

Desert Animal Facts

Color & Copy

Welcome to Desert Animal Facts Color & Copy! In this book, you'll find information about fifteen animals that make the desert their home. Each animal unit begins with a short description of the animal that can be read aloud or independently. Next, students can practice handwriting by tracing key facts about the animal or by copying the facts onto the lined paper that follows. A page is included for students to record additional information about the animal if they wish. Each animal unit concludes with a picture of the animal to color. I hope you enjoy discovering the animals of the desert!



Cactus Wren

The cactus wren is the largest wren in North America and is the state bird of Arizona. They are about 8.5 inches (22 cm) long and have a wingspan of about 11 inches (28 cm). Their wings, backs, and tails feature streaks of white, brown, and black feathers, and a distinctive white stripe runs over each of their eyes. They live in the deserts of the southwestern United States and are very common in Mexico. Cactus wrens prefer dry areas with shrubs and various types of cactus plants. They especially like the cholla cactus. They build their football-shaped nests in cholla cactus and trees that grow in the desert. They usually lay three to four eggs at one time but sometimes lay up to five eggs. After the eggs hatch, both the mother and father feed the young. They sometimes sleep in the nest after the young have left.

Cactus wrens eat a variety of animals, including beetles, ants, wasps, grasshoppers, and other types of insects. They often use their bills to pick up small rocks or leaves to look underneath for any insects that may be hiding. They also eat some berries and seeds.

They must be alert and careful to avoid falling prey to animals such as coyotes, hawks, foxes, and bobcats.





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3. White stripe over
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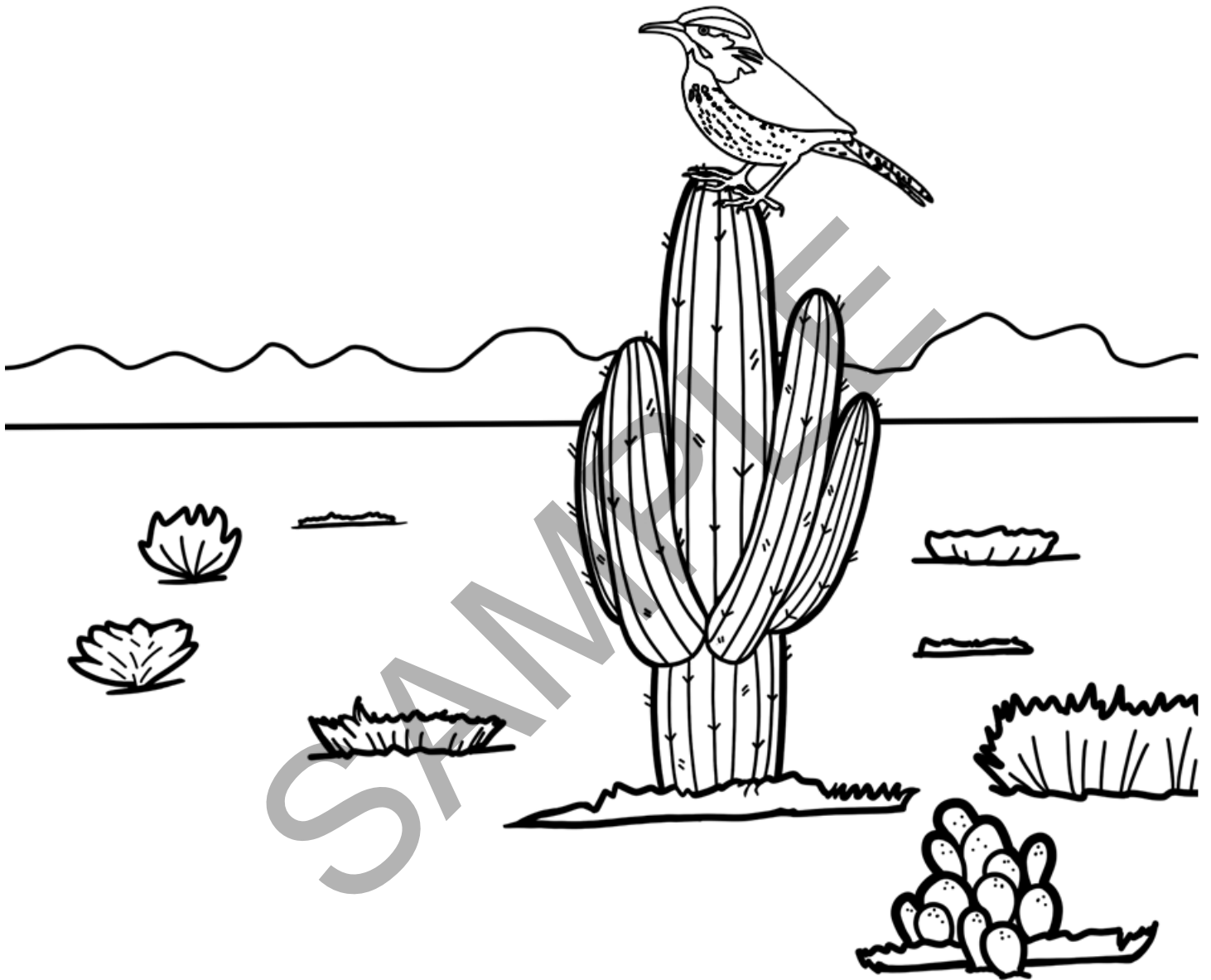
Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed midline, a solid baseline, and a solid descender line.

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SAMPLE



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