Animal Adaptations
4th Grade - Field Trip Station

Overview
Students are introduced to desert animals and their physical and behavioral adaptations. We will observe animals’ structures that serve different functions and classify common animals according to their characteristics. Use of live animals is key to giving students an up-close look at some of the more elusive animals found in the desert.

Vocabulary
• Adaptation - something a plant or animal has or does to help it survive

NM Science Standards Addressed
2-2-1-1 Explain that different living organisms have distinctive structures and body systems that serve specific functions (e.g., walking, flying, swimming).
2-2-1-2 Know that humans and other living things have senses to help them detect stimuli, and that sensations (e.g., hunger) and stimuli (e.g., changes in the environment) influence the behavior of organisms.
2-2-1-4 Describe the components of and relationships among organisms in a food chain (e.g., plants are the primary source of energy for living systems).
2-2-1-1 Know that in any particular environment some kinds of plants and animals survive well, some survive less well, and others cannot survive at all.
2-2-2-2 Know that a change in physical structure or behavior can improve an organism’s chance of survival (e.g., a chameleon changes color, a turtle pulls its head into its shell, a plant grows toward the light).
2-2-2-3 Describe how some living organisms have developed characteristics from generation to generation to improve chances of survival (e.g., spines on cacti, long beaks on hummingbirds, good eyesight on hawks).
3-1-1-4 Know that both men and women of all races and social backgrounds choose science as a career.

CCSS Language Arts Standards Addressed
SL.4.1.B Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
SL.4.1.C Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

Next Generation Science Standards Addressed
4-LS1-1 Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.