

extending to blue patches on the belly. Females have no blue patches, and the black bars are either faint or completely absent.

Desert Tortoise

Tortoises are any of the land-dwelling turtles of the family Testudinidae. The Desert Tortoise is one of 4 species of the genus *Gopherus*, known collectively as gopher tortoises. Gopher tortoises are characterized by brown shells 8-15 inches long with flattened front limbs adapted for burrowing. The Desert Tortoise is found in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts of southeastern California, southern Nevada, south through Arizona into Mexico.

Gila Monster

Gila Monsters are found in the Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts of extreme southwestern Utah, southern Nevada, southeastern California, western Arizona and southwestern New Mexico into Mexico. They live in desert and semiarid regions of gravelly and sandy soils with shrubs. Found under rocks, in burrows of other animals and in holes it digs itself. During warm weather the Gila Monster feeds at night on small mammals, birds and eggs. Fat stored in the tail and abdomen during this period is utilized during the winter months. Both species of *Heloderma* are sluggish in habit, but they have a strong, tenacious bite.

Desert Iguana

The mature Desert Iguana is 10 to 16 inches long with a large, round body and a long tail. It is colored brown around the head that diffuses into a reddish brown netlike pattern. It has tan or gray spots on the neck and trunk. The tail is gray or white encircled with rows of dark spots. The Desert Iguana is a wary diurnal lizard that will climb into bushes seeking cooler areas in extreme heat, but it will remain active when temperatures are as high as 115 degrees F. It is considered a vegetarian and eats the flowers of the creosote bush, but will also eat various insects.

Giant Chuckwalla

The San Esteban Chuckwalla (*Sauromalus varius*), a cousin of the well-known Common Chuckwalla (*S. ater=obesus*) of the American Southwest, is found only on three small Islands in the Gulf of California: San Esteban, Roca Lobos and Pelicanos. Also known as the Piebald Chuckwalla, Painted Chuckwalla, or

Giant Chuckwalla, this species can top two feet in length, making it by far the largest member of its genus, and a textbook example of insular gigantism, the tendency of small animals to increase in size once they're established on an island.

Oasis

In geography, an **oasis** (plural: **oases**) is an isolated area of vegetation in a desert, typically surrounding a spring or similar water source. The location of oases has been of critical importance for trade and transportation routes in desert areas. Caravans must travel via oases so that supplies of water and food can be replenished.

Pupfish

The Desert Pupfish is a small, silvery-colored fish with 6 to 9 dark bands on its sides. This tiny fish grows to a full average length of only 2.5 inches. Pupfish develop quickly, sometimes reaching full maturity within 2 to 3 months. Although their average life span is 6 to 9 months, some survive more than one year. They can be found in the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts of southern California, southern Arizona and northwest Mexico and live in warm desert pools, marshes, streams and springs.

NARRATOR: There was once a boy who lived in the desert. The boy lived in a small adobe house. It was called

READER 1: a cabana.

NARRATOR: The boy lived there with his old grandmother who spent most of her time sewing with a special needle made of

READER 2: a cactus spine.

NARRATOR: One day the grandmother said,

4/GRANDMA: "There is nothing to eat in the cabana. You must find your own food today."

NARRATOR: Now the boy who lived with his grandmother was as skinny as a twig, but he was always hungry. When he heard there was nothing to eat, he decided to search for food. The boy left the cabana and walked out into the desert, looking for something to eat.

READER 3: He walked and he walked and he walked -- looking!

NARRATOR: Suddenly, he saw on the sand in front of him,

READER 1: a zebra-tailed lizard.

NARRATOR: Quickly the boy grabbed the lizard by the tail with one hand and, before the lizard could detach the tail,

READER 2: The boy twirled it around his head.

THE DESERT BOY WHO WAS ALWAYS HUNGRY!
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READER 3: He opened his mouth.

READER 4: "GLUMP!"

NARRATOR: He swallowed the lizard down. Then the boy said,

5/BOY: "Ummm! That was good! But do you know something?"

ALL: I'M STILL HUNGRY!

NARRATOR: And so the boy continued walking through the desert, looking for something to eat.

READER 3: He walked and he walked and he walked -- looking!

NARRATOR: Suddenly, he saw on the sand in front of him

READER 1: a desert tortoise.

NARRATOR: Quickly the boy grabbed the tortoise by the tail with one hand.

READER 2: He twirled it around his head.

READER 3: He opened his mouth.

READER 4: "GLUMP!"

NARRATOR: He swallowed the tortoise down. Then the boy said,

- 5/BOY:** "Ummm! That was good! But do you know something?"
- ALL:** I'M STILL HUNGRY!
- 5/BOY:** "That's all right. I'm always hungry. I will just keep looking."
- NARRATOR:** And so the boy continued walking through the desert, looking for something to eat.
- READER 3:** He walked and he walked and he walked -- looking!
- NARRATOR:** Suddenly, he saw on the sand in front of him
- READER 1:** A gila monster.
- NARRATOR:** Quickly the boy grabbed the gila monster by the tail with one hand.
- READER 2:** He twirled it around his head.
- READER 3:** He opened his mouth.
- READER 4:** "GLUMP!"
- NARRATOR:** He swallowed the gila monster down. Then the boy said,
- 5/BOY:** "Ummm! That was good! But do you know something?"

THE DESERT BOY WHO WAS ALWAYS HUNGRY!
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ALL: I'M STILL HUNGRY!

NARRATOR: And so the boy continued walking through the desert, looking for something to eat.

READER 3: He walked and he walked and he walked -- looking!

NARRATOR: Suddenly, he saw on the sand in front of him

READER 1: a desert iguana.

NARRATOR: Quickly the boy grabbed the iguana by the tail with one hand.

READER 2: He twirled it around his head.

READER 3: He opened his mouth

READER 4: "GLUMP!"

NARRATOR: He swallowed the iguana down. Then the boy said,

5/BOY: "Ummm! That was good! But do you know something?"

ALL: I'M STILL HUNGRY!

5/BOY: "That's fine. I'm always hungry. I'll just keep looking."

NARRATOR: And so the boy continued walking through the desert, looking for something to eat.

- READER 3:** He walked and he walked and he walked -- looking!
- NARRATOR:** Suddenly, he saw on the sand in front of him a
- READER 1:** a giant chuckwalla.
- NARRATOR:** Quickly the boy grabbed the giant chuckwalla by the tail with one hand.
- READER 2:** He twirled it around his head.
- READER 3:** He opened his mouth.
- READER 4:** "GLUMP!"
- NARRATOR:** He swallowed the chuckwalla down. Then he said,
- 5/BOY:** "Ummm! That was good! But do you know something?"
- ALL:** I'M STILL HUNGRY!
- 5/BOY:** "But not as hungry as I used to be. Mostly, I'm thirsty."
- NARRATOR:** The boy found an oasis and a pond of water. He bent over to drink.
- READER 1:** He drank and he drank and he drank. He even drank the pupfish.
- READER 2:** Soon the pond was empty.