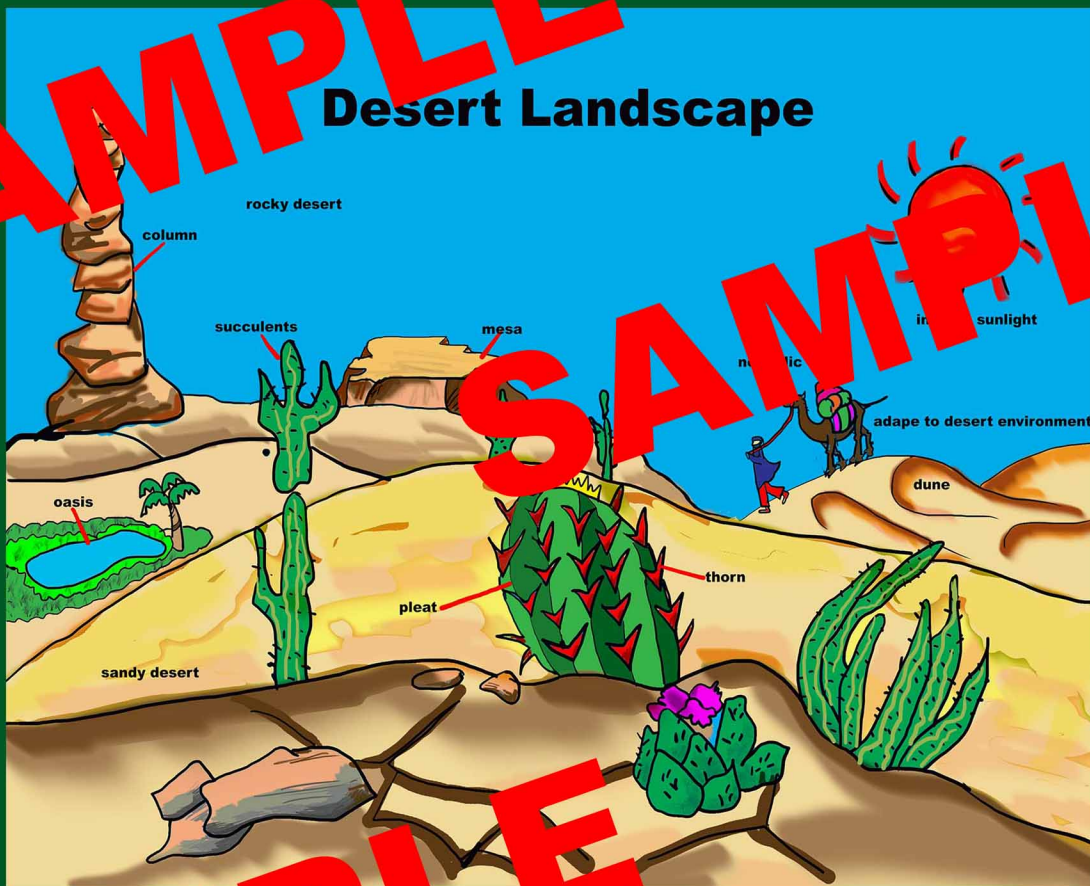


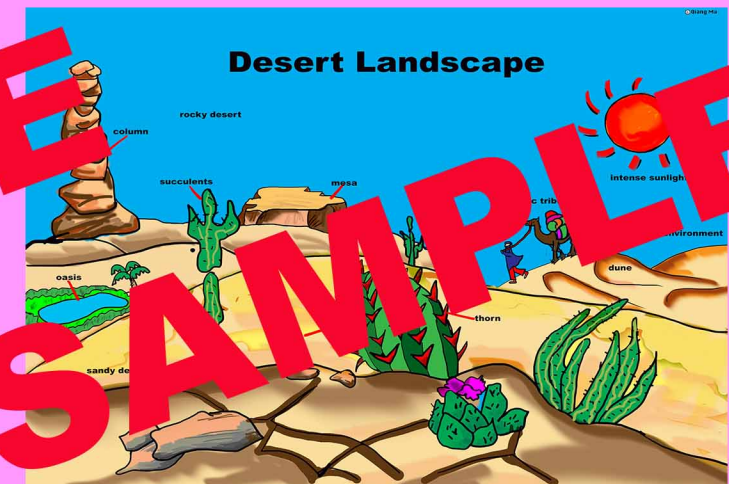
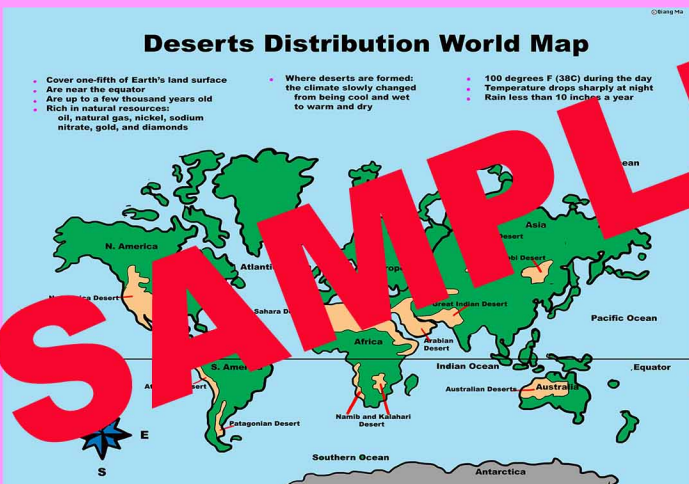
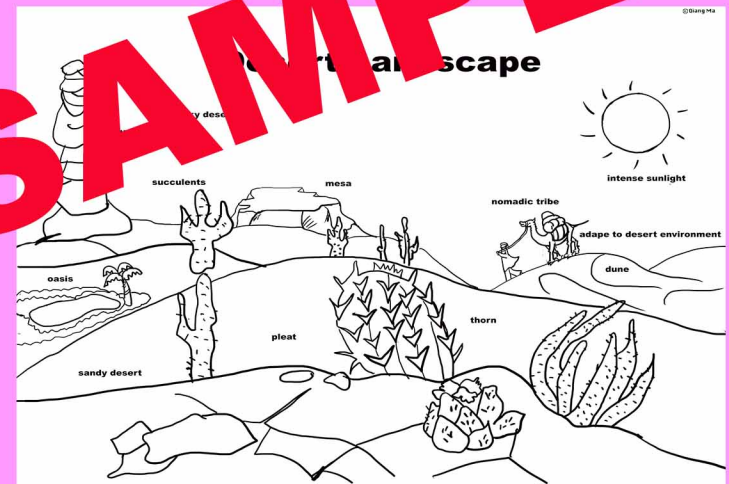
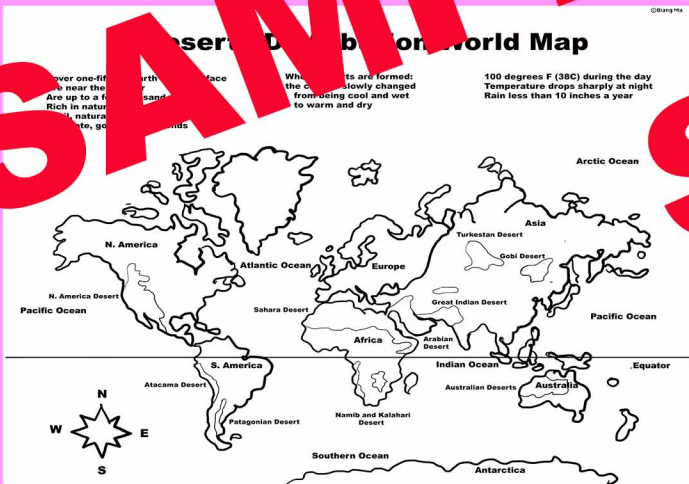
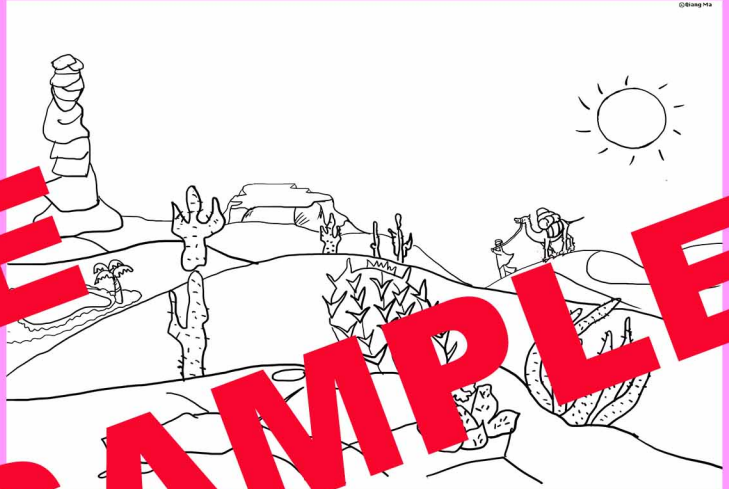
# Close Reading

Plus Writing Activities

Deserts By Gail Gibbons



Teaching Environmental Science through  
Reading, Comprehension, Vocabulary,  
Posters, and Reflection





## Close Reading Organizer

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## Things to remember

## Colors to mark the passage:

- Highlight the title in yellow.
- Underline topic sentence in green.
- Circle key words about deserts in red.
- Use close reading symbols throughout text.

## CLOSE reading symbols:

- Check Mark (✓) – understands story
- Star (\*) – something is important
- Exclamation mark (!) – something new, something that is surprising
- Question mark (?) – unsure, don't understand it

The main idea of these passages is to \_\_\_\_\_

What have you learned about deserts? \_\_\_\_\_

## Close Reading Organizer

Title: Deserts

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## Colors to mark the passage:

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- Check Mark (✓) – understands story
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The main idea of these passages is to introduce desert

What have you learned about deserts?

I learned the name of succulents refer to the desert plants with waxy surface, pleats, and thorns.

## 2.Landscape and Life

Deserts can be sandy. About one-fifth of all deserts are years wind and other elements wore away and broke down rocks into tiny grains of land. Sandy deserts can look different. Some sandy deserts have rippled water. Wind blows the sand, changing its appearance.

Deserts can also be rocky. Rocky deserts can look strange. Often wind-blown sand wears rocks into odd shapes, jagged rocks. Sudden rains along with heat and cold crack the ground. Often the rain falls hard and fast. It runs off the ground or evaporates.

Others look uneven and lumpy. If something is in the sand up behind it. On some sandy deserts strong winds blow the hills called dunes. Over time dunes can move.

Some people live in deserts. Often they live in groups called tribes. These people are nomadic. This means they move from one place to another, often carrying and trading goods. They may travel from oases to oases. Desert people live in harsh conditions. Some wear special clothing to protect them from the sun and sand. Some use camels to get around. Their wide feet allow them to walk over soft desert sand without sinking in. Long eyelashes and thin eyelids, which they can see through when closed, keep sand out of their eyes. They can shut their nostrils to keep sand out, too.

Camels can go for days without water and food while traveling across the desert. Some scientists believe camels live off the fat stored in their humps on their backs. They can carry heavy loads, up to a thousand pounds!

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✓ ☆ ! ?

## 2.Text Dependent Questions

How are sandy deserts formed?	
Describe nomadic tribes.	
Describe how people adapt to desert harsh environment.	
What are the two main facts that explain how camels adapt to desert harsh environment?	

## 2.Text Dependent Questions

How are sandy deserts formed?	Sandy deserts are formed when wind and other elements wore away and broke down rocks into tiny grains of land over many years.
Describe nomadic tribes.	Nomadic tribes are groups of people in deserts. They move from one place to another, often carrying and trading goods. They may travel from oases to oases.
Describe how people adapt to desert harsh environment.	People adapt to desert harsh environment by using waxy surface and pleats to keep sand out of their eyes. They can shut their nostrils to keep sand out, too.
What are the two main facts that explain how camels adapt to desert harsh environment?	To adapt to desert harsh environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Camels can go for days without water and food while traveling across the desert sands. They live off the fat stored in their humps on their backs.</li><li>• Camels' wide feet allow them to walk over soft desert sand without sinking in.</li><li>• Camels' long eyelashes and thin eyelids keep sand out of their eyes.</li><li>• Camels can shut their nostrils to keep sand out.</li></ul>

## 3.Succulents

Few plants and animals can live in because it is so dry and hot. The ones that do have adapted to living without much water.

Many plants that live in the desert are succulents. They take rainwater up through to store in their leaves or stems for use during spells.

A cactus is a succulent desert plant. The waxy surface on the stem helps keep in its water. Pleats that allow the cactus to expand with water when it rains. The cactus can puff up and store water. As it uses up its water, the pleats almost disappear. As it uses up its water, the pleats become more visible again.

Most cactus plants have thorns also called spines. These protect the plant from hungry animals. They also break up the hot desert wind and shade the branches and stems from the intense sunlight.

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✓ ☆ ! ?

## 3.Text Dependent Questions

Why can few plants and animals live in the desert?	
What are succulents?	
How does a cactus survive in desert?	
What are thorns used for?	

## 3.Text Dependent Questions

Why can few plants and animals live in the desert?	Few plants and animals can live in the desert because it is so dry and hot. The ones that do live there have adapted to living without much water.
What are succulents?	Succulents are desert plants that store water in their leaves or stems. They take rainwater up through to store in their leaves or stems for use during spells.
How does a cactus survive in desert?	A cactus survives in desert by using waxy surface and pleats to keep in its water.
What are thorns used for?	Thorns are used for protecting the plant from animals, breaking up the hot desert wind, and shading its branches and stems.

## Vocabulary

landscape	
dune	
nomadic	
oasis	
adapt	
succulents	
pleat	
thorn	
intense	

## Vocabulary

landscape	Scenery, view
dune	A mound of sand formed by wind.
nomadic	Wandering, moving around a lot
oasis	A place in the desert where there are trees, plants, and water.
adapt	Change, modify, fit, suit
succulent	Desert plant with thick, fleshy leaves or stems.
pleat	Fold
thorn	Spines: a stiff, sharp-pointed, straight or curved woody projection on the stem or other part of a plant.
intense	Strong, extreme

## Getting Started: Desert Close Reading

1. It is suggested to get the following items ready.

Item	Teacher	Student
The 30 Lessons by Gail Gibbons	V	
Lesson Plan	V	
Desert Map Poster	V Teacher can blow the original black and white sample into a poster.	
Info Organizer	V	V
Blank Paper for Drawing on Day 1	V	V
3 Reading Passages	V	V
3 Text Dependent Questions Sets	V	V
Vocabulary	V	V
1 Desert Map Black Line Drawing Set 1 Desert Landscape Black Line Drawing Set 1 Desert Succulent Black Line Drawing Set	V Teacher can blow the original black and white samples into posters and color then.	
1 Desert Map Color Drawing Set 1 Desert Landscape Color Drawing Set 1 Desert Succulent Color Drawing Set	V	* Students may create the poster in groups during the lesson.
Teacher Sample Package: • 1 Info Organizer with Post-it notes • 1 Info Organizer completed • 3 Reading Passages with marks • 3 Text Dependent Questions Sets with answers • Vocab Sheet with answers • 1 Desert Writing Information Poster • 1 Teacher Sample Writing • 2 Student Individual Sample Writings	*	
Sharpie	V	V
Crayon/Markers	V	V
Post-It	*	

V: must, \*: optional

2. Read the lesson plan.
3. Look at the finished sample works included.
4. Photocopy 5 page package (Empty page, Info Organizer, Reading Passage, Text Dependent Questions, and Vocab Sheet) for student. Make an extra set for the teacher to use.
5. The lesson is designed for 5th grade curriculum. It can be used for ELA, Science/Environment/Desert, and Fine Arts using the related and Global technologies.

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# Credits

I draw all the clipart myself for all the products in my store.

Thank you so much and I hope you enjoy this lesson.

