



wild dog

**Wild Dog Books
Teachers' Notes**

Going To The Desert

Synopsis

Deserts are habitats or ecosystems that receive very little rain. Deserts are dry and arid, and they can be hot or they may be cold. A surprising fact is that the largest desert, Antarctica, is freezing all the time. The desert is home to some remarkable creatures that have evolved and adapted to these harsh environments.

Writing style

The *Going To* series has been designed for very early readers and reluctant readers. Text is succinct and simple, with no more than a few sentences on a page. The large format images relate directly to the text, so young readers have multiple entry points to engaging with the information.

Study notes

Students should make a list of all of the animals features in *Going To The Desert*. Next to each animal, write one adaptation that helps the animal survive in the desert. Students may need to research the meaning of the word 'adaptation'. They may also need to extend your research beyond the text of the book. This can be done as a visual poster or chart, and can be displayed or discussed with the class.

Meerkats are one of the animals featured in *Going To The Desert* that live in Africa. Students should find Africa on the map and then research where meerkats live, and mark those areas on a copy of the map. You may like to show the students episodes of *Meerkat Manor*. Clips and other information can be found on the internet at: Animal.discovery.com/fansites/meerkat/meerkat.html

Students should research the meaning of the following words:

- mongoose
- burrow

Students should choose one other desert from another country or continent, and research an animal that is found in this environment. What adaptations does this animal have that help them survive in their own desert environment? Are they similar or different to the animals found in the African desert? This can be presented as a chart or visual poster.

Develop a crossword puzzle with the names of the desert animals featured in the book. Use the facts about them as clues.

Play a game of 'celebrity head', labeling students as the desert animals without their knowledge. They need to try and guess which animal they are by asking questions, for example, do I burrow?

Design some posters for the classroom with illustrations of the animals and the facts about them.

The Spotted Hyena is considered an apex predator. Students should research the meaning of the word 'apex predator.' Students should research and write a report on hyenas

Marketing and promotion

Going To The Desert is part of the *Going To* series. Other titles include *Going To The Rainforest*, *Going To The Outback*, *Going To The Ocean*, *Going To The Poles*, *Going to Antarctica* and *Going To The Grassland*.