

Camel Fact Sheet



Camels are social mammals. They roam the deserts in search of food and water. They are used by people for transport across the desert.

**Age:**

40 - 50 years old

Size:

Up to 7ft tall, measuring from the top of their hump to their feet

Weight:

300 - 1000kg

Camel Facts

Camels can run at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour for short amounts of time.

Camels eat grass, grains, seeds, twigs and even plants with thorns. They do not store water in their humps.

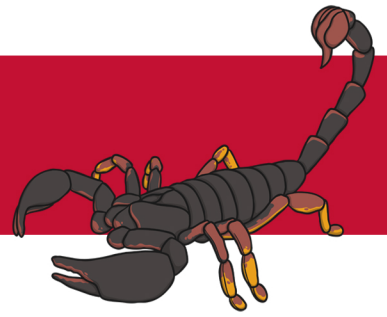
A camel's coat (hair) reflects the desert sun and keeps them cool in very hot temperatures. It will also keep them warm in cooler temperatures.

Camels and People

Today, nearly all of the world's camels are domestic animals. They are found in North Africa and Southwest Asia, and have been introduced to Australia.

Camels can hold up to 400kg but usually carry loads around 200kg.

Scorpion Fact Sheet



Scorpions have eight legs, two pincers, and a tail with a barb. Scorpions are found all across the world. There are over 2000 different species found on six of the seven continents.



Age:
4 - 25 years

Size:
0.9 - 20cm

Weight:
10g - 100g

Scorpion Facts

They mostly eat insects, but some larger scorpions may eat a small lizard or rodent.

All scorpions are poisonous. There are around 25 species of scorpions which are deadly to humans.

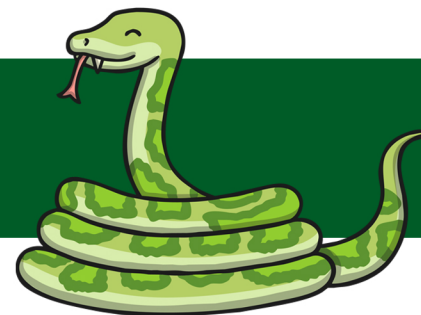
A scorpion uses its pincers to grab and crush its catch.

Scorpions tend to live alone.

Interesting Fact

A scorpion has two eyes on top and up to five pairs on each side of its head.

Snake Fact Sheet



Rattlesnakes are the most famous of desert snakes. They are extremely poisonous.

Copperheads and cottonmouths also live in the desert. These snakes are all pit vipers. They have two pits under their nostrils to detect heat. This enables them to hunt warm-blooded prey. The pits are so sensitive that the snake can detect prey and even determine the size of the animal in complete darkness.



Rattlesnake Facts

Age:
15 - 20 years

Size:
0.5 - 2.5m

Weight:
Up to 4.5kg

Snake Facts

Snakes don't have eyelids.

Snakes can't bite food so they have to swallow it whole.

Snakes are found on every continent of the world except Antarctica.

There are around 3000 different species of snake.

Tarantula Fact Sheet



There are around 900 species of tarantula. They are found in parts of America and Africa. Many tarantulas live underground.



Age:
15-25 years

Size:
8 - 30cm in length

Weight:
28 - 85g

Tarantula Facts

Even though they do not spin webs, tarantulas use their silk to make doors or soft walls for their burrow.

Tarantulas are night-time hunters who will pounce on their prey. They eat insects, beetles and grasshoppers.

They have hairs on their abdomen (stomach) that have sharp barbs. When threatened, the spider will rub these hairs with their legs and shoot them at their predator.

Interesting Fact

A tarantula's venom is actually milder than that of a honeybee.

Lizard Fact Sheet

Lizards are reptiles and there are over 3000 lizard species throughout the world. They are found all over the world except for polar regions.



Desert Horned Lizard

Age:
5 - 8 years

Size:
6 - 15cm

Weight:
Up to 6g

Lizard Facts

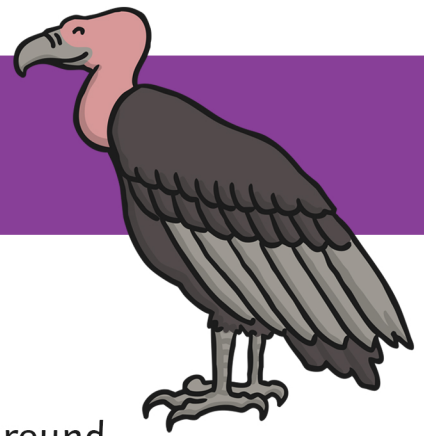
Lizards are small cold-blooded reptiles. A lizard has a long tail and four legs with five toes on each foot.

Lizards are extremely valuable because they help to control the insect population. Lizards that eat small animals and birds are called carnivores. A few lizards eat plants and they are called herbivores.

Desert Honed Lizard

Desert horned lizards are found in many habitats, such as deserts. They have horns behind their heads and thick scales to help them live in extreme temperatures. They feed on ants, crickets, beetles, worms, flies and plants.

Vulture Fact Sheet



There are only 23 species of vulture in the world.

They are scavenger birds which feed on leftover food on the ground. They may have to wait days to find their next meal.

In searching for food, they use very little energy, soaring for hours with a rare flap of their broad wings. They have incredible eyesight and sense of smell, which few birds have.



White-Backed Vulture

Age:
Up to 19 years

Size:
89 - 98cm
Wingspan of 210 - 220cm

Weight:
4.2 - 7.2kg

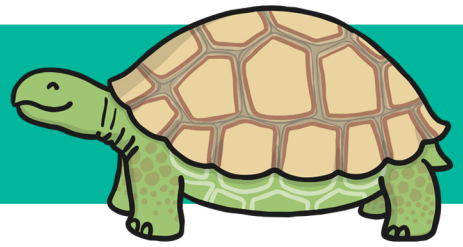
White-Backed Vulture Facts

Up to 200 white-backed vultures can gather at a carcass; an elephant carcass may even attract a thousand vultures.

After feeding, they may not be able to fly for a few hours because they eat so much.

In 2015, the species was declared 'critically endangered'.

Tortoise Fact Sheet



A desert tortoise is a type of tortoise which is adapted to a life in extreme desert conditions. It can be found in California (Mojave Desert), Mexico (Sonoran desert), Nevada, Utah and Arizona.



Age:
50 to 80 years

Size:
25 to 36cm in length

Weight:
Up to 5kg

Tortoise Facts

The desert tortoise has a scaled head and high domed shell.

Desert tortoises can survive in areas where the temperature of the ground reaches 60°C.

They have strong, heavily scaled front legs, equipped with sharp claws that are used for digging underground burrows. These animals spend more than 95% of their life under the ground.

Survival

Desert tortoises can survive one year without water. They absorb water from the vegetation they eat and rainwater. To collect the rain when it falls in the desert, tortoises dig soil basins to catch and store water. The tortoises never forget where they have dug their basins and will wait by them when rain clouds form overhead.