



## **A DESERT GOLF COURSE -- AN OASIS FOR HUMANS AND WILDLIFE!**

There is a special desert found in the southwestern United States called the Sonoran Desert. This desert is found in Arizona and California. It also extends into the country of Mexico. A desert has only 10 inches or less of rainfall per year. This makes this land very dry. A place in the desert that has water is called an oasis. So a golf course because it has green grass seems to be an oasis in what would normally be a very dry place.

The Sonoran Desert is rapidly changing. People are building homes on the flat, open land that is in this desert. People also like outdoor activities. One popular outdoor activity is playing golf at a golf course. Desert golf courses vary in size. Some are small with a 9-hole green. The most common size is an 18-hole green.

Not everyone is in favor of building homes and outdoor activities in the desert. Golf courses use a lot of water, and the water in this desert climate is limited. Golf courses can destroy the desert wildlife and vegetation.

The Sonoran Desert has many types of desert plants, including the saguaro cactus that is only found in that desert. The Sonoran Desert also has many different types of wildlife. The desert golf courses have ponds where birds, ducks, and fish live. These animals attract other animals, such as coyotes and birds of prey. Javelina are attracted to golf courses because the green grass contains insects. The golf course has hills that become homes for animals such as rabbits and ground squirrels. Rattlesnakes, bobcats, and deer can be found around the large open spaces at the desert golf courses.

Sometimes the wildlife use the desert golf course as a pathway to travel. The animals even appear as the golfers play golf. It is important that people playing golf remember that they are not pets.

The Sonoran Desert is a special desert. As we continue to build in this desert, it is important that we remember the animals and plants that naturally live here.



## Sonoran Desert Golf Course Wildlife Chart

\*Wildlife includes animals, reptiles, birds, and fish

### Directions:

Using your Sonoran Desert Golf Course game, count the wildlife found in each Square and write the number in the chart below. Then under the chart, add the numbers to make sure the number of wildlife equals 15 in total.

### Wildlife Found in each Square of the Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game

Square #2	Square #3	Square #4	Square #5	Square #6	Total
					15

**= 15**

Answer the following questions using your Sonoran Desert Golf Course game.

1. Name the desert found in the Southwest that is changing due to human movement.
2. Name the wildlife that lives in the saguaro cactus in Square #3.
3. Identify 2 types of wildlife that live at the man-made pond.
4. List 3 items in Square #5 that indicates humans have changed the desert.
5. After looking at the chart above, do you think a lot of wildlife can be found at a desert golf course?

## ANSWER KEY to Student Worksheet

### Wildlife Found in each Square of the Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game

Square #2	Square #3	Square #4	Square #5	Square #6	Totals
1	5	2	6	1	15
quail	bird, bat owl, snake, lizard	coyote, rabbit	duck, 5 fish	woodpecker	

$$1+5+2+6+1 = 15$$

Answer the following questions using your Sonoran Desert Golf Course game.

1. Name the desert found in the southwest that is changing due to human movement. **Sonoran Desert**
2. Name the wildlife that lives in the saguaro cactus in Square #3. **owl**
3. Identify 2 types of wildlife that live at the man-made pond. **duck and fish**
4. List 3 items in Square #5 that indicates humans have changed the desert. **Any of the following: golf green, homes, bench, trash can, rock path, manmade pond.**
5. After looking at the chart, do you think a lot of wildlife can be found at a desert golf course? **yes**

## Desert Golf Course Assessment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle or write the correct answer.

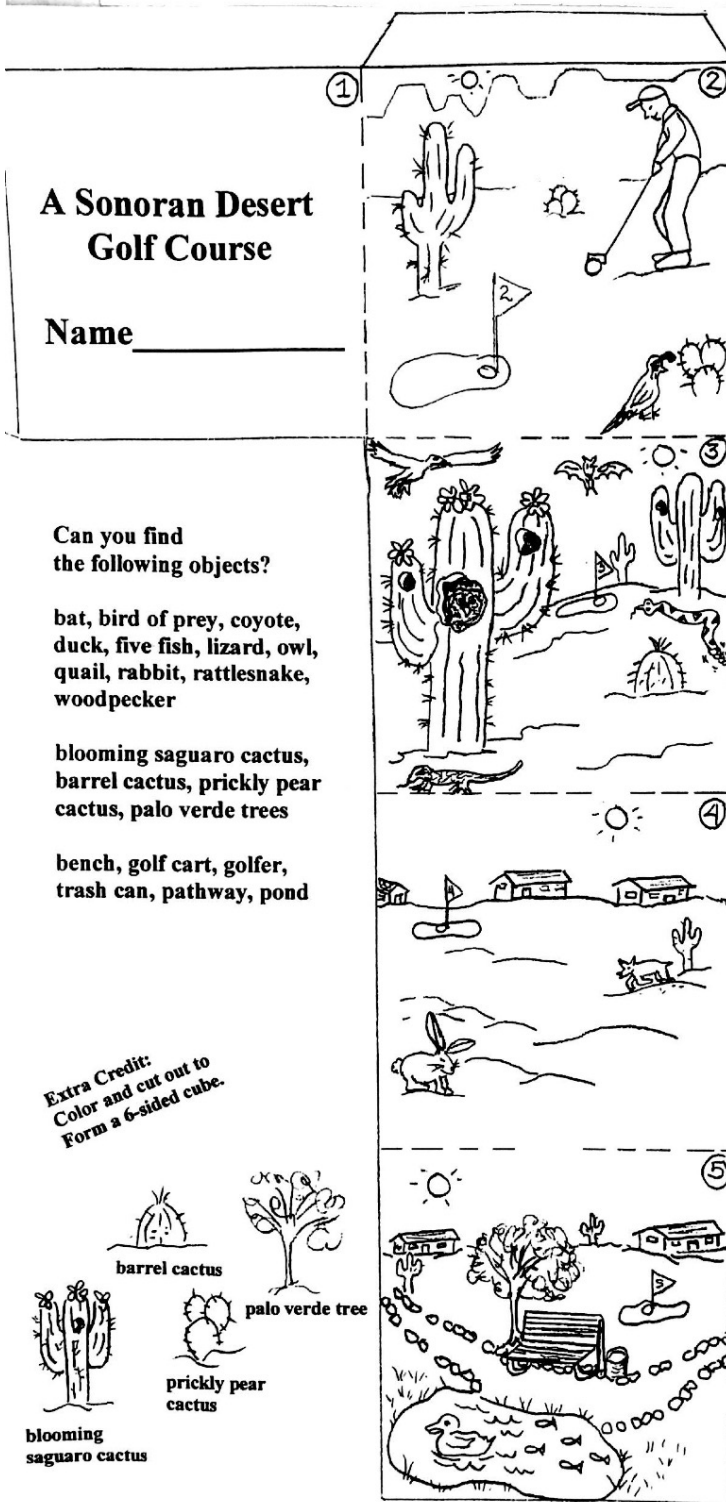
1. The Sonoran Desert is found in
  - A. Arizona, California and Mexico.
  - B. Arizona, New Mexico, Texas
  - C. Arizona, Nevada, and California
  - D. Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado
2. One outdoor activity that is popular in the desert is
  - A. sea diving.
  - B. golfing.
  - C. skiing.
  - D. sledding.
3. Desert golf courses are being built due to
  - A. large open spaces.
  - B. flat land.
  - C. home developments.
  - D. all of the above.
4. Desert golf courses have wildlife such as
  - A. whales.
  - B. polar bears.
  - C. rabbits.
  - D. beavers.
5. Some people do not think golf courses should be built in the desert because golf courses
  - A. use too much water.
  - B. change the desert habitat.
  - C. channel the river washes differently.
  - D. all of the above.
6. John played golf on a small 9-hole desert golf course. He lost one golf ball on each hole. How many golf balls did he lose in one game of golf?
  - A. 2
  - B. 9
  - C. 10
  - D. 18

7. One 18-hole golf course has a dry wash that goes through 2 holes. How many holes on the golf course do not have a dry wash running through them?
- A. 2
  - B. 4
  - C. 12
  - D. 16
8. Did you use addition or subtraction to answer question 7?
9. There is one pond at a local desert golf course. It has 10 birds and 4 ducks. Today, golfers also saw a roadrunner, a lizard, and a rattlesnake. What was the total wildlife found at this golf course?
- A. 16
  - B. 17
  - C. 18
  - D. 20
10. Did you use addition or subtraction to answer question 9?

## Desert Golf Course Assessment **Answer Key**

1. A. Arizona, California and Mexico
2. B. golfing
3. D. all of the above
4. C. rabbits.
5. D. all of the above.
6. B. 9
7. D. 16
8. subtraction
9. B. 17
10. addition

# Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game:



## A Sonoran Desert Golf Course

Name \_\_\_\_\_

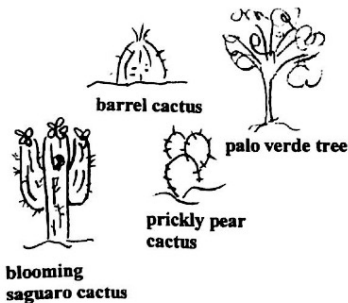
Can you find the following objects?

bat, bird of prey, coyote, duck, five fish, lizard, owl, quail, rabbit, rattlesnake, woodpecker

blooming saguaro cactus, barrel cactus, prickly pear cactus, palo verde trees

bench, golf cart, golfer, trash can, pathway, pond

Extra Credit:  
Color and cut out to  
Form a 6-sided cube.



## A Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game

Directions:

1. You are playing golf at a desert golf course.
2. There are 6 squares. Write your name in square # 1.
3. Each square has a "green." This is the area with a flag on a flagpole. Below each flagpole is a circle. Your golf ball goes into that circle in each square. Find the "greens" in squares # 2 - 6.
4. Start with square # 2. With a pencil trace the golf ball as it moves through the desert golf course ending with square # 6.
5. The golf ball CANNOT touch any object along the way, except the circle below each flagpole in the "green."
6. Your golf ball will end in the last circle under the flag that says, "The End."
7. Good luck, Golf Pro!!

(note: drawing not to scale)

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