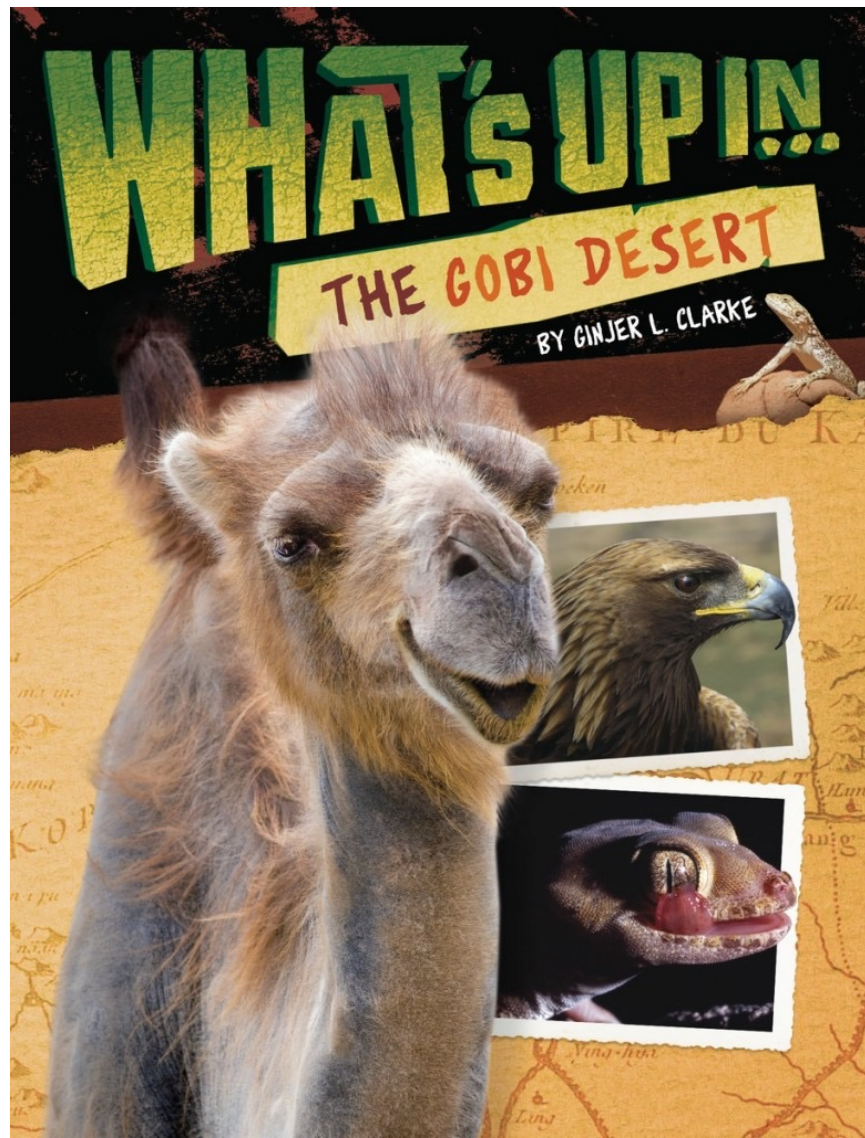


What's Up in . . . The Gobi Desert

Activity Guide for Teachers and Students



by Ginjer L. Clarke

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Activity Guide for What's Up in ... The Gobi Desert

by
Ginjer L. Clarke

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Study guide developed by Tanya Anderson at School Street Media



About the Author

Ginjer L. Clarke writes fun, fact-filled nonfiction beginning readers about weird, wonderful animals. Her love for strange creatures started early, as the first story she remembers writing in the third grade was “The Strange Animal” about a small, pink-spotted imaginary creature called a Woofa. She loves that her job entails visiting zoos and aquariums, reading lots of books, and even watching TV for research. And she can work at home in her pajamas, which is a lifelong dream!



Ginjer is an experienced and lively school, library, and conference presenter, who has appeared at more than 200 elementary schools, regional reading and writing conferences, statewide book festivals, many bookstores and libraries, and even a zoo. She is a graduate of James Madison University and lives in Richmond, Virginia, with her husband, young son, and several silly-looking pets.

You can read more about the author and her books at www.ginjerclarkebooks.com.



Show What You Know

Before you read or discuss the book, you probably already know something about the topic. Show what you know by answering the questions below.



1. How is a desert different from other environments?

2. Name some of the deserts you know. Where are they located?

3. What kinds of animals and plants live in deserts?

4. Do you think you'd like to visit a desert someday? Why or why not?

Words, Words, Words: A Desert Vocabulary, Part 1

You will find each of the words below in the book. Find them and then rewrite the definition in your own words.



1. habitat (p. 5)
2. desert (p. 10)
3. rain shadow effect (p. 10)
4. mirage (p. 12)
5. sandstorm (p. 14)
6. basin (p. 21)
7. steppes (p. 21)
8. domesticated (p. 24)
9. ruminant (p. 28)
10. pronking (p. 33)
11. adaptations (p. 34)
12. xerophytic (p. 34)
13. nomads (p. 35)
14. forage (p. 37)
15. celestial (p. 39)
16. nocturnal (p. 44)
17. carnivore (p. 47)

Words, Words, Words: A Desert Vocabulary, Part 2

You will find each of the words below in the book. Find them and then rewrite the definition in your own words.



- 18. herbivore (p. 51)
- 19. species (p. 51)
- 20. omnivore (p. 52)
- 21. oasis (p. 56)
- 22. halophytic (p. 59)
- 23. migrate (p. 60)
- 24. spawn (p. 61)
- 25. fry (p. 61)
- 26. carrion (p. 66)
- 27. parasites (p. 66)
- 28. blood vessels (p. 67)
- 29. cryptid (p. 87)
- 30. plateau (p. 88)
- 31. gorges (p. 88)
- 32. Yeti (p. 91)
- 33. scavenger (p. 97)
- 34. marrow (p. 97)

Words, Words, Words: A Desert Vocabulary, Part 3

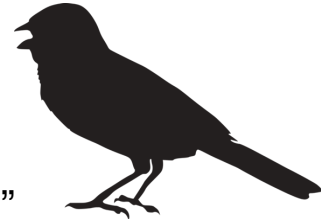
You will find each of the words below in the book. Find them and then rewrite the definition in your own words.



- 35. imprint (p. 99)
- 36. caravans (p. 103)
- 37. Silk Road (p. 104)
- 38. Mongolian Empire (p. 104)
- 39. ger (p. 110)
- 40. lattice (p. 110)
- 41. mutton (p. 116)
- 42. del (p. 117)
- 43. paleontologist (p. 122)
- 44. eroded (p. 126)
- 45. evolution (p. 126)
- 46. ephedra (p. 129)
- 47. petroleum (p. 131)
- 48. desertification (p. 132)
- 49. industrialization (p. 136)

Name That Animal!

You read about many unusual animals in the book, and some of them have unusual names, too! Match the “first name” of the animal in the first column with its “last name” in the second column. The first one has been done for you.



kangaroo	fox
toadhead	sparrow
saxaul	vulture
long-eared	polecat
marbled	horse
Corsac	gecko
argali	rat
wonder	bustard
snow	agama
Przewalski's	sheep
bearded	leopard
Houbara	hedgehog



Regions of the Gobi Desert

Using the map on page 19 of the book, mark each of the five regions of the Gobi Desert on the map below: Alashan Plateau, Gobi Lakes Valley, Tian Shan Range, Eastern Gobi Desert Steppe, and Junggar Basin.

On the back of this page, make a chart of the regions. Describe the land and name some of the animals that are unique to each region. Use information you learned from *What's Up in the Gobi Desert*.

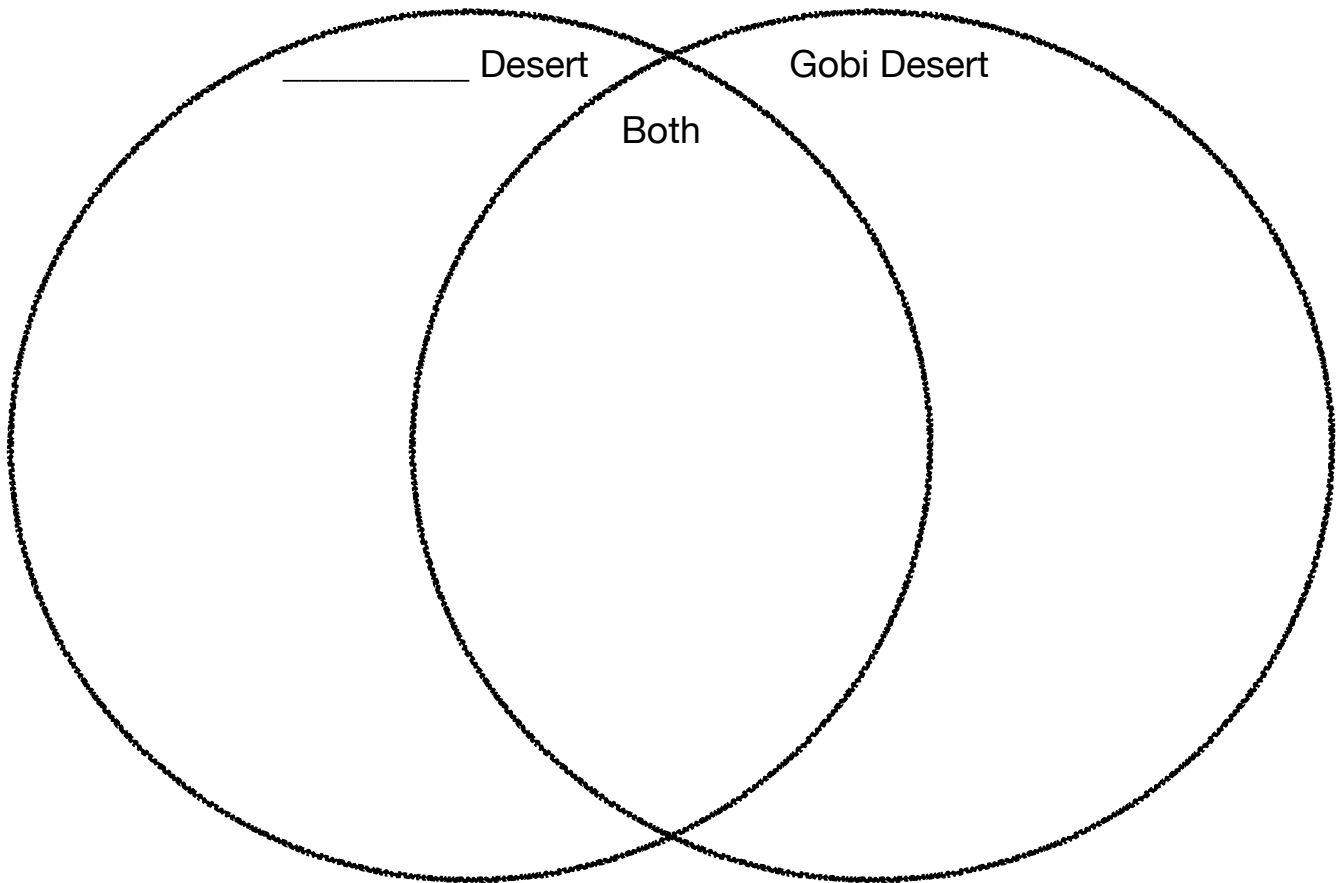


Map by Kmusser - Own work, Elevation data from SRTM, all other features from Vector Map., CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11098367>

Compare Those Deserts!

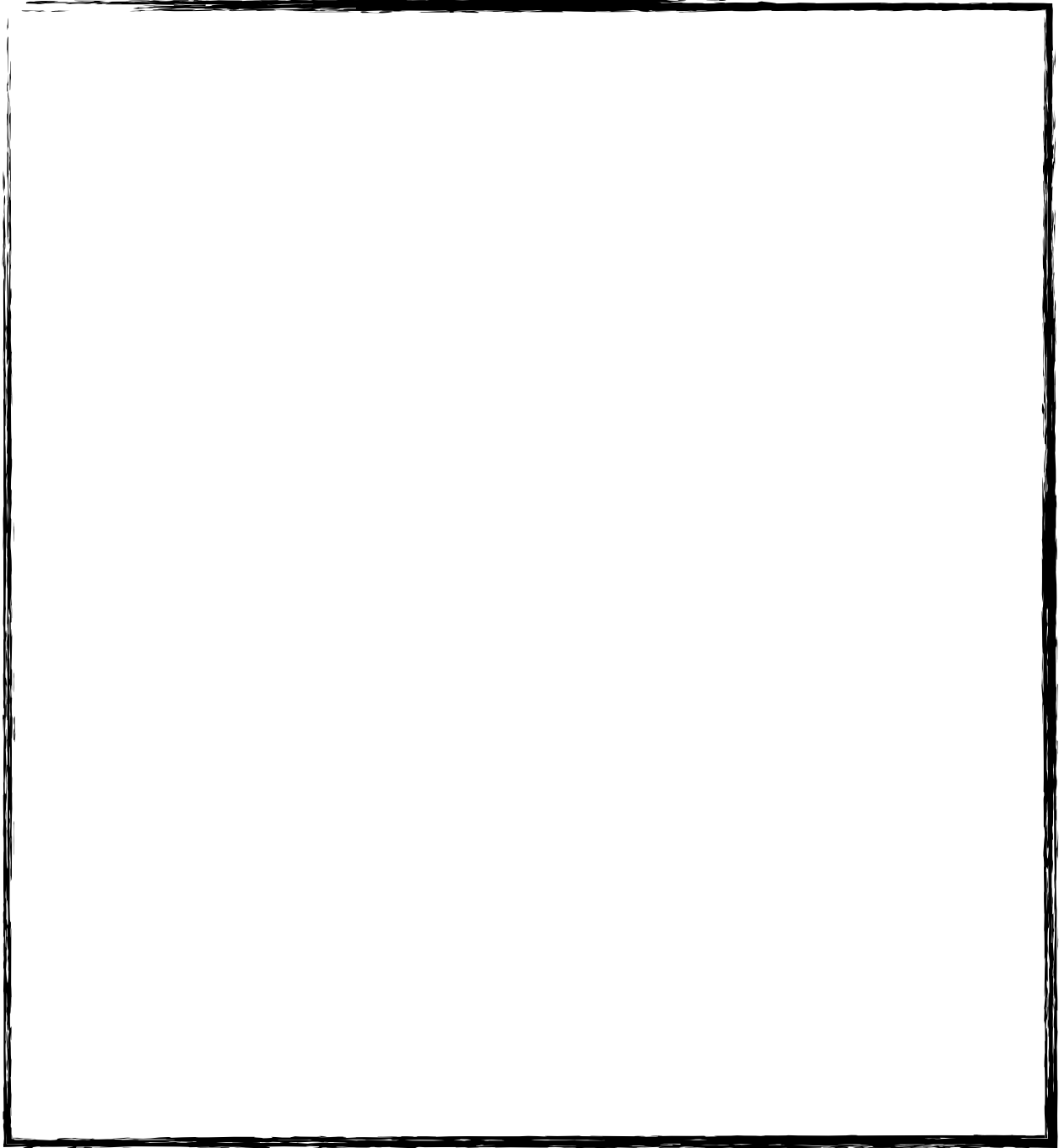
Four deserts can be found in the United States: the Great Basin Desert, the Mojave Desert, the Sonoran Desert, and the Chihuahuan Desert. Choose one of those and read about it. Then write a report that explains the similarities and differences between that desert and the Gobi Desert.

Make a Venn diagram to organize your ideas.



The Plants of the Gobi Desert

Use your library or online resources—and this book!—to research a unique plant that lives in the Gobi desert. Then draw the plant here and create a field journal page about that plant as if you were the first person to discover this plant.



Great Names from the Gobi Desert

In this book, you read about some important people who have made history and/or discoveries in the Gobi Desert. Choose one of the men below and use your library or online resources to research his life. Then make a visual presentation about him to share with your class.



Ghengis Khan

Marco Polo

Roy Chapman Andrews

Peter Simon Pallas

Nikolai Przewalski

My Notes

The People of the Gobi Desert

The people who live in the Gobi Desert have to live differently than people who do not live in a desert. Think about how they have adapted to living in this environment and describe their lifestyle in the following areas:

Clothing

Diet

Housing

Travel

Family Roles

The Great Green Wall of China

On page 135, you learned about the program the government of China has started to help fight desertification of the land. Read more about this program using a library and online resources. Then complete the form below about this experiment.



Observe: What is the problem to be solved?

Synthesize: What is the observed cause and effect?

Hypothesize: What is a possible solution?

Test: How do you put the solution into practice?

Evaluate: How would you measure the results of the experiment?

Application: How would you adapt the experiment based on its success or failure?

For the Teacher: Additional Activities

1. Have the students write haikus that focus on the natural elements of the Gobi Desert. Create a bulletin board to display the poems, along with photos that show those elements.
2. Have a class discussion about nomadic life. Use such questions as: *If you were a nomad, what would you like best about your lifestyle? What would you find is the most difficult thing to do?*
3. Divide the class into two groups. Have one group create a presentation about the warm-blooded animals of the Gobi Desert. The other group will do a presentation on the cold-blooded animals there. Set up a debate between the groups to discuss which—cold-blooded or warm-blooded animals—are better suited to life in the Gobi Desert.
4. Have groups use materials to build a mini Gobi Desert ecosystem model. Focus on one of the regions or do all five. One group can create the land elements, another can add the flora, and a third can add the fauna.
5. Have a classroom discussion about the dangers of desertification, not only in the Gobi Desert but in other places, as well. Discuss causes, effects, and possible solutions.
6. Have students research a cryptid, like the Mongolian death worm, and write a report about it, including illustrations. Put the reports together in a binder or create an online presentation: The Mysterious Cryptids of the World.