

Desert animals 1

The Camel

What do I eat?

When I'm hungry, I'll eat almost anything

- a leather bridle or a pair of shoes
- a piece of rope
- my master's tent
- thorny cactus
- grass and other desert plants
- hay

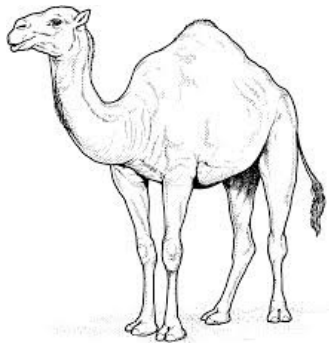
What is my hump for?

I'm a dromedary camel, the one-hump kind that lives on hot deserts in the Middle East.

- My hump weighs 36 kg (80 pounds)
- It is filled with fat which provides fuel for my body

My Mighty Maker gave it to me because He knew I wouldn't always be able to find food in the desert.

When I don't find any food, my body uses fat from the hump, to feed my body. This is my emergency food supply.



Desert animals 2

The Camel

How much water can I drink?

I've been known to drink 100 litres of water in ten minutes.

Where does the water go?

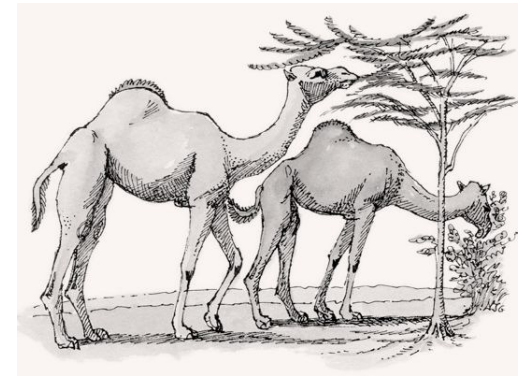
My Master Designer made me in such a fantastic way that in a matter of minutes all the water I've swallowed gets straight into the cells of my body.

The water I swallow first goes into my stomach.

Then my blood vessels carry it to every part of my body.

My stomach is found it empty ten minutes after I've drunk 100 litres of water.

After going all day without a drink I lose a lot of water from my body. I look really skinny. When I find a water hole, I'll drink for about ten minutes and my skinny body starts to change. The water goes to all parts of my body and I don't look skinny anymore.



Desert animals 3

A camel's nose and eyes

My nose

My nose is very special because it helps my body save water. God has made my nose so that when I breathe out, I don't lose much water.

My nose traps that warm, moist air from my lungs and the water stays in the cells around my nose.

This makes my nose feel cool.

I have special muscles in my nostrils that can close when there is a sand storm. The sand doesn't get in, but I can still breathe.

My eyes

My eyelashes come down over my eyes like screens, keeping the sand and sun out but still letting me see clearly.

If a grain of sand slips through and gets in my eye, the Creator took care of that too.

He gave me an inner eyelid that wipes the sand off my eyeball just like a windshield wiper.

My eyebrows are so thick and bushy. I have to hold my head high to peek out from underneath them. I'm glad I have them though. They shade my eyes from the bright sun.

What is special about a camel's nose?

What is special about a camel's eyes?



Desert animals 4

A camel's legs and feet

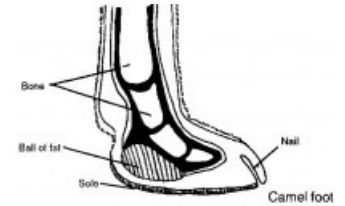
My feet

In the desert I walk on sand. My Creator gave me special sand shoes for feet. My hooves are wide, and they get even wider when I step on them.

Each foot has two long, bony toes with tough, leathery skin between my soles.

My feet are a little like webbed-feet.

They won't let me sink into the soft, drifting sand.



My knees

When I was six months old, special knee pads started to grow on my front legs. They are very tough. My Creator knew I had to have them.

They help me lower my heavy load to the ground. I can fall on my knees without my knees getting hurt.

If I didn't have them, my knees would soon become sore and infected, and I could never lie down. I'd die because I would never be able to rest.

My legs

When I walk I sway from side to side.

Some of my riders get seasick.

I sway from side to side because of the way my legs work.

Both legs on one side move forward at the same time.

What kind of feet does a camel have?

Why are they good for the desert?

What are the camel's knee pads for?

How does a camel walk?

Desert animals 5

How the camel helps desert people

Desert people depend on me for many things.
They need me for:

- Transport
- Milk, which is made into cheese and butter
- My fur

I shed my thick fur coat once a year and that can be woven into cloth.

Make a chart with drawings showing of how desert people make use of the camel.

Camels in the Bible

How did people of the Bible use camels to help them? Write about some Bible people who rode on camels.

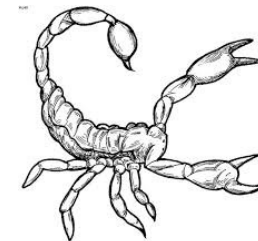


Desert Animals 6

The Desert Scorpion

The desert scorpion spends much time on the sand. This exposes it to harsh sandstorms that could cause damage to its outer skeleton (called an exo-skeleton). But the scorpion is protected by rough coat of armour. The bumps on the armour protect it.

- found in Africa and Middle East
- yellow in colour
- have a very poisonous sting in their tail.
- eat insects, spiders, other scorpions and lizards. They also eat small mammals, such as mice.
- must have water to drink, but they can survive for months without food.
- use their pincers to capture and crush prey.
- have eight legs but not a spider and not an insect



How is the scorpion protected from sand storms?

Where would you find a desert scorpion?

Why is it dangerous?

What do they eat?

How do they catch food?

What happens if it does not get water?