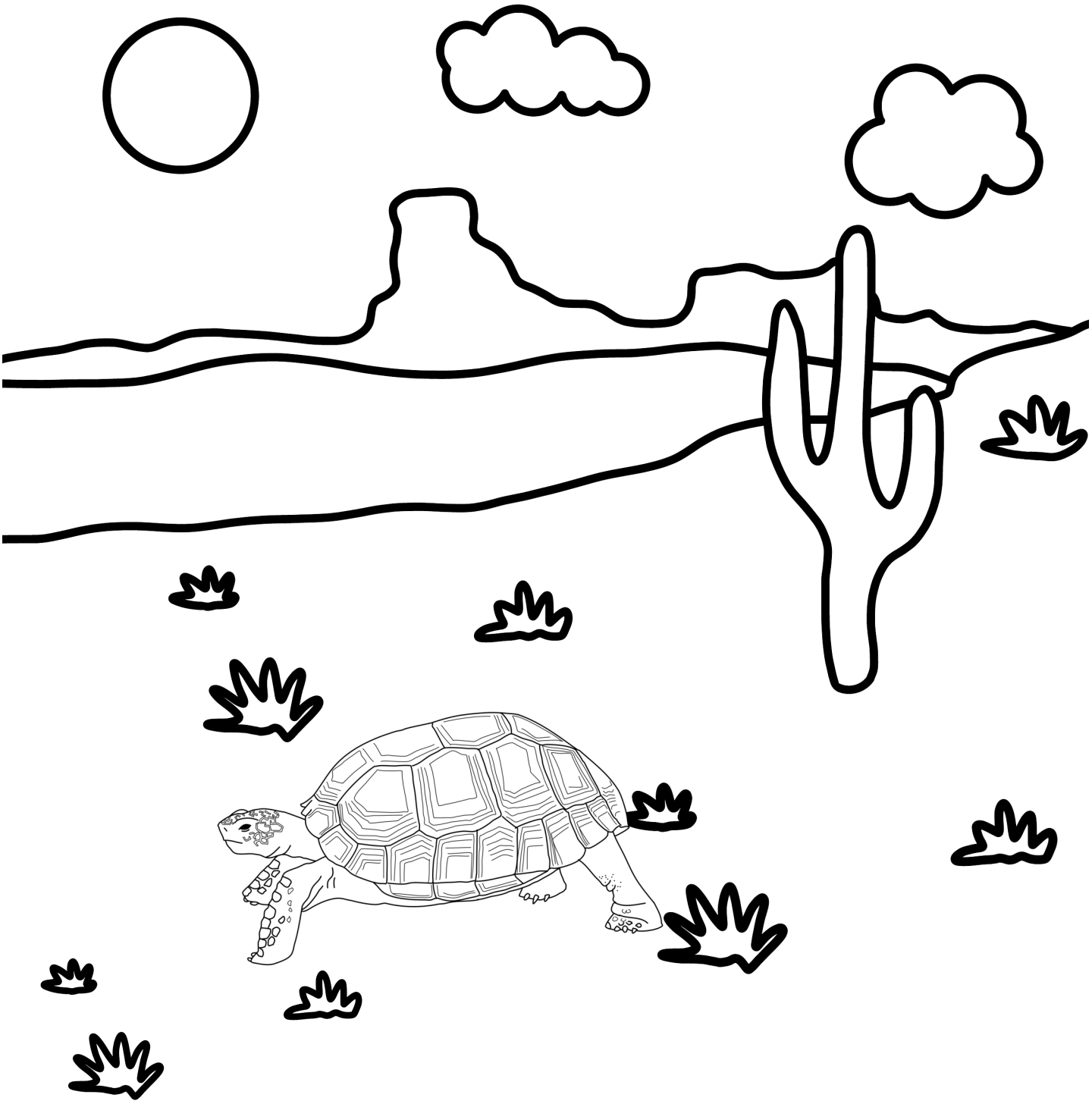
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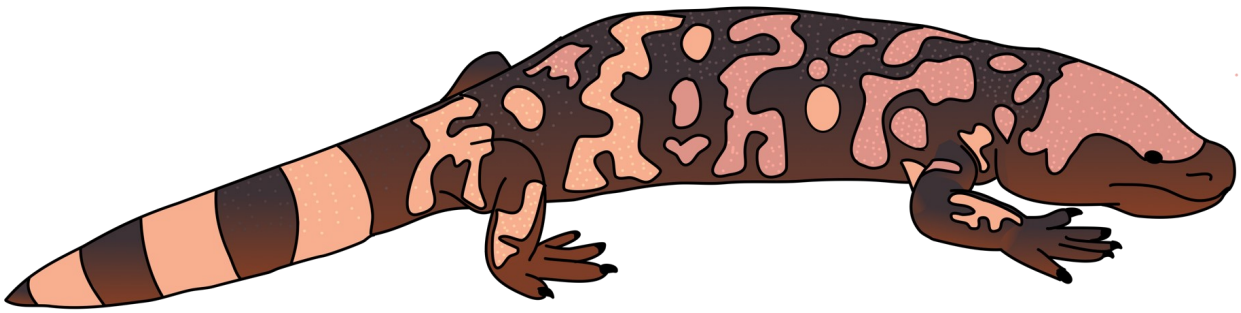
Desert tortoise

Gila Monster

Gila monsters are large lizards found mainly in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. They were named for the Gila River, one of their favorite places to live. Adult Gila monsters are about 19 inches (48 cm) long. Their head and body have pink and black blotches or bands.

They hibernate in the winter and come out only during the night in the summer. In the spring and fall, they are active all day.

Gila monsters eat birds, small mammals, and the eggs of birds and reptiles. They have a poisonous bite that can be deadly to some animals. It's painful, but it's not usually dangerous to people. They store fat in their bodies and tails that they can use while they are hibernating.





Gila Monster



Facts

1. Adults are about 9 inches (18 cm) long
2. Hibernate in winter
3. Eat birds, small mammals, and the eggs of birds and reptiles
4. Have a poisonous bite
5. Store fat in their bodies and tails



Gila Monster



Facts

1. Adults are about 14 inches (46 cm) long

2. Hibernate in winter

3. Eat birds, small mammals, and the eggs of birds and reptiles

4. Have a poisonous bite

5. Store fat in their bodies and tails



Eld. Mammals.



Facts.

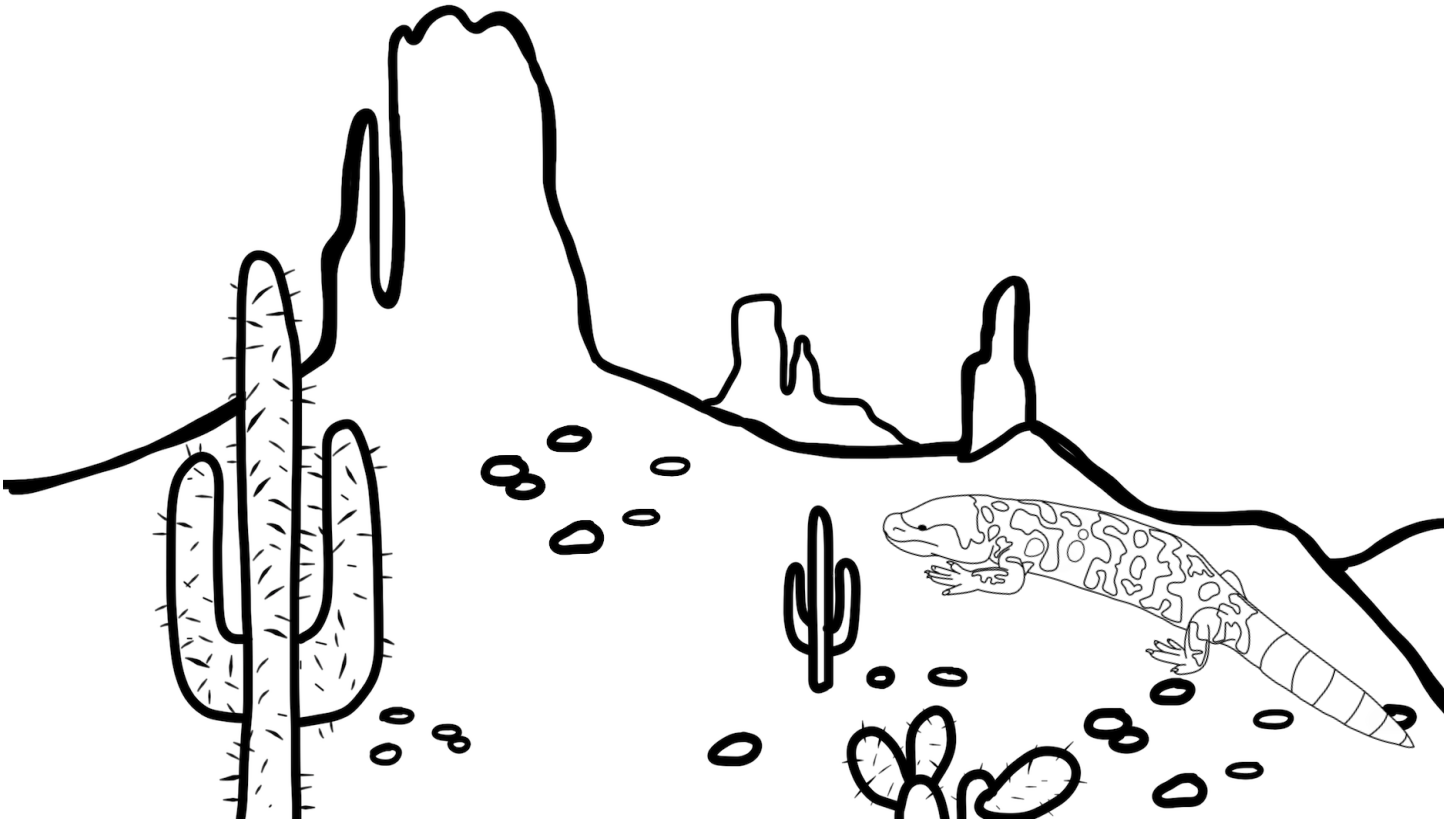
1. Adults are about 19 inches (48 cm) long.
2. Hibernate in winter.
3. Eat birds, small mammals, and the eggs of birds and reptiles.
4. Have a raccoon like face.
5. Store fat in their bodies and tails.











Gila monster

Jackrabbit

Jackrabbits are not really rabbits; they are hares. Hares are larger than rabbits. They have longer legs and longer ears. You can find black-tailed jackrabbits in a large area of the United States and northern Mexico. They like dry areas that have some plants for food, such as cacti, sagebrush, and mesquite, but they also eat alfalfa, clover, and other grasses, or even seeds and the bark of young woody plants. Black-tailed jackrabbits do not need much water.

Black-tailed jackrabbits can move as fast as 40 miles (64 km) per hour. Their powerful hind legs help them leap more than 10 feet (3 meters) at a time. They are the largest of the jackrabbits found in North America and are about 18-26 inches (46-66 cm) long, not including their tail. They weigh about 4-8 lb. (1.8-3.6 kg). They can lose heat through their large ears, which helps keep them cool. Because of the way their heads are shaped and their eyes are positioned, they can see in almost a complete circle.

Black-tailed jackrabbits do not build nests like rabbits. They have between 1 and 6 babies, called leverets or bunnies, often in the thick brush. The babies already have fur when they are born, and their eyes are wide open. They do not need much care and are on their own very soon.





Jackrabbit

Facts



1. Are hares
2. Like dry areas with some plants for food
3. Move as fast as 40 miles (64 km) per hour
4. Leap more than 10 feet (3 m) at a time
5. Can see in almost a complete circle
6. Babies called leverets or bunnies



Jackrabbit



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Jackrabbit



Facts

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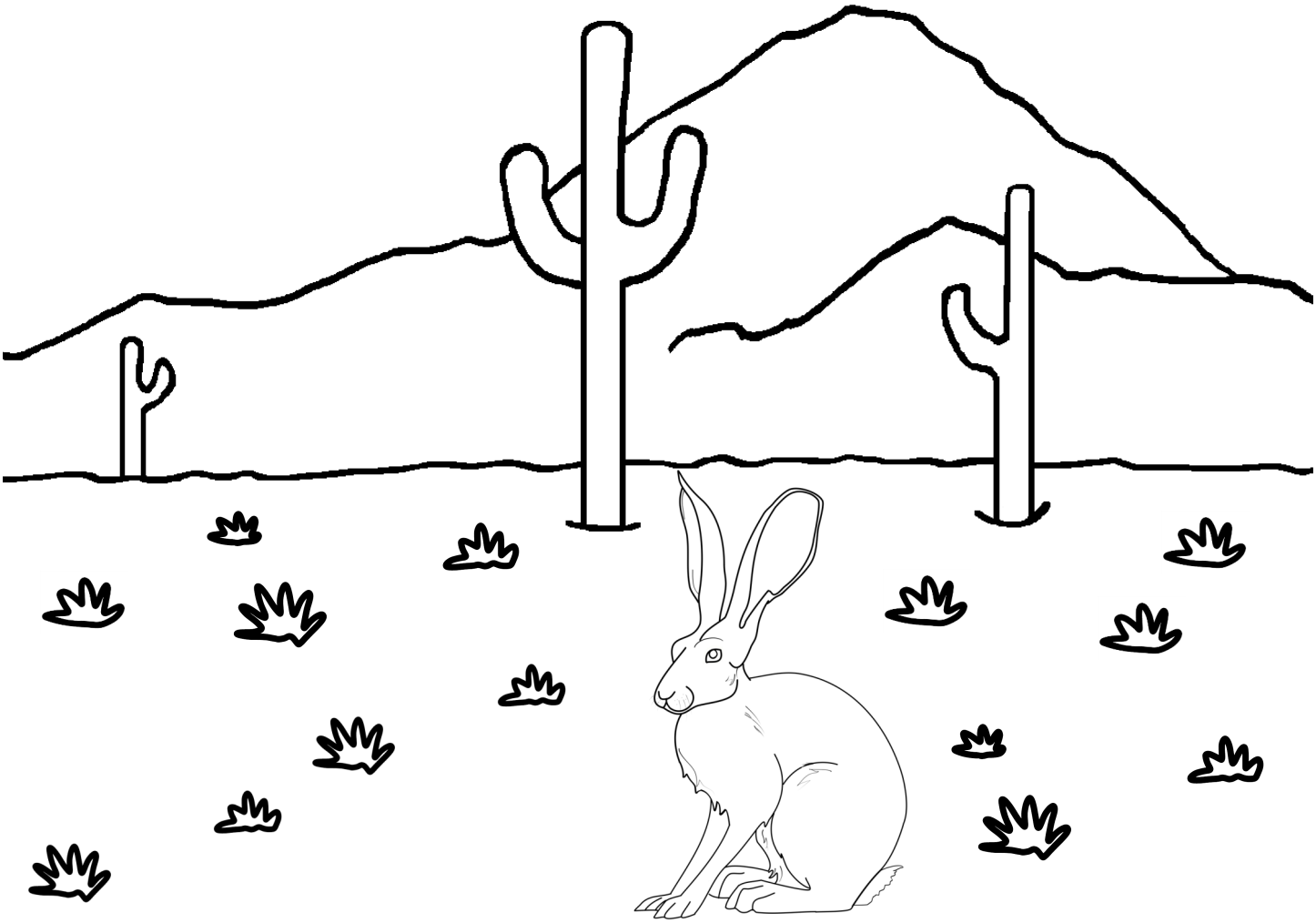
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jackrabbit

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