



People Live in the Desert

by Belle Perez

Overview

This book shows children how people adapt to live in a desert.

Literacy Focus *Word Count: 163 words*

High Frequency Words
do, find, from, get, how, live

Content Words
people, desert, water, wells, pipelines, crops, trucks, cool, air conditioners

Decoding Skills

- **Initial Consonant Blends:**
br, gr, tr, cr (bring, grow, ground, trucks, crops)
- **Word Endings:** *-ed (dried)*
- **Syllabication:** two-syllable words

Print Conventions

- Using parts of a book

Comprehension/
Thinking Skills

- Summarizing
- Understanding cause and effect

Text Features

- Contents
- Chapter heads
- Index

Writing/Speaking
and Listening

- Writing responses to questions in the book
- Listening for the number of syllables in words

Observe/Assess

See Using Graphic Organizers in the Assessment Handbook.

Social Studies Focus

Content and
Thinking Skills

- Learning that deserts are hot, dry places
- Understanding that to live in deserts, people must adapt to the environment

Background Information

Deserts are usually defined as areas in which the average rainfall is 10 inches or less a year. They may be places where there is occasional sea mist or places where there is no rain for a number of years. Daytime temperatures may be very hot, but night can be very cool. It requires considerable adaptation for people to cope

with both the extremes of temperature and the shortage of water in the desert.

Correlation to
National Standards

Social Studies

- Culture
- People, Places, and Environments

See Standards Chart on page 206.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Ask children to describe what a desert is. Ask:

What would it be like to live in a desert?

What special problems might you have?

Read and Discuss

Cover and Title Page

Show children the book. Read the title and the author's name and discuss the picture on the cover. Ask:

What does this show us about people living in a desert?

Page 2

Introduce the term *Contents* and read through the headings on the contents page. Explain that these headings tell what the book is all about. Have children turn to one of the pages listed in the contents page to find the matching chapter heading.

Page 3

Ask:

What can we tell about deserts by looking at this picture?

Pages 4–11

Read the questions on these pages and then have children answer them by reading the text and using the information in the pictures.

Page 12

Explain that an index lists the important ideas in a book. Have children locate some information in the book by using the index.

Respond

- Have children locate the words in the text beginning with *gr*, *br*, *tr*, and *cr*. Ask them to suggest other words that begin with these blends. Make a list of the words that children name.

- Find two-syllable words in the book. Say them and have children clap the syllables. Explain how the words can be divided into syllables and how this can help them read hard words.

o	o	o
peo/ple	des/ert	
wa/ter	un/der	

Summarizing Activity Master, page 124

Use the Activity Master, page 124, to give children practice with summarizing. Have them write answers to the questions that begin each of the chapters of the book.

Meeting Individual Needs

For specific teaching strategies for meeting individual needs, see pages 198–203.

Social Studies Focus

Social Studies Concept

People must adapt to live in hostile environments.

Activities

Desert Report

Look at other sources of information about deserts. Encourage children to think of other questions about life in a desert and to find answers. With some guidance, children could write and illustrate a report about life in a desert.

The World's Deserts

Use a globe or world map to locate the world's major deserts.

Desert Homes

Look for books and magazines that include pictures of homes people make in the desert. Some examples could include the adobe homes of the American Southwest and the tents of the nomadic people of the Sahara.

Desert Life Activity Master, page 125

Tell children that people had lived in deserts for thousands of years before modern technologies. As children use the Activity Master, page 125, invite them to think about which adaptations to living in the desert are new and which are old.

Name _____

People Live in the Desert

Write answers to these questions.
Use your book to check your answers.

How do people stay cool in a desert?

How do people get water in a desert?

How do people get food in a desert?

Name _____

P e o p l e L i v e i n t h e D e s e r t

Think about life in the desert long ago. Which ways of finding food, water, and staying cool are old and which ways are new. Write them in the chart.

dig wells mud walls	build pipelines air conditioners	use trucks grow crops
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Old	New