

6th Standard English

Desert Animals

Although deserts are the driest places on earth, there are certain animals that survive in the desert. They use different methods to cope with the harsh climate. Gebrils spend the hottest part of the day in cool underground burrows. Darkling beetles catch drops of moisture on their legs. Then they lift the legs in the air until the drops of water trickle down into their mouths. Camels get water from desert plants.

Some snakes also live in desert. In the rocky deserts of America is found the frightening rattler which can strike with a lightning speed. It avoids people if it possibly can but when threatened it coils ready to bite. Rattlers feed on a variety of prey including mice. Snakes do not eat more than once a week but some snakes such as pythons can survive for a year or more without eating.

The other animal found in deserts are mongooses that like to hunt together. They have to be careful of dangerous predators. Their food is beetles and other small creatures. They warn each other with a special alarm call if they see anything suspicious. All the female mongooses have their kittens at about the same time. They are raised by the whole group in a den. Mongooses are famous snake-killers. Their reactions are so fast that they can dodge each time the snake strikes. In the end the snake gets tired. Then, the mongoose quickly dives in for a kill.

Another animal that lives in the desert is the camel. They were tamed by man long long ago, Camels get the water they need from desert plants. They can survive without drinking water up to ten months. A thirsty camel can drink as much as thirty gallons of water in just ten minutes. Camels are of two kinds dromedary and bactria. Dromedary camel has one hump while bactria camel has two. These humps are full of fat which helps them to survive for many days without food and water.

