

Region Fact Sheet: Arizona, A Remarkable State from Map Your State: Regions of Arizona (lesson by Grace Wood) <http://geoalliance.asu.edu/mapyourstate>

Arizona is a wonderful state. The three regions are full of many different landforms, animals, plants, and people.

Plateau Region

A plateau is tall, elevated, flat land. It looks like a table. There are many separate plateaus in this region that are separated by hills and canyons. The plateau region of Arizona starts in the northern part of the state and goes south to the Mogollon Rim. The cities of Flagstaff and Holbrook are in this region. Some of the landmarks in this region are the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater, and Humphrey's Peak. The Navajo and Hopi reservations are also in this region. The plateau region has coyotes, javelina, and sheep. There are sagebrush and many other high desert-type plants. There are also Ponderosa pines in the highest parts of this area as well. They grow in elevations ranging from 5,500 feet to 8,500 feet. This region gets rain and snow. The winters are cold and the summers are warm.

Mountain Region

The mountain region in Arizona winds across the state from corner to corner. Most of the mountains are 4,000 to 6,000 feet high. One of the highest peaks in the region, however, is Mount Graham near Safford, which is 10,713 feet tall. We get much of our water from dams that store water coming from the mountains. The dams provide water for boating, fishing, and for cities and farms. They also help stop flooding. Many years ago these mountains were the sites of gold, silver, and copper mines. There are still some copper mines in this region. There are many cattle ranches in the mountain region. The animals in this region include sheep, mule deer, black bear, and bison. There are also Ponderosa pines and wildflowers in the area. The sides of the mountains are especially beautiful in the spring when these flowers are in bloom. This region gets rain and snow. The winters are cold and the summers are cool with afternoon showers in August.

Desert Region

The desert region is in the southwestern part of Arizona. This region is also called the Sonoran Desert and this desert goes all the way into Mexico. There are many flat valleys bordered by mountains. Some of the valleys in this region are fertile and are used for farming. The problem is there is very little rainfall in this region. The weather is hot and the summers are very long. Most of Arizona's people live in this part of the state. Palo Verde is the state tree. Palo Verde, which means green stick, grows in this region. There are also many cacti in this area. One of the biggest is the saguaro, looking like a giant guarding the desert. There are many animals in this region. Some of them are jackrabbits, coyotes, javelina, and various types of reptiles. The variety of regions, animals, and plants in Arizona is remarkable.

An example of a pattern poem

Other sorts of pattern poems can be used such as haiku, cinquain, etc.

Name, Name	(of Arizona animal)
Adjective, Adjective	(To describe animal)
Verb + ing, Verb + ing	(Action of animal)
Noun, Noun	(Synonyms of animal)
Noun, Noun	(Synonyms of animal)
Verb + ing, Verb + ing	(Action of animal)
Adjective, Adjective	(To describe animal)
Name, Name	(of Arizona animal)

Name

Name

Adjective

Adjective

Verb + ing

Verb + ing

Noun

Noun

Noun

Noun

Verb + ing

Verb + ing

Adjective

Adjective

Name

Name

Your Arizona Animal Research Facts Paper

Your Arizona animal _____

What is its habitat?

3 facts about your animal:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What does your animal eat?

How does your animal get its food?

How does your animal move?

When is your animal active? (Day or night or both)

What predators does your animal have?

Draw a sketch of your animal in its habitat on the back of this paper.

Poem and Picture Grading Rubric

Use the rubric to help you write a poem and paint a picture about one of Arizona's animals.

9- 12 points

Your poem and picture includes plants and animals from the region.
Your poem has voice to make it engaging.
Your poem uses excellent vocabulary learned from your research.
You have no grammar or spelling errors.
You have drawn a very detailed picture that goes with your poem.
You have drawn and painted a very detailed picture that accurately shows your animal.

5-8 points

Your poem and picture includes at least one plant and one animal from the region.
Your poem used some vocabulary learned from your research.
You have checked your spelling and grammar but still have a few errors.
You have drawn and painted a picture to go with your poem and animal but it lacks details.

1-4 points

Your poem and picture includes a plant or animal from the region.
Your poem has no special vocabulary learned from your research.
You have not checked your spelling and grammar and there are many errors.
Your picture is incomplete or it does not show the plants or animals accurately.