

Arizona Way Out West & Wacky
& Arizona Way Out West & Witty: Library Edition
Sharing Facts and Text

Arizona Way Out West & Wacky and *Arizona Way Out West & Witty: Library Edition* are filled with crazy facts and anecdotes about Arizona. You read about towns, Native Americans, plants, animals and more. Arizona has many unique characteristics and those are all more fun if you share them. Work with a friend or parent to further explore the wonders and wackiness of Arizona. Follow good instructional practices for reading progress by choosing *Before Reading*, *During Reading*, and *Post Reading* activities.

Before Reading

Do you know how to keep desert and dessert as separate spelling words?
Dessert has two s's because you always want seconds!

1. There is a Glossary at the end of the book, but there are other words to learn to build vocabulary. Play with these words before reading. Find them while reading, and review them after reading to build your vocabulary.

Word List:

impact	venomous	spectacular	indigenous
gnomes	reputation	solitary	nocturnal
instill	irritate	vortex	hostage
spine	paralyze	deity	creed
rehabilitate	fervor	mystical	fluoresce

Wacky word use: How many of the words can you fit into one sentence and make a complete thought? How few sentences does it take to use all of the words?

Write each word and its definition on a card to use when you read. Put the word on one side and the definition on the other.

2. Locate a map of the USA and one of Arizona so you have it for a reference. Use the Internet to find facts about the state.

*What are the states that border Arizona?

*How does the size of Arizona compare with other states of the United States?

* How much rain does Arizona get as an average during one year?

*What is the definition of a desert? How does the size of the Arizona desert compare to others?

3. Create a graphic organizer with three columns. Label one for plants, another for animals, and the third for people. As you read, list the important names in the correct column.

During Reading

1. Look for the words on your word list as you read. Deal out the cards that you made onto a surface with the definitions showing. Just like the card draw in Show Low, as you find one of the words in the book show the word side of the card.
2. As you read about an animal, person, or place and their characteristics, write a simile using *like* or *as* to make a comparison.
Examples: The desert is as dry as a bone. The ringtail cat is as quick as a fox.
3. Write the letters for ARIZONA down the edge of a large sheet of paper. As you come to an idea in the book that begins with each letter, create an acrostic poem. Use your creativity and sense of humor to write your ideas.
4. A real ringer! Find a bell or even a ring of keys! How many different names can you find for the ringtail cat?¹ Use the story plus do some research. Every time you see the ringtail cat, a synonym or the name in the story, ring the bell! Find out the classification of the ringtail cat. What are the Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, and Species? These categories are how scientists identify each animal.
5. Who would be imaginary people who live in each of the towns mentioned? Can you make up names that fit each town? Does Mr. Bread live in Rye and is he the town baker? If Eclair is his daughter, who are his other children? What about Tombstone, Phoenix, Mesa, Dragoon Mountains, Cornville, Horsethief Basin, Surprise, and Carefree?
6. You are going on a camping trip. At first just your family of four is going. However, each person asks someone else. Now eight are going camping. Each one of the eight invites someone else and now there are 16 people going camping. Pretty wacky. But, wow, who has enough food? Can you multiply the ingredients in the recipes on pages 40-51 to feed 16 people?

Post Reading

1. Email a friend or relative who lives in a different state. Share some of the unusual facts about Arizona and ask your key pal to respond with interesting facts too. Not in Arizona? What are weird facts and unusual animals in your state?
2. Visit the Phoenix Zoo and the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. Take this book and look for the animals and plants that are described. Not in Arizona? Visit your local zoo and look for relatives of the Arizona animals.
3. Use your graphic organizer and the list of important people. Can you categorize the people? Which ones were important for government? Who are the notorious ones? Who helped the state grow, and who were business leaders? Why does the development of a new area depend on diversity?
4. Use your graphic organizer to categorize the animals. Which are birds, reptiles, and mammals? Which are nocturnal? What would a food chain for the desert look like?
5. Use your graphic organizer and a map of Arizona. Mark each place on the map. Are the places all over the state or do they concentrate in what are now the largest cities of Arizona? What does that tell you about the settling of Arizona?

Get Creative:

Make an Arizona snowman: fill a glass with water and put in two googly eyes and a sliver of carrot. That's wacky!

Arizona connects with four states at one spot. Place four placemats or large square pieces of paper on the floor so they meet at one corner and they form a larger square. Can you put your hands and feet, one each, on the squares? This is what people do when they visit the Four Corners. When you are crouched like that, what desert animals can you imitate?

Turquoise is a rock that is mined in Arizona and made into beautiful jewelry. Silver is mined in Arizona too and made into jewelry. Men and women wear silver and turquoise jewelry. Paint various shapes of dry tubular pasta with turquoise paint. Paint some bowtie pasta with silver paint. String the pasta on a length of string licorice. Glue some silver bowtie pasta at intervals on the tube pasta for decoration. Tie the bracelet on your wrist. Sorry, please don't eat it!

Play the animal game. Sit in a circle with some friends. Each person chooses a desert animal. Think up a physical movement characteristic of that animal.

For a roadrunner, pick your head up quickly, stop, and then put it down. Repeat.

For a rabbit, twitch your nose.

For a tortoise, bob your head slowly.

For a quail, shiver your shoulders quickly to imitate them scurrying.

For a tarantula, wiggle your fingers like a tarantula crawls.

You can think up more: some hiss, some stick out their tongues, some hoot.

Practice until everyone knows everyone's animal characteristic.

Game: The first person makes his own animal sign and then does the sign of someone else. That person then makes his own sign and does the sign of someone else. Continue. You have to pay attention and watch each other to see if it is your turn – when you aren't laughing so hard that you are rolling on the floor!

Resources:

Arizona Place Names is a book by Will Croft Barnes originally published in the 1930s and updated in 1988. It will tell you more about how places in Arizona got their names.

Facts About the United States:

<http://www.50states.com/>

Arizona Census Facts:

http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/maps/arizona_map.html

Weather in Arizona:

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/namerica/usstates/weathermaps/azprecip.htm>

Deserts in the United States:

<http://www.desertusa.com/life.html>

Arizona Quick Facts:

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/usa-states/arizona/>

University of Arizona: Desert Plants:

<http://sdd.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/SDD-Ethnobotany-lessonplan-f2009.pdf>

Arizona Desert and History Museums

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum:

<http://www.desertmuseum.org/>

Desert Botanical Garden:

<http://www.dbg.org/>

Arizona Museum of Natural History:

<http://azmnh.org/>

Arizona History Museum (Tucson):

<http://arizonahistoricalociety.org/museums/tucson.asp>

Arizona State Museum:

<http://www.lib.az.us/museum/>