

NOCTURNAL KNOWLEDGE

Work in research groups to describe adaptations for nocturnal living of the animals presented in the *Creatures of the Night* program.

ARIZONA SCIENCE

STANDARDS

SC03-S4C3-01&04,
SC04-S4C4-02,
SC03-S4C3-05

OBJECTIVES

Students should:

- Describe and compare nocturnal Sonoran Desert creatures' adaptations for finding food and avoiding predators.

MATERIALS

- Chalkboard
- Large sheets of paper for graphs (optional)
- Markers (optional)

DOING THE ACTIVITY

- 1) Review the adaptations for night living exhibited by the animals in the *Creatures of the Night* program and pre-visit activities.
- 2) Ask the students to brainstorm what animals they have already learned about. List them on the board as they name them.
- 3) Draw a "Night Creatures' Adaptations" chart on the board as illustrated below. Choose one of the animals listed on the board, such as the kangaroo rat, and work with the group to fill in the information on the chart.
- 4) Divide the students into pairs and have them work together to complete the chart for the other animals listed on the board. They can record the information in science journals or make a large wall chart to present to the rest of the class. Encourage them to be creative in their presentation by using illustrations as well as words to depict the animals and their adaptations.

DISCUSSION

Compare the students' charts. Discuss the importance of different senses to the animals studied. What are some common adaptations of predators? What are some common adaptations of prey?

EXTENSION

Make a classroom diorama of the desert at night. Fill it with the creatures the students have learned about. Have the students do further research on other nocturnal desert animals to include in their desert scene.



NIGHT CREATURES' ADAPTATIONS

ANIMAL	TO FIND FOOD	TO AVOID PREDATORS
1. Kangaroo rat	- big eyes to see in dark - whiskers to feel around - good sense of smell	- huge ear cavities in skull - strong back legs for hopping away from predators