



### Arizona Adaptations Cards

<p>I rarely have to drink because I get most of the moisture I need from the plants that I eat.</p> <p>I am hard for predators to catch because I can jump up to 20 feet in one bounce and can run more than 25 miles per hour.</p> <p>I am tan with a black tail. My underbelly is white.</p> <p>During the hot parts of the day, I sleep in the shade.</p> <p>I have long ears that help to keep me cool. They can be 5 to 8 inches long.</p> <p>I live in all the grasslands and deserts of Arizona.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(1)</p>	<p>During the very driest part of the year, I estivate (become dormant, as in hibernation).</p> <p>I stay buried in the soil for months and then come out when summer thunderstorms begin.</p> <p>I breed in temporary rain pools that fill during summer storms.</p> <p>I have a short wedge-shaped bone on the bottom of each hind foot, which I use to bury myself in the ground.</p> <p>I live throughout southern Arizona. I can sometimes be found near the desert edge of farm fields.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(2)</p>
<p>I am crepuscular (I am active at dusk and at dawn). I spend most of my time asleep in my burrow during the hottest part of the day.</p> <p>I am a large, slow-moving, plump reptile with a short fat tail.</p> <p>I have a pattern of black and orange on my body.</p> <p>I am a protected species. It is against Arizona state law to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect me.</p> <p>I live in ecosystems ranging from low Sonoran Desert to woodlands.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(3)</p>	<p>I am nocturnal (I am active during the night). During the day I sleep in old mines or caves where it is cool.</p> <p>Every night, I eat half my weight in insects.</p> <p>I fly, but I don't have feathered wings.</p> <p>I find my way by making sounds that are higher than humans can hear (called echolocation).</p> <p>During the summers, I like to be in the pine-covered mountains. In the winter, I live at lower elevations in the Sonoran Desert.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(4)</p>

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<p>I am crepuscular. That means that I am active at dusk and at dawn. I spend most of my time asleep in the shade during the hottest part of the day.</p> <p>Prickly pear cactus is my favorite food. It has lots of water in it and the spines don't hurt my mouth.</p> <p>I have poor eyesight and good hearing. You may smell my musky scent before you see me.</p> <p>My name comes from the Spanish word for sword because of my sharp teeth.</p> <p>I live in the Sonoran Desert and Central Arizona Highlands, where I prefer mesquite habitats with an abundance of prickly pear cacti.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(5)</p>	<p>I survive as an egg when the water evaporates during dry spells.</p> <p>When the water returns, 6 to 10 months later, my egg hatches and I mature before the pool dries up again.</p> <p>I can complete my life cycle in as few as 16 days.</p> <p>I am only ½ to 1-½ inches long and I swim upside down.</p> <p>I live in pools of water throughout all the ecosystems in Arizona.</p> <p>My eggs can be carried from pool to pool by traveling animals, or picked up in the wind and blown to other pools.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(6)</p>
<p>I stay cool by opening my mouth and moving my throat in an action similar to panting.</p> <p>I am an unusual bird because I live in the ground. I make my home in burrows that were dug by mammals.</p> <p>I am crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk), but sometimes I hunt at night and you can see me hunting in the day when it's not too hot.</p> <p>I have brown and white feathers and big yellow eyes.</p> <p>I eat insects, scorpions, small mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles.</p> <p>I live in dry, open areas with no trees and short grass, often in abandoned agricultural fields.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(7)</p>	<p>When I get too hot, I sweat and the moisture evaporates off my body to keep me cool.</p> <p>I build shelters to provide shade for times when it is hot.</p> <p>I walk on two legs.</p> <p>I usually have more hair on my head than other places on my body, which helps keep me cool when the sun is directly overhead.</p> <p>I use tools to transport and store water so I always have a supply.</p> <p>I live all over in Arizona.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(8)</p>



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<p>When it is really hot, I like to soar up high where the air is cooler. I can soar at altitudes up to 15,000 feet!</p> <p>I get most of the moisture I need from the food that I eat.</p> <p>When I get hot, I defecate on my legs, using the evaporation of the moisture to cool myself down.</p> <p>I am the largest bird in North America, and my wingspan can reach 9 ½ feet.</p> <p>I have a bald, red face so that I can stay clean when I eat carrion (dead animals).</p> <p>I am extremely rare, but if you are lucky you may see me soaring over the Grand Canyon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(9)</p>	<p>I never drink water, even if I am offered it in captivity.</p> <p>I get all the moisture I need from the seeds that I eat.</p> <p>I have a special organ in my nose that captures water that would otherwise be exhaled.</p> <p>I am a small animal with a long tail, and I hop like a kangaroo.</p> <p>During the hot part of the day I seal off my burrow and sleep under the ground.</p> <p>I live in all of Arizona's deserts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(10)</p>
<p>As a seed, I sprout and grow in the shade of larger plants, or "nurse" plants.</p> <p>My "skin" is covered with a thick, waxy coating that limits water loss.</p> <p>My outer surface is folded into pleats that can expand when I take up lots of water.</p> <p>I am the largest cactus in Arizona; one of the tallest of my species was 78 feet tall!</p> <p>I am found only in the Sonoran Desert.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(11)</p>	<p>I reduce the amount of water lost to the environment by having thick, waxy skin.</p> <p>I grow very slowly, which allows me to survive on little water. It takes me about 20 years to produce one large flower stalk.</p> <p>I store water in my leaves.</p> <p>My white flowers are often pollinated by bats.</p> <p>I am usually found in habitats that are dry, but cooler than the hottest desert valleys.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(12)</p>

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<p>I am a phreatophyte, which means that I have very long roots to tap into water deep beneath the ground.</p> <p>I have the deepest roots of any desert plant. My roots can reach down as far as 80 feet!</p> <p>Native people traditionally used my nutritious pods for food, my wood for fuel, and my tough roots for fibers.</p> <p>I have tiny leaves to reduce the amount of water lost through transpiration.</p> <p>I am a tree that usually grows in desert washes or along streams and rivers.</p> <p>(13)</p>	<p>I have deep taproots as well as shallow roots so that I can draw up ground water and also absorb rainwater from near the soil surface.</p> <p>I have tiny leaves with stomata, or pores, that I close during the day to keep in moisture.</p> <p>I can survive for up to two years without rain.</p> <p>A certain individual of my species is believed to be the oldest living plant in the world—over 11,000 years old!</p> <p>I can grow in the hottest desert regions.</p> <p>(14)</p>
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