# A Desert Golf Course: An Oasis for Humans and Wildlife!

Through this lesson students will locate the Sonoran Desert in the southwestern United States and count wildlife that is attracted to a desert golf course.

**Author**
- Patty Sepp

**Grade Level**
- 2

**Duration**
- 1 class period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Geography Standards</th>
<th>Arizona Geography Strand</th>
<th>Other Arizona Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELEMENT TWO: PLACES AND REGIONS</td>
<td>CONCEPT 5 Environment and Society</td>
<td>Math Common Core Standards Operations and Algebraic Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The physical and human characteristics of places.</td>
<td>GRADE 3</td>
<td>2.OA.1. Use addition and subtraction within 100 to solve one- and two-step word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.</td>
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<td>PO 1 Identify ways in which humans depend upon, adapt to, and impact the earth.</td>
<td>Number and Operations in Base Ten</td>
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<td>2.NBT.5. Fluently add and subtract within 100 using strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.</td>
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<td>2.NBT.9. Explain why addition and subtraction strategies work, using place value and the properties of operations. (Explanations may be supported by drawings or objects.)</td>
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## Overview

The Sonoran Desert is changing due to human migration into the southwestern United States. Many new communities are being built that include outdoor activities such as desert golf courses. They provide not only a popular sport for humans but attract the nearby desert wildlife as well.

## Purpose

In this lesson students will locate the Sonoran Desert and count the wildlife that can be found at a Sonoran Desert golf course.

## Materials

- Reading - "A Desert Golf Course--An Oasis for Humans and Wildlife" (may use as an overhead)
- Sonoran Desert Map
- A Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game
- Student Worksheet
- Student Worksheet Answer Key
- Desert Golf Course Student Assessment
- Desert Golf Course Student Assessment Key
- Pencils
- Pictures of desert plants and animals (optional)

## Objectives

The student will be able to:
A Desert Golf Course: An Oasis for Humans and Wildlife!

1. Locate the Sonoran Desert in the southwestern United States.

2. List one reason why the desert landscape is an ideal location for a desert golf course.

3. List one reason why some people believe that humans should not build communities and outdoor activities in the Sonoran Desert.

4. Count wildlife that is attracted to a desert golf course.

Procedures

Review Geography terms:
Oasis – fertile spot in the desert where there is water.
Note: desert golf courses are man-made oases, not natural oases. The desert land is irrigated to get water rather than being located naturally underground.

Desert- a region that receives less than 10” of precipitation per year.

1. Ask students what they know about golf courses. For example, does anyone live near a golf course? Do they know someone who plays golf? Have they played golf or miniature golf? Do they know the rules? Why do golfers use golf carts? (The distance between holes may be far and the cart is a convenience.) What kind of animals would they find on a golf course? What would be the difference between a desert golf course and a forest golf course? (The land and plant/animal habitats differ on each one.)

2. Show the map of the Sonoran Desert.

This is a desert located in the southwestern USA and in the states of Arizona, California, and country of Mexico.

3. Read handout to the class or have students take turns reading: "A Desert Golf Course--An Oasis for Humans and Wildlife!" Discuss the main ideas in the reading.

4. Handout “Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game.” Have students locate the objects listed at the left side. Read directions for the game and have students trace the golf ball to the end. (Note: the students will only trace the golf ball through 5 squares (greens). Remind them that the smallest golf course is a 9-hole course so this map is a little deceiving.)

5. Do the Student Worksheet. Using the “Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game,” locate and count the wildlife and answer the 5 questions at the bottom of the page.

Assessment

Choose one or more of the following assessments:

Complete the Wildlife Chart and questions on the Student Worksheet. For math skills, grade the Wildlife Chart and the addition problem. For geography concepts, grade the 5 questions at the bottom. Mastery will be considered as 80% or higher on the math and geography questions.

Desert Golf Assessment contains 10 questions: Questions 1-5 are assessing geography content. These could be done in small groups with the reading as a reference. Questions 6-10 are
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Assessing math knowledge. Mastery is considered 80% or higher.

Extensions
Color and cut out the Sonoran Desert Golf Course Game to form a 6-sided cube. Fold on the broken lines, cut on the solid lines. Use when studying geometric shapes.

Desert Golf Course Map can be used as an extension activity to learn locations of desert golf courses in the “Valley of the Sun”.

Sources
http://www.aaaclipart.com

Photos of a desert golf course taken by the author thanks to the 500 Club Golf Course in Glendale, AZ

Golf information:
- www.azcentral/sports/golf/valleycourses.html - golf maps
- www.golfarizona.com

Wildlife Information:
- www.azgfd.com - Arizona Game and Fish Dept.