



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

LEAVE NO TRACE

Respect Wildlife: Wildlife Webs

Objective:

- To teach students about the interconnectivity of all forms of life in an ecosystem.

Materials needed:

- Large ball of yarn or string.
- Plant and animal flashcards included in kit.

Instructions:

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- Step 1: Have students form a large circle.
- Step 2: Pass out the plant and animal cards to the students; it is OK to have more than one student to a card.
- Step 3: Place the sun, water, soil, and air cards in the center of the circle.
- Step 4: Starting anywhere in the circle, have one student take the ball of yarn and pass it to any other student, while holding on to the end, and explain why they think that their plant/animal is important to the survival of the receiving plant/animal. Some plants/animals can be used more than once, as they are dependent on multiple members of the ecosystem for different things.
- Step 5: As the students make connections the yarn will start to create a web inside of the circle with the sun, water, soil, and air cards in the center. The game can continue for as long as time permits, but be sure to leave a few minutes after the game to explain how the sun, water, soil and air are connected to everything directly.
- Step 6: Discuss and relate to Leave No Trace Principle 6: Respect Wildlife.





Greater Sage-Grouse



Pronghorn Antelope



Desert Woodrat



**White-tailed Antelope
Squirrel**



Chukar Partridge



Mormon Cricket

Fun Facts:

Pronghorn antelope are the second-fastest animals on earth, second only to the cheetah, and have been clocked at speeds of over 60 miles an hour.

Pronghorn can tolerate temperatures from a scorching 130 degrees Fahrenheit to the bitter cold of 50 degrees below zero.

Suggested Connections:

Sagebrush
Coyotes



Fun Facts:

Young animals may lie on the ground and face off with one another, and then proceed to box or wrestle until dominance is established.

When exposed to critical temperatures, it will enter a burrow and crawl on the floor with its sparsely furred belly in contact with the ground, which quickly draws out excess heat.

Suggested Connections:

Grass
Mountain Lions



Fun Facts:

Among the artifacts discovered in a cave inhabited by humans near Ten Sleep, Wyoming, the cooked remains of several hundred Mormon crickets were found in a roasting pit. Charcoal from the fire hearth dated it at 222±150 years BC.

From less than one per square yard in mountain habitats, Mormon cricket densities may grow gradually over a period of several years, reaching densities of adults as great as 100 per square yard.

Suggested Connections:

Sagebrush
Coyotes



Fun Facts:

Sage-grouse are North America's largest grouse, with adult males weighing up to eight pounds.

The Sage-grouse lives an Average of 1–1.5 years, up to five years, with females generally having a longer life span than males

Suggested Connections:

Sagebrush
Mountain Lions



Fun Facts:

Woodrats live in nests built of plant material like branches, twigs, sticks and other debris. The huge, beaver-dam-shaped structures may be up to 4 feet across.

Woodrats are born and cared for in nests. Some desert female Woodrats have been known to deliver up to 5 litters per year with as many as 5 young per litter.

Suggested Connections:

Great Basin Wild Rye
Rattlesnake



Fun Facts:

Chukar have a "rally" or assembly call to re-group scattered members of the covey, a series of slowly repeated then rapid *chuck* notes that sound like *per-chuck* or *chuckara*.

The female Chukar will lay 10 to 20 yellow-white eggs that are spotted or speckled with brown and incubate them for 24 days.

Suggested Connections:

Grass
Owls





Black Widow Spider



Kit Fox



Mountain Lion



Desert Horned Lizard



Mule Deer



Ants

Fun Facts:

Kit foxes inhabit both desert and grassland habitats and they usually place their burrow in a sand dune or under a grass mound (called a tussock).

Kit foxes seldom eat where they have made a kill. They usually carry their prey back to the den to be leisurely eaten.

Suggested Connections:

Kangaroo rats
Mountain Lion



Fun Facts:

In the fall, the Desert Horned Lizard hibernates by burying themselves in the sand. They emerge in the spring when the sun's rays have reached a certain temperature.

Desert Horned Lizards do not pursue their victim hastily, like some lizards, but poise over it and methodically take it, in toad-like fashion, with a flick of their long, sticky tongue.

Suggested Connections:

Ants
Mountain Lions



Fun Facts:

The legs of the ant are very strong so they can run very quickly. If a man could run as fast for his size as an ant can, he could run as fast as a racehorse.

Ants are clean and tidy insects. Some worker ants are given the job of taking the rubbish from the nest and putting it outside in a special rubbish dump!

Suggested Connections:

Grass
Black Widows



Fun Facts:

The venom of the Black Widow Spider is 15 times as toxic as the venom of the prairie rattlesnake.

Only the female Black Widow is venomous; males and juveniles are harmless.

Suggested Connections:

Ants
Mormon Cricket



Fun Facts:

Mountain Lions are mostly nocturnal animals; they hunt usually at dawn, dusk and at night, and have limited activity during the day.

Mountain Lions are usually quiet, but under some circumstances they do communicate through vocalizations. They make such sounds that can be described as chirps, whistles, purrs, screams, growls, and hisses.

Suggested Connections:

Mule Deer
Bobcats



Fun Facts:

Mule Deer are not especially vocal, although young fawns bleat on occasion. Injured deer utter a loud "blatt" or bawl.

When startled, a Mule Deer will move in a series of stiff-legged jumps with all four feet hitting the ground together. If necessary, they can turn or completely reverse direction in the course of a single bound.

Suggested Connections:

Indian Rice Grass
Bobcats





Golden Eagle



Gopher Snake



Utah Juniper



Great Basin Wild Rye



Indian Rice Grass



Sagebrush

Fun Facts:

In Winter, gopher snakes hibernate, retreating to communal dens, sometimes sharing the lair with rattlesnakes, whip snakes or racers.

Female Gopher Snakes lay a clutch of eggs with 2 to 24 eggs each. Hatchlings emerge fully developed within 10 weeks, and are large enough to eat small mice.

Suggested Connections:

White-tailed Antelope Squirrel
Kit Fox



Fun Facts:

Great Basin wild rye can attain over 6 feet in height. As well as being very tall, it grows in clumps up to 4 feet wide, which makes it difficult to miss.

The blades of the Great Basin Wild Rye are very tough, flat, and rough to the touch. The spikelets are very dense, and wheat-like in appearance.

Suggested Connections:

Mule Deer
Kangaroo Rat



Fun Facts:

Sagebrush blooms in late summer. One mature plant may produce up to one million seeds.

Native Americans used the leaves to treat coughs, colds, headaches, stomach aches, fevers and to relieve pain during child birthing.

Suggested Connections:

Pronghorn Antelope
Mormon Cricket



Fun Facts:

If a Golden Eagle spots prey while soaring, it can tuck its wings and swoop at speeds up to 200 mph. If you are close enough, the bird may sound like a low-flying, small airplane.

The Golden Eagles' nest may become huge, as much as 8-10 feet across and 3-4 feet deep.

Suggested Connections:

Chukar Partridge
Gopher Snake



Fun Facts:

The Utah Juniper is monoecious, male flowers and berries on the same tree at the same time.

The Utah Juniper has "shaggy" bark that hangs in strips from the trunk.

Suggested Connections:

Chukar Partridge
Ants



Fun Facts:

Native Americans who would grind the grain of the Indian Rice Grass into flour to make bread.

Indian Rice Grass has been destroyed in many areas by overgrazing

Suggested Connections:

Mule Deer
Mormon Cricket





Willow



Grass



Cattail



Kangaroo Rat



Coyote



Basalt Cinquefoil

Fun Facts:

Some species curl their leaves, shrinking away from the sunlight and heat.

The grasses produce a dense tangle of shallow roots that compete effectively for rain-water.

Suggested Connections:

White-tailed Antelope Squirrel
Kit Fox



Fun Facts:

Kangaroo Rats have the ability to convert the dry seeds they eat into water, and they neither sweat nor pant like other animals to keep cool.

The blades of the Great Basin Wild Rye are very tough, flat, and rough to the touch. The spikelets are very dense, and wheat-like in appearance.

Suggested Connections:

Great Basin Wild Rye
Ants



Fun Facts:

At night coyotes both howl (a high quavering cry) and emit a series of short, high-pitched yips. Howls are used to keep in touch with other coyotes in the area.

The coyote's tail is used in threat displays. It becomes bushy and is held horizontally when the Coyote displays aggression.

Suggested Connections:

Desert Woodrat
Mormon Cricket



Fun Facts:

The Desert Willow is not a member of the Willow Family (Salicaceae) as are true willows, but is the only species of the Bigonia Family (Bigoniaceae) native to California.

The wood of the Desert Willow is used for fenceposts. A tea is sometimes made from the dried flowers and seed pods.

Suggested Connections:

Chukar Partridge
Gopher Snake



Fun Facts:

The central part of the root and the lower stalk of the cattail, which is mainly starch, was dried and ground into meal by several tribes of Native Americans and by early white settlers.

The Cattail's fluffy seeds were used by the Native Americans as diaper material for their infants because of its absorbency and softness.

Suggested Connections:

Chukar Partridge
Ants



Fun Facts:

Basalt Cinquefoil is also known as Soldier Meadows Cinquefoil.

Recently Basalt Cinquefoil was named a national species of concern

Suggested Connections:

Ants
Mormon Cricket

