



LITTERA PUBLIC SCHOOL
CLASS 6 CHAPTER- 9
DESERT ANIMALS

Learning Outcomes :-

- **Comprehend the extract and read it aloud with fluency and expression**
- **Learn new words and their meanings**
- **Draw from personal experiences or real life situations**

Theme of the story :- This chapter introduces us to deserts. It also explains how different animals survive in such dry places. It shows that the survival instinct is common to all creatures but the mechanisms they use vary from animal to animal.

Deserts are places which receive very little rainfall. Due to this, they remain dry almost throughout the year. This is why many desert animals find different ways to adapt to such conditions. While Gebrils retreat into underground holes to escape the sun's heat, Darkling Beetles use their legs to trap drops of moisture which they later drink to quench their thirst.

Deserts are not always made of sand. There can be deserts of rocks and pebbles with little vegetation. Some deserts even have colourful flowers during the spring season. A commonly found creature in the deserts is the Snake.

While there are over 2300 kinds of snakes in the world, the most common kind found in deserts is the Rattlesnake. It is found in the rocky deserts of America and is known for being highly poisonous. Also found in Canada and Argentina, this animal feeds on small creatures like mice, voles, rats, chipmunks. It kills with its venom and swallows its prey whole.

Though a dangerous animal, the Rattlesnake is itself a shy creature. On being disturbed, it makes the rattle sound with its tail held upright. This way it warns any dangers or intrusions that seem to threaten it. It uses its tail to ward off threats and its poison to kill.

Due to the rattle sound that it makes, it can be heard clearly from a distance of thirty metres. An interesting fact about this creature is that though it is known for and even named after the sound it makes, it is not able to hear its own sound. Infact, rattlesnakes can hear no sounds; they only sense vibrations.

Another animal found in deserts is the Mongoose. Found mainly in Africa, this animal travels and hunts in groups of nearly twenty and feeds on creatures as small as beetles and millipedes. All female mongoose give birth at almost the same time and keep their newborns protected in safe den-like termite mounds or hollow logs of wood. These places are guarded by one or two male mongoose.

Mongoose communicate with each other when they sense any signs of danger. They do so through twittering and calling. The Mongoose is a quick and clever creature that is capable of continually dodging the snake until it gets tired and then the Mongoose kills it.

Another animal that lives in the desert is the Camel. Camels also live in groups of about thirty. A camel can drink as much as thirty gallons of water at a time. But in the deserts where water is scarce, this animal derives moisture by feeding on the desert vegetation. This way it can survive without water for up to ten months.

Camels have humps that store fat and help them to survive for months without water. While camels with only one hump are called the Dromedary, some camels have two humps and are called Bactrian camels. While the hairy coat on its skin keeps the animal warm during colder months, this coat

is shorter and more tidy during summers to keep the animal cool.

Conclusion:-

This chapter concludes that every desert animal has developed certain mechanisms to deal with extreme weather conditions. Their survival mechanisms also help them to stay protected from other animals.

Word meanings :-

Scorching:- Very hot

Gerbils:- Mouse-like desert rodents with long hind legs

Burrow :- A hole or tunnel dug by a small animal

Pebbly:- Stony

Beetle:- An insect

Frightening:- Afraid

Harmless:- Not able or likely to cause harm

Poison:- A substance that is capable of causing the illness or death of a living organism

Voles:- Small plant-eating rodents

Chipmunks:- Small ground squirrels having light and dark stripes

Coil:- To turn, to make a loop

Threatened:- To be something that is likely to cause harm to someone or something

Venom:- Poisonous toxins

Predator:- An animal naturally preying on others

Amusing :- Interesting; Enjoyable

Forage:- An action of searching for food

Claws:- Nails present in paws of animals used for defence

Paws:- An animal's foot having claws and pads

Twittering:- It is a call or a tweet sound (of a bird) and it gives a call consisting of repeated light trembling sounds

Suspicious:- Doubtful

Bushes:- A shrub or clump of shrubs with stems

Danger:- The possibility of something unwelcome

Hunt:- Pursue and kill (a wild animal) for sport or food

Famous:- Well known

Dodge:- Move quickly to avoid its enemy

Strikes:- Attack

Nuisance:- Annoyance

Tired:- Exhausted

Mound:- Heap

Hollow log:- A log of wood with open space inside

Termite mound:- Conical mound of soil

Kitten:- A young mammal (any immature mammal)

Guard:- Watch over in order to protect

Domesticated:- To tame to keep at home or any other place

Shaggy:- Covered with long, untidy hair

Tidier:- Orderly and clean in appearance

Gallons:- A unit of liquid equal to 4.55 litres

Moisture:- Water or other liquid diffused in a small quantity as vapour

Scarce:- Rare/ Harder to find

Pierce:- An action where a sharp, pointed object tears through any other object

Hump:- A rounded protuberance found on the back of a camel

Nourishes :- Provide with the food or other substances necessary for growth, health, and good condition

Thorn:- A stiff, sharp-pointed

Shrink:- Become smaller in size

Rattle:- Move or travel with a sharp knocking sound

Dunes:- A mounds or ridges of sand

Dive:- Sudden jump

Upright:- Any object point straight towards the sky

Hard Words :-

Driest

Scorching

Pebbly

Sprinkled

Poisonous
Reputation
Frightening
Threatened
Amusing
Twittering
Suspicious
Termite
Shaggy
Dromedary
Nourishes

Nouns :-

Earth
Water

Sun

Sea

Insects

Snake

America

Rattlesnake

Weak

Year

Months

Canada

Argentina

Eagle

Camel

Kitten

Coat

Winter

Pronoun :-

On

For

In

Or

To

At

Until

Beside

Between

Among

Above

Adjectives :-

Scorching

Hottest

Twittering

Long

Shaggy

Sharply

Lightly

Present

Past

Dot

Dotted

Kill

Killed

Avoid

Avoided

Shout

Shouted

Hunt

Hunted

Travel

Travelled

Raise

Raised

Singular

Plural

Animal

Animals

Rock

Rocks

Burrow

Burrows

Egg

Eggs

Glass

Glasses

