

# Desert Animals



## Roadrunner

- The roadrunner is a diurnal bird with brown feathers with white spots.
- It makes nests in the desert plants.
- It is an omnivore (eats meat). It also eats seeds, mice, lizards and insects.
- Its enemy is the coyote.
- It runs very fast – up to 17 miles per hour – to catch dinner.



## Jackrabbit

- The jackrabbit is a diurnal mammal that has brown and gray fur and a white belly.
- It lives under bushes and trees in the desert.
- It is an herbivore and eats cactus and other plants.
- It has to watch out for coyotes, owls and eagles.
- It can run up to 40 miles per hour and has very strong back legs.



## Lizard

- The lizard is a diurnal reptile. It has dry, scaly skin that is brown.
- It lives under rocks in the desert.
- It is a carnivore that eats insects.
- It is careful to avoid foxes and owls.
- Fringed-toed lizards dig in the sand to bury themselves to keep cool and to stay away from predators.



## Scorpion

- A scorpion is a nocturnal arachnid. It has a golden brown shell.
- It makes its home by burrowing into the sand in the desert.
- It is a carnivore and eats insects.
- It stays away from roadrunners, snakes and owls.
- It uses its pincers to paralyze prey.
- Scorpions hide in the sand and then stun their victims.

Pictured above are a desert **bird**, **mammal**, **reptile** and **arachnid**. There are many other desert animals. You can use the sites below to find further information.

- **Birds in the Desert**  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/26634/desert/bird.htm>
- **Desert Insects**  
<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/desert-insects.html>
- **Desert Reptiles and Landscapes**  
<http://www.desertreptiles.net/reptileshome.htm>
- **Desert Snakes**  
<http://www.discoverseaz.com/Wildlife/snakes.html>
- **Desert Snakes**  
<http://www.supiri.com/nature/animals/desert-snakes>
- **Mammals in the Desert**  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/26634/desert/mammal.htm>
- **Tarantula**  
<http://digital-desert.com/wildlife/tarantula.html>

Some general sites include the following.

- **Desert Animals**  
<http://www.desertanimals.net/>
- **Desert Animals**  
[http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/desert\\_animal\\_page.htm](http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/desert_animal_page.htm)