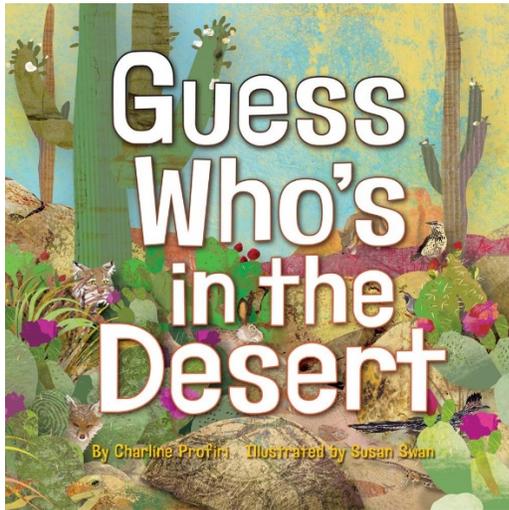


GUESS WHO'S IN THE DESERT



ROADRUNNER

- Because their X-shaped feet point in two directions, you can't tell if they're coming or going.
- Roadrunners don't "beep-beep" like the cartoon bird. They coo, clack, bark, growl, whine and whirr.

BIGHORN SHEEP

- Bighorn Sheep can walk on ledges only two inches wide.
- They can leap from ledge to ledge over spans as wide as a two-lane street.

DESERT TORTOISE

- when afraid, a Desert Tortoise makes hissing, popping and pinking sounds.
- They eat plants and live thirty-five to forty years.

BOBCAT

- Bobcats are named for their tails, which appear to be cut or "bobbed."
- Their favorite food is rabbit.

CACTUS WREN

- The cactus wren is Arizona's state bird.
- Cactus wren nests are the size and shape of a football.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL

- Gambel's quail often form groups known as coveys, which may total twenty or more birds.
- They call "ka-KAA-ka-ka," to locate a mate or other covey member and "chip-chip-chip" when alarmed.

DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

- A rattlesnake can move its rattle back and forth sixty or more times per second.
- The rattle is made of the same protein (keratin) as human hair and fingernails. A new segment is added each time a rattlesnake sheds.

JAVELINA

- Their name comes from the Spanish word for javelin, which refers to their sharp tusks.
- A pungent musk gland on the top of their rumps emits a strong scent. They rub their scent on rocks and tree stumps to mark their territory, and on each other to help with identification.

TARANTULA

- Male tarantulas can live twelve years; females can live twice as long.
- Desert tarantulas live in deep burrows lined with silk webbing to prevent cave-ins.

GILA MONSTER

- The Gila monster, named for the Gila River in Arizona, is one of only two venomous lizards in the world. It is the largest lizard native to the United States.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a drug to manage type 2 diabetes based on a protein from Gila monster saliva. The drug is sometimes called “lizard spit.”

ELF OWL

- Elf owls can catch prey in total darkness by using their ears to find it.
- When captured, they play dead until danger has passed.

GRAY FOX

- The gray fox is the only fox that can climb trees.
- If a gray fox has more food than it can eat at one time, it will hide the remaining food and mark the spot by peeing on it.

LONG-TONGUED BAT

- These bats have very long, bristle-like tongues, with which they sip nectar from agave and night-blooming cacti. They also like to feed from hummingbird feeders.
- This bat is an important pollinator of many desert agaves and cacti.

COYOTE

- Coyotes are members of the dog family. They mate for life.
- Coyotes "sing" to communicate with other coyote families and to keep track of their own family members.

CHILDREN

- Children are young humans who come in various skin colors, sizes, shapes.
- These fun-loving and curious creatures bring joy to their families, teachers, and friends.