

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Chihuahuan Desert

A desert is one kind of landform found in the United States and in other parts of the world. Deserts are dry places that get little rain. You can identify a desert by the kinds of plants that grow there.	15 30 40
The Chihuahuan Desert spreads into Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. This desert includes Big Bend National Park in Texas and gets as little as seven inches of rain a year!	50 64 70
Many desert plants, such as cacti, have spines or narrow leaves that slow down water loss. Sharp thorns or spines protect these plants—and the water they store from thirsty, hungry animals. The roots of mesquite shrubs grow deep into the ground to reach water. Creosote bushes produce a poison so other plants don't grow near them and take their water.	83 96 108 121 131
The javelina is the only native wild peccary in the United States. A peccary is a cousin to the pig. Javelinas live in the Chihuahuan Desert. If you visit Big Bend National Park, you may smell the javelinas before you see them! They have a gland on their backs that produces a strong smell. It's called musk and javelinas use it to mark their territories.	143 157 171 186 196
These animals travel in groups of six to twelve. They search for food in the mornings and evenings and avoid the midday heat by resting in the shade. They don't travel far from a watering hole.	209 223 232
A javelina has coarse fur that is black and gray. It has a short mane that stands up on its back when it gets excited. Javelinas are tough animals. They can eat anything, even cactus!	247 261 267

