



TRUE NORTH FIELD STUDIES

Desert Life: Discovering Plants, Animals & Faith in Our Desert Home

Curriculum Submission Overview (ESA)

Program Description

Desert Life is a structured, instructor-led educational program that introduces students to desert ecosystems, focusing on plant and animal survival, habitat dynamics, and environmental interactions specific to arid regions.

Through guided, hands-on learning experiences, students explore biological concepts such as adaptations, food chains, and seasonal patterns while developing observational and analytical skills. The program integrates environmental science with real-world application to deepen understanding of local ecosystems.

Grade Level

Kindergarten – 8th Grade
(Instruction is differentiated by age and ability)

Subject Areas

- Life Science
 - Earth & Environmental Science
 - Biology (ecosystems and organism interactions)
 - Nature Studies / Field Science
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Instructional Format

Instruction is delivered through a combination of:

- Direct teaching
- Guided observation and field-based learning
- Interactive learning stations
- Movement-based activities
- Instructor-led discussion and reflection

Students engage in structured learning segments focused on ecosystem dynamics, organism characteristics, and environmental relationships.

Program Duration

- Total Instruction Time: 4 hours
 - Format: In-person, instructor-led mobile lab
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Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify common desert plants and animals and their characteristics
 - Explain how organisms adapt to desert environments
 - Describe relationships within food chains and ecosystems
 - Recognize patterns related to seasons and environmental conditions
 - Develop observational and classification skills
 - Demonstrate understanding of environmental stewardship and responsibility
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Assessment Methods

Student learning is assessed through:

- Instructor observation during guided activities
 - Participation in discussions and field exploration
 - Verbal responses and questioning
 - Informal performance-based tasks
 - Student reflection (written or verbal, age-appropriate)
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Standards Alignment (Arizona)

This program aligns with Arizona Academic Standards, including:

Science (K–8):

- Life Science: Organism traits, survival, and adaptations
- Ecosystems: Interactions between organisms and environment
- Biodiversity: Identification and classification of living things
- Earth & Space Science: Weather and seasonal patterns

Crosscutting Concepts:

- Patterns in nature
- Systems and system models
- Structure and function

(Detailed standards alignment available upon request.)

Materials

All instructional materials and learning resources are provided by the instructor. Students may receive supplemental educational materials as part of the program.

Instructor Qualifications

Instruction is provided by True North Field Studies, specializing in hands-on, outdoor, and experiential learning programs designed for homeschool students.

Additional Notes

This program is educational in nature and designed to supplement science instruction through applied, real-world experiences in a desert environment.

Faith-based perspectives are included as an optional component to support discussions of stewardship and the natural world.

Detailed lesson plans, instructional materials, and proprietary activities are provided exclusively during instruction.