

Look Who Lives in the Desert! Non-fiction Book Project

This project addresses Language Arts (informational text comprehension + literary and expository writing), Science (researching and collecting data), Art (illustrating to support language) and Presentation (design + appearance). The Book Layout page should be copied on legal paper (8.5 x 14).

1. As a class, choose a habitat that you want to focus on and decide which animals will be included in the book (brainstorm as many animals as there are students).
2. Each student should choose, draw from a box or be given one animal and then follow steps 3-8.
3. Research the animal using books, Internet, videos, etc. to gain as much knowledge as possible.
4. Write a short story or poem about the animal using the Six Traits of Writing. Make it creative but realistic!
5. Make a list of the four *most interesting* facts about that animal—edit until they are correct and concise.
6. Using a Book Layout page, carefully copy the final drafts of writing in the appropriate space given.
7. Cut out a photograph of the animal from a magazine or Internet picture and paste it in the lower left box.
8. Draw an illustration of the animal in the large box on the right and color it. Consider doing a few practice drafts on scrap paper before drawing the final art on the Book Layout page.
9. Fold each of the student pages in half along the dotted line.
10. Stack all the folded pages on their sides (not inside one another) with the folded edges together (be sure they are all “upright” in the book).
11. Wrap the stack with a colored construction paper cover that has the book title, class, year and a good visual (photo or drawing) that supports the title and shows the reader what the book is about. Inside the cover, list all of the authors/illustrators and which animal they each contributed.
12. Staple the cover and pages together along the folded edge.
13. Inside, use double-stick scotch tape to adhere the blank sides of the pages together.
14. Present the book at a parent’s night and then consider donating the book to the library for other students to read and learn from.

NOTE: If each student is making their own book, follow the direction above EXCEPT: print the Book Layout pages double-sided and before the student begins, fold the pages, stack them one inside the other, add a blank cover and staple the entire book together along the folded edge. You will not have to tape blank edges together.

list four facts about your animal below

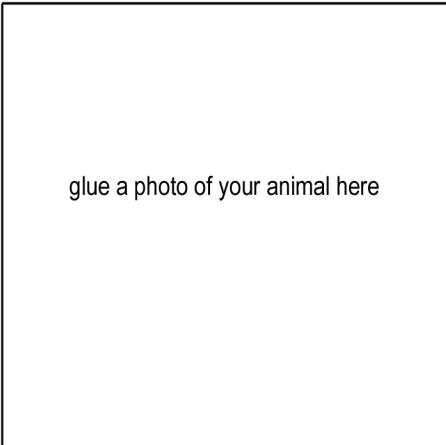
FASCINATING FACTS

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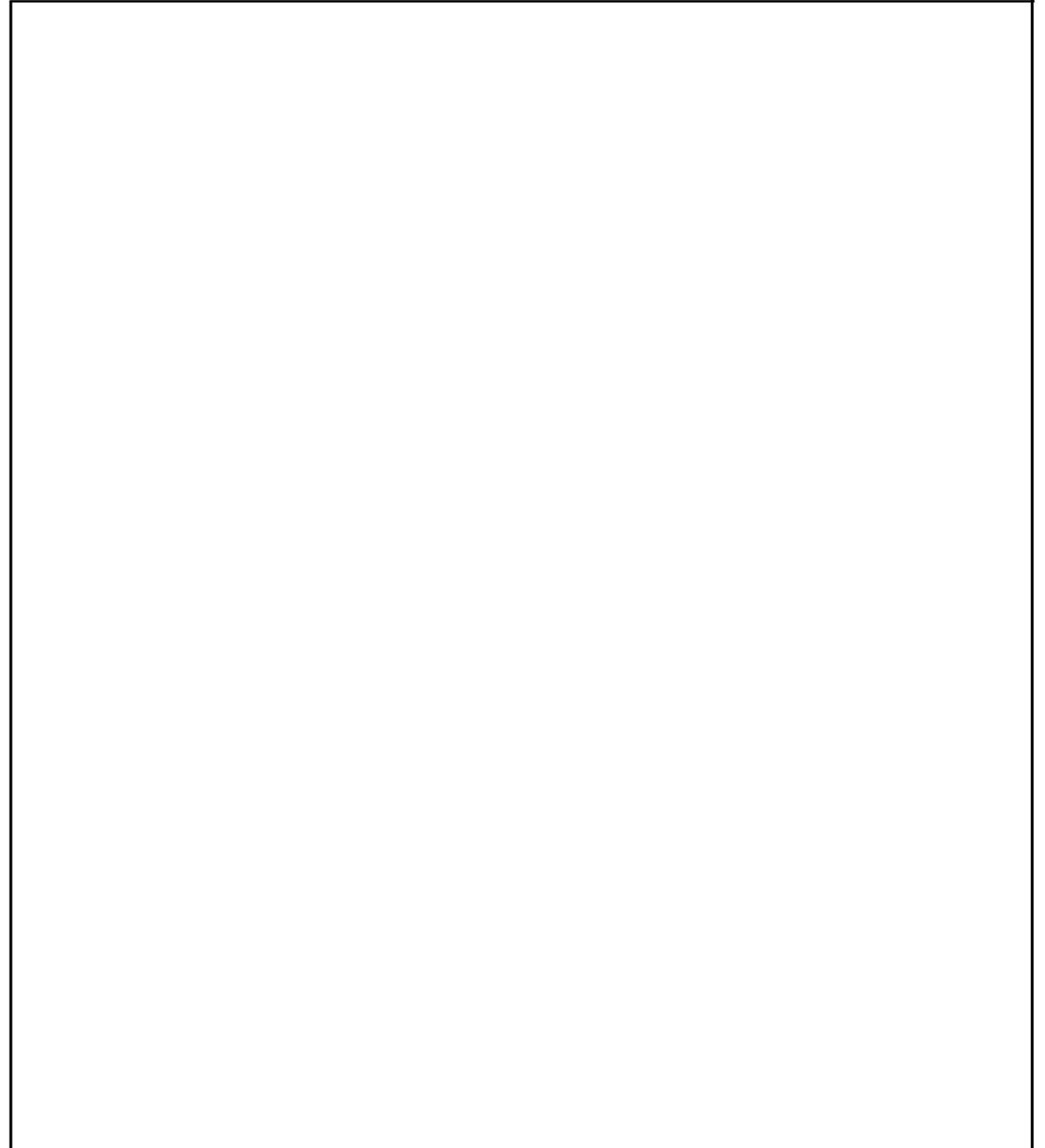
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write a poem or short story about your favorite desert animal

draw a detailed illustration of your animal inside the box



fold and staple along the dotted line