

A Desert Golf Course: An Oasis for Humans and Wildlife!

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Grade Level	2
Duration	1 class period

National Standards

GEOGRAPHY

Element 2: Places and Regions

4. The physical and human characteristics of places

Element 3: Physical Systems

8. The characteristics and distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface

Element 5: Environment and Society

14. How human actions modify the physical environment

AZ Standards

MATHEMATICS

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

2.OA.A.1. Use addition and subtraction within 100 to solve one-step word problems. Use addition to solve two-step word problems using single-digit addends. Represent a word problem as an equation with a symbol for the unknown.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

2.NBT.B.5. Fluently add and subtract within 100 using strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.

2.NBT.B.9. Explain why addition and subtraction strategies work, using place value and the properties of operations. (Explanations may be supported by drawings or objects.)

Arizona Social Science Standards

GEOGRAPHY

Human-environment interactions are essential aspects of human life in all societies.

2.G2.1 Explain how weather, climate, and other environmental characteristics affect people's lives in a place or region being studied.

2.G2.2 Describe how human activities affect the communities and the environment of places or regions.

Overview

The Sonoran Desert is changing due to human migration into the southwestern United States. Many new communities are being built that include outdoor activities such as desert golf courses. They provide not only a popular sport for humans but attract the nearby desert wildlife as well.

Purpose

In this lesson students will locate the Sonoran Desert and compute word problems analyzing the wildlife that can be found at a Sonoran Desert golf course.

Materials

- Sonoran Desert Map
https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/Sonoran_Desert.pdf
- Images from a Desert Golf Course or YouTube Video We-Ko-Pa Golf Club (3.00 min)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZDT8KukFdQ>
- A Desert Golf Course—An Oasis for Humans and Wildlife! reading
- Student Worksheet and Answer Key
- Desert Golf Course Assessment and Answer Key
- A Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game
- Pictures of desert plants and animals (optional)

Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Locate the Sonoran Desert.

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2. Identify one reason why the desert landscape is an ideal location for a desert golf course.
3. Identify one reason why some people believe that humans should not build communities and outdoor activities in the Sonoran Desert.
4. Identify some of the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert.
5. Compute word problems.

Procedures

Note: Desert golf courses are man-made oases, not natural oases. The desert land is irrigated to get water rather than being located naturally underground. Desert- a region that receives less than 10" of precipitation per year.

1. Begin the lesson by asking students some of these questions about golf courses. Does anyone live near a golf course? Do they know someone who plays golf? Have they played golf or miniature golf? Do they know the rules? Why do golfers use golf carts? (The distance between holes may be far and the cart is a convenience.) What kind of animals would they find on a golf course? What would be the difference between a desert golf course and a forest golf course? (The land and plant/animal habitats differ on each one.)
2. Project the map of the Sonoran Desert. https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/Sonoran_Desert.pdf Tell students that this is a desert located in the southwestern USA and makes up some of Arizona and California and country of Mexico. Show some of the YouTube video We-Ko-Pa Golf Club <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZDT8KukFdQ> (3.00 min) so students can visualize a desert golf course. It is definitely an advertisement to go there. If you wish, turn off the audio and narrate yourself. Or you can project the Images from a Desert Golf Course included with the lesson.
3. Project A Desert Golf Course--An Oasis for Humans and Wildlife! Have students read aloud and discuss the main ideas in the reading.
4. Distribute and project the Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game. Have students locate the objects listed at the left side. Read directions for the

- game and have students trace the golf ball to the end. (*Note: the students will only trace the golf ball through 5 squares (greens). Remind them that the smallest golf course is a 9-hole course, so this map is a little deceiving.*)
5. Distribute the Student Worksheet. Direct students to use Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game, locate and count the wildlife, and answer the 5 questions at the bottom of the page.
6. If any time remains, allow students to color and cut out the game and make the cube.

Assessment

Mathematics and Geography

The Student Worksheet can be graded for math skills and geography concepts. Mastery will be considered a score of 80% or higher on the math and geography questions

Desert Golf Assessment contains 10 questions: Questions 1-5 are assessing geography content. Questions 6-10 are assessing math knowledge. Mastery is considered a score of 80% or higher.

Extensions

Have students use the Internet and find a golf course in another part of the world. Have them answer the following questions:

- Where is this golf course located?
- What are two things that are similar to the desert golf course.
- What are two things that are different from the desert golf course.

Sources

Photos of a desert golf course taken by the author thanks to the 500 Club Golf Course in Glendale, AZ

Golf information:

www.golfarizona.com

Wildlife Information:

www.azgfd.com