



Desert Discovery

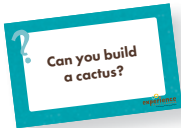
WEEK 1 WILD WEST

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
LESSON 1 Sand Art Designs PD 2 Fine Motor SCI 3 Physical Science	Glue Paper Bowl of sand Box lid		Set out a box lid, bowl of sand, paper and glue. Explore squeezing glue on paper. Make pictures or just designs, then sprinkle sand on top of the wet glue and shake into the box top. Allow the textured sand designs to dry.
LESSON 2 Wishing Well SCI 4 Technology SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	Bucket Rope Broom or dowel Pillows or boxes	 	Hang a bucket from a rope attached to a dowel (or broom) between two chairs. Use pillows or boxes to make the well and explore turning the dowel to raise and lower the bucket.
LESSON 3 Roping Fun CA 4 Drama PD 1 Gross Motor	Toy hoops Rope Recycled bottles Jugs Plush toys	 	Gather some toy hoops and rope. Tie the rope to the hoop to make a lasso. Set up recycled bottles, jugs and stuffed animals or other items for the children to practice tossing their lasso.
LESSON 4 Log Cabin Construction MR 7 Logic & Reasoning MR 2 Spatial Awareness	Branches or sticks Blocks Cardboard	 	Gather sticks or cut large branches into mini logs and add these to your block area. Set out a pile of cardboard pieces. Explore building with the materials and make a log cabin.
LESSON 5 Desert Sand Discovery SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry PD 2 Fine Motor	Bin of sand Brushes Tongs Slotted spoons Paper Marker Scissors Coins		Fill a bin with sand. Set out different tools (brushes, tongs, slotted spoons) to move and sift the sand. Make penny, nickel, dime and quarter “treasure sheets” (label each sheet of paper, then trace around 12 of each coin), then hide 12 of each coin in the sand.

WEEK 2 SAHARA DESERT

LESSON 6 Desert Diorama SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science CA 4 Drama	Bin of sand Bowl of water Animal figurines	 	Fill a bin with sand. Place a bowl of water in the sand to create an oasis. If available, put animal figurines in the diorama, such as camels, scorpions, lizards or snakes.
LESSON 7 Bumpy Camels SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry LLD 2 Communication	Variety of pillows/cushions String (optional)	 	Set out a variety of pillows/cushions in the dramatic play area. Encourage the children to stack pillows on top of each other or on their backs. Set out string (or any tying material), if desired.
LESSON 8 Desert Animal Hunt MR 6 Classification SED 3 Attention & Persistence	Scissors Tape Craft sticks Animal photos Photo sheet	 	Cut apart and tape one set of photos to craft sticks and stick them in the ground outside. Encourage the children to hunt for the hiding desert animals and match them with the other photo sheet.
LESSON 9 Cubed Pyramid SS 3 Geography SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	Box lid or tray Sugar cubes Sand	 	Pour sand in the bottom of a box lid or tray. Set out sugar cubes for the children to construct different pyramid designs.
LESSON 10 Exploring Herbs SCI 3 Physical Science PD 2 Fine Motor	Herbs Trays Scissors (child-safe)		Gather different herbs (thyme, mint, cilantro, sage) and place them on trays with scissors. Explain that thyme is a major food source for animals in the Sahara Desert. Encourage the children to use their senses to explore the different textures and smells.

WEEK 3 MOJAVE DESERT

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
LESSON 11 Sandpaper Science SCI 3 Physical Science MR 7 Logic & Reasoning	Sand paper Wooden block Marker Stapler (optional) Pull knob (optional)		Write squiggles or children's name on a block of wood. The children experiment with sand paper to remove the lines and names. If desired, make a sanding block: Staple sandpaper to a block of wood and fasten a pull knob to the top of the block.
LESSON 12 Racing Tortoises PD 1 Gross Motor SED 4 Social Relationships	Cones or tape Variety of bowls or containers	 	Set cones or tape on the ground to create start and finish lines. Put out a variety of bowls or containers for the children to balance on their backs. Encourage them to pretend they are desert tortoises and try to keep their "shell" (bowl) on their backs while crawling.
LESSON 13 Desert Biome SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	Clear jar Succulents Sand Rocks Sticks Water Clipboard Crayons	 	Create a desert biome with a clear jar, sand, succulents, sticks, rocks and a little water. Seal the jar with a lid. Set out clipboards and crayons for the children to observe and draw what they see in the desert biome.
LESSON 14 Cactus Towers MR 2 Spatial Awareness PD 2 Fine Motor	Cardboard tubes Green spray paint (optional) Scissors	 	Cut slits on the top and bottom of cardboard tubes. Spray paint, if desired. Encourage the children to construct their own cactus tower by fitting the tubes into the slits. Make a couple examples for the children to examine, if desired.
LESSON 15 Plant Textures SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science MR 5 Patterns	Black felt Tray Nature items		Set out a large piece of black felt and a tray with a variety of plant-based items from nature (pine needles, branches, leaves, sticks, twigs, etc.). Encourage the children to explore the various textures and make designs with them on the felt sheet.

WEEK 4 DESERT NIGHT

LESSON 16 Cottontail Tunnels SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science CA 4 Drama	Cardboard tubes Nature items Cotton balls Puppets or plush toys	 	Put cardboard tubes and nature items in the dramatic play area. Set out cotton balls to represent the bunnies and additional puppets or stuffed animals. Explain that cottontails are preyed upon by predators. Encourage the children to create hiding places for a cottontail.
LESSON 17 Desert Darkness SCI 4 Technology CA 4 Drama	Sheet Flashlight Sunglasses Tape Conversation Posters or pictures	 	Drape a sheet over a table to create darkness. Place flashlights and sunglasses under the table for the children to explore. Tape photos of desert animals (use Conversation Posters, if desired) inside the sheet.
LESSON 18 Baby Coyote Chase PD 1 Gross Motor SED 4 Social Relationships	Bubbles Balls		Take bubbles and balls outside. Explain that baby coyotes have to practice catching small animals to learn how to catch their food. Blow bubbles and encourage the children to chase them. Roll or bounce balls on the ground, and encourage the children to chase them.
LESSON 19 Stringing Snakes PD 2 Fine Motor SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science	Bowls Items with holes: beads, spools, bolts, tubes String, yarn or pipecleaners	 	Set out bowls of materials that have holes (beads, spools, bolts, tubes, etc.). Set out materials to string onto such as sticks, yarn, or pipecleaners. Encourage the children to experiment with stringing the materials to create different types of snakes.
LESSON 20 Constructing Campfires CA 4 Drama PD 3 Safety	Rocks or blocks Sticks Tissue paper Metal rack	 	Set out rocks or blocks, sticks, red/orange tissue paper and a metal rack in the block area. Encourage the children to construct their own campfire.

These open-ended STEAM stations invite children to investigate, problem-solve and create.

- ## ROTATING YOUR STATIONS

- Where can bunnies hide in the desert?**
- 
- The collage features various desert items: two cardboard tubes, several smooth and rough-textured rocks in shades of grey, brown, and purple, a piece of weathered wood, and several green leaves. A small photograph in the upper right corner shows a brown rabbit nestled among dry grass and green plants in a natural desert setting. The word "experience" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.



STEAM stations integrate perfectly with the monthly Experience Preschool Curriculum kits for a comprehensive research-based early learning system. Learn more and start your research-based curriculum today.

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**What designs
can you make
with sand?**



**How can you
make the bucket
go up and down?**



**What can you
do with a lasso?**



**Can you build
a log cabin?**



**What would
you use to dig up
a treasure?**



**Why would you
want water
in the desert?**



**How do you
ride a camel?**



**What kinds
of animals
live in the desert?**



**Can you build
a pyramid?**



**What can
you discover
about herbs?**



**What happens
when you
use sandpaper?**



**What can
you balance
on your back?**



**What is in
your desert?**



**Can you build
a cactus?**



**What designs
can you make
with nature items?**



**Where can
bunnies hide
in the desert?**



**Why do desert
animals come out
at night time?**



**What do baby
coyotes chase?**



**How does
a snake move?**



**What do you
need to build
a campfire?**














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