

Teaching Toolbox

Leveling Information

- ATOS: 1.3
- GRL: C
- Word Count: 64

Curriculum Connections

- animals
- deserts
- nature

Skills to Teach

- Content Vocabulary Words: *cactus, camel, desert, hairy, lizard, owl, rock, slow, snake, spider, tall, tortoise*
- High-Frequency Words: *a, in, is, long, on, the*
- Phonemic Awareness: Elkonin sound boxes

Summary

This book is called *Animals in the Hot Desert*. It shows animals that live in the desert. Read the book to find out what lives in the desert.

Before Reading

- Read the title of the book and the book's summary.
- Have students look through the book and make predictions and connections using the photographs.
- Introduce new vocabulary and unfamiliar concepts.
- Ask students what letter they would expect to see at the beginning of a high-frequency word, such as *long*. Invite students to find that word in the book.

After Reading

Ask students questions about the book and the book's topic:

1. What animals live in the desert?
2. Why do you think these animals live in the desert?
3. Have you ever been to a desert or seen pictures of one?
What did you see there?

Word Study

High-Frequency Word Practice

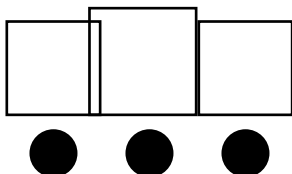
Teacher directions: Give each student a whiteboard and dry-erase marker. Have students practice writing the words "in," "long," and "the."

Have students say each word as they write it.

Elkonin Sound Boxes

Teacher directions:

1. Have students draw three squares on a sheet of paper, chalkboard, or whiteboard.
2. Give each student three counting chips or cubes. Have students place a counter below each square.



3. Say a word aloud, stretching it into sound segments.

For example, /o/ /w/ /l/

4. Have students say the blended word.
5. Say the segmented word again. This time, ask students to listen to the sounds in the word. Model the action of sliding a counter into a square as you say each sound in the word.
6. Invite students to slide the counters from left to right as they say each sound in the word.

owl: /o/ /w/ /l/

slow: /s/ /l/ /ow/

tall: /t/ /a/ /ll/