



Activities at Home

Project: 'Wild and Wonderful'

Dear Parents,

The activity for week: 5 beginning: 5th February 2024 is Wild, Wild West

The activity we will be covering involves:

- Learning about the 'Wild West', 'travelling' to the Mojave Desert in North America
- Learning about the desert habitat and meeting some animals that live in the Mojave Desert, such as the cougar, the Western diamond-backed rattlesnake and the burrowing owl
- Learning about the plants that have learned to thrive in this harsh environment, such as the cactus and making our own desert crafts. Children will also be invited to explore a desert small world play area

Our activity includes:

- Today we will be taking a trip to the desert. We will learn about the characteristics of a desert habitat through a power point presentation and will explore this landscape more by learning about the Mojave desert and watching the video 'Virtual Field Trip- Mojave Desert' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA55JxzyQck&t=101s>).
- The children will be invited to talk about the different plants and wildlife that they saw in the video. We will discuss the things that may make these plants and creatures successful in this environment, talking about whether we think it is easy to live in the desert and why/ or not
- The children will be encouraged to take part in tabletop activities linking to this topic, including:
 - Using rice, runny glue and tissue paper to create their own cactus artwork
 - Threading pasta to create our very own rattle snakes
 - Engaging with a desert small world play area

You might wish to help your child to explore this topic at home or when you are out and about. Please feel free to approach the teachers for further explanations.

Our suggested activities are:

- Visit parks and gardens to look at different plant species-Kew Gardens is an excellent way to show your child a variety of different plants and help them get the feel of different habitats and how they enable different plant life to thrive
- Allow children to explore deserts through sand play-get some small desert animals toys to put into a sand box to encourage imaginative role play around this theme

The big question:

Ask your child:

If you were visiting a desert, what things do you think you would need to take with you? Is there anything that you might have that would not be helpful in the desert?

