

Front Cover

Sand Sea

-Full of Desert Life



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Sand Sea

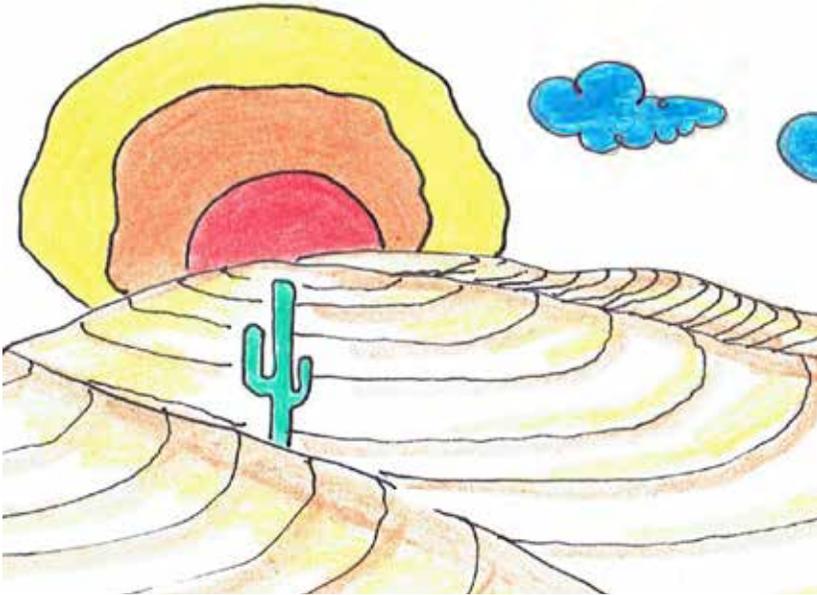
-Full of Desert Life



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How can life live in dry, hot deserts?



The sandy desert looks empty
but it is actually full of life.

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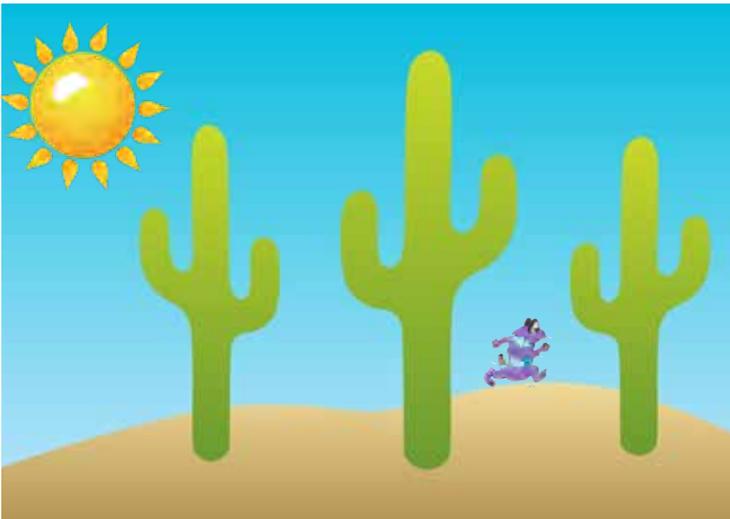


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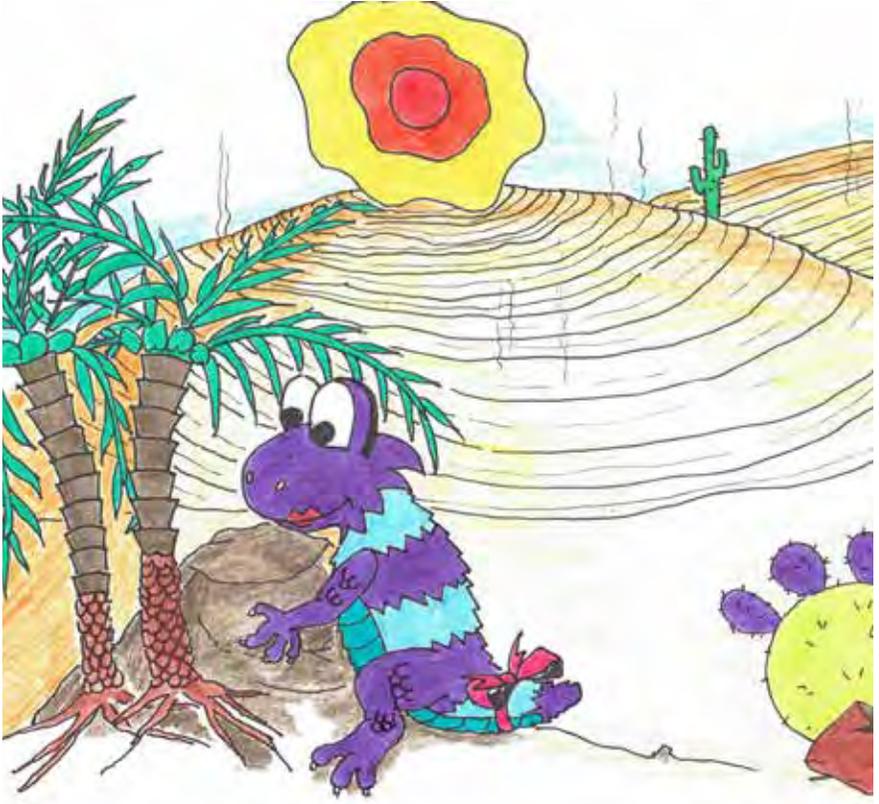
Weather

**What natural forces
make a desert?**



Lots of sunshine and little rain.

Special plants and animals
adapt to the desert climate.

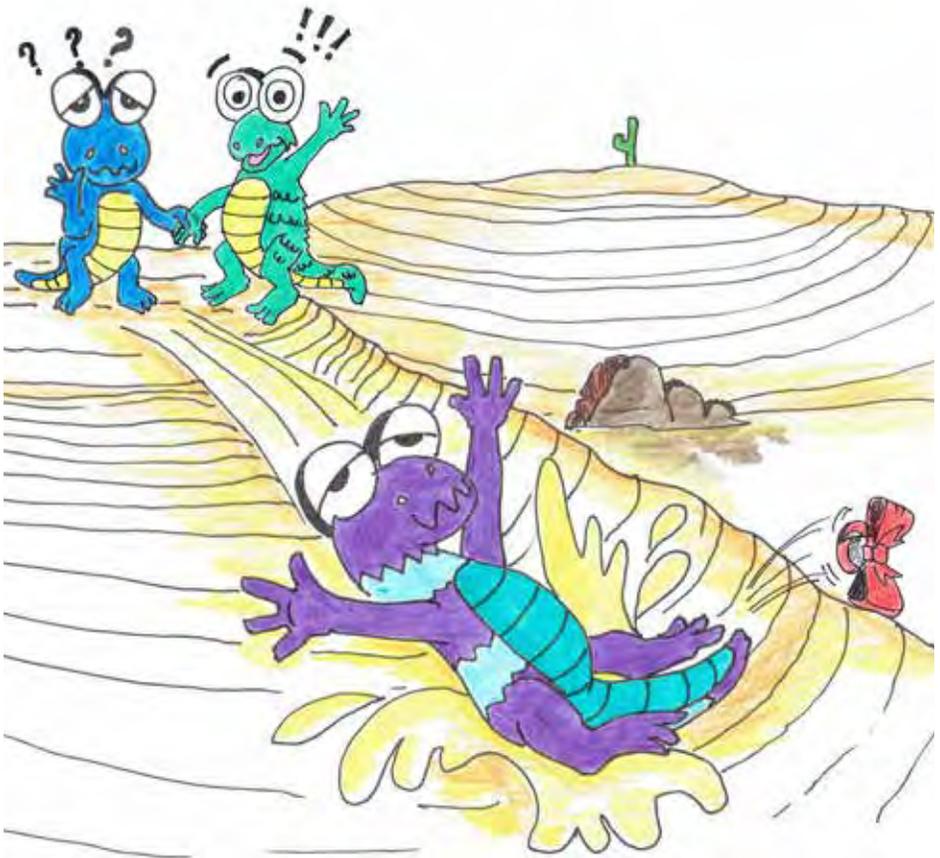


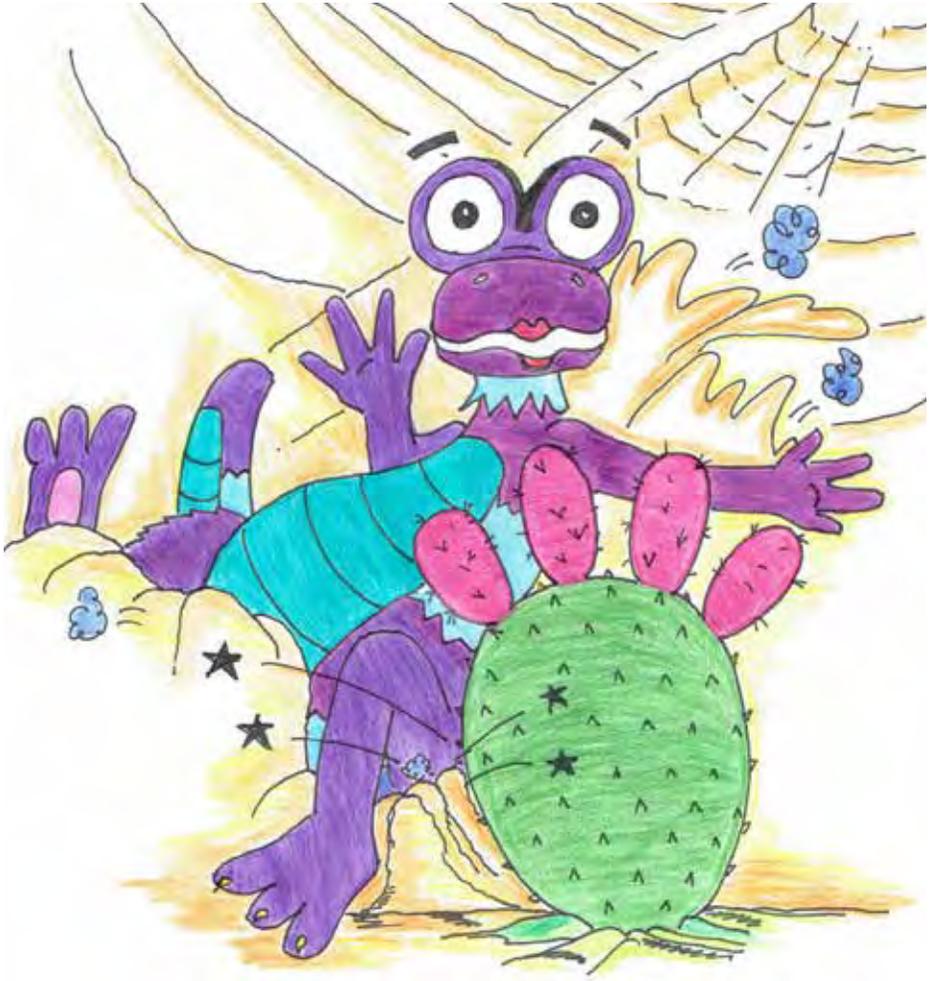
Liz lives in a desert.
The desert is sandy,
hot and dry.
Life adapts to live here.



Liz is a lizard. Her scales are like heat shields. They protect her from the sun and give her camouflage in the desert.

One morning, Liz plays tag with her friends. Oops! Liz accidentally slides and slides far down the sand dunes.





Liz stops near a prickly pear cactus. It is named after its fruit.



Nearby, Liz sees a barrel cactus. It is covered with sharp spikes. The spikes keep animals from eating the cactus. Its flowers are pretty. A gilded flicker bird flies by.



scorpion

Liz walks and walks up the sand dune. A big-eared jack rabbit bounces by Liz.

Liz stops to rest in the shadow of the king of the cacti. It is called saguaro. It is old.

Notice the huge flowers on top.



tarantula



Saguaro start growing arms when they are about 70 years old. This cactus is over 150 years old.



Birds make holes and build homes in the giant cactus.

Liz looks at the forest
of giant cacti. Wow!





Just then a horned toad runs by.
The spikes protect it from being eaten.
A horned toad is actually a lizard, but
its broad shape reminds people of a
toad.



Next, Liz sees something that looks like a wild desert pig called a javalina. They eat the pads of the prickly pear cactus.

As Liz walks, a road runner bird quickly runs by. Road runners can fly but they like to run in the desert.



Liz is glad the road runner is gone. Road runners eat lizards!



A prairie dog comes out of the hole from its ground house. He watches Liz climb up the sand.



**Prairie dogs aren't really dogs.
They are cousins of squirrels.
Prairie dogs eat seeds and insects.**

Liz trips on the slippery sand.
Liz sees a dung beetle roll by.



Liz learned in school that long ago,
people in Egypt believed that giant
beetles rolled the sun across the sky.
Liz thinks to herself, I wish a giant
beetle could help me climb this big hill!



Liz cools off in the shade of a mesquite tree. Liz looks at the seeds. American Indians eat these seeds.



ring-tailed cat

**Mesquite wood is also used
to make yummy BBQ!**

Liz has walked a long way. Finally, she sees familiar palm trees.

Liz knows that different types of palm trees make dates or coconuts.

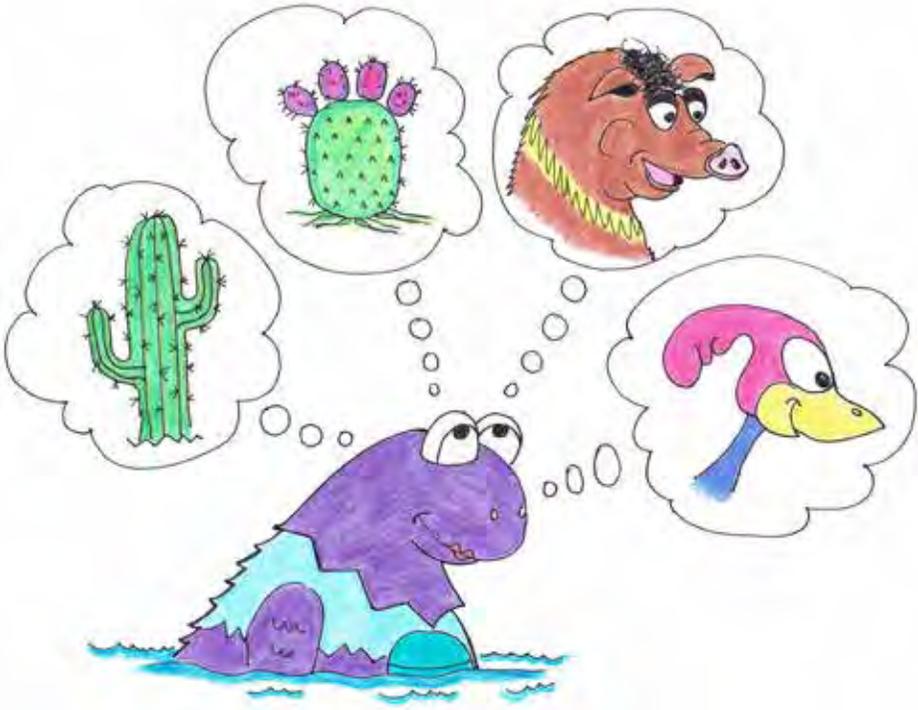


She smiles and waves to her friend Tortoise.

**Liz is glad to be
back home at the oasis.**



**An oasis is a green place
with water in a desert.**



Liz thinks about her adventure. She is amazed at all the life in this sea of sand. Plants and animals have adapted to live here. The desert is a sandy, hot, dry and special place.

Review

Desert life adapts to the dry climate. We all learn the important lesson to be adaptable to life's many changes.



Back Cover

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One day Liz accidentally slides down a sand dune. This is the story of the desert plants and animals that Liz learns about on her walk home. The sandy desert looks lifeless and lonely but it is actually home to many unique flora and fauna.



"Flora" are plants. "Fauna" are animals.

