

## One Day in the Desert English Vocabulary

Adaptation- a change or the process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment.

Arroyo- dry creek or stream bed that temporarily fills and flows after sufficient rain.

Basin- an area of land where all precipitation collects and drains to a common area

Camouflage- the use of any combination of materials and coloration that makes an animal hard to see, or disguises it as something else.

Chihuahuan Desert- the largest desert in North America, stretching from south of Albuquerque, NM to north of Mexico City, Mexico, and extending into Arizona and Texas. Climate is marked by summer monsoon rains and cold, dry winters. Common landforms include broad, desert valleys bordered by mountain ranges or mesas, playas, and dune fields of gypsum or quartz sand.

Desert- an arid environment that typically receive less than 10 inches of precipitation each year.

Drought- a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.

Evaporation- the process by which water changes from a liquid to a gas or vapor.

Evapotranspiration- the sum of evaporation from all surfaces plus transpiration from plants.

Playa- the flat-floored bottom of an undrained desert basin that becomes at times a shallow lake.

Precipitation- rain, snow, sleet, or hail — any kind of weather condition where water is falling from the sky.

Raramuri Criollo- a cattle type originating from Copper Canyon in southwest Chihuahua, Mexico that has many adaptations for surviving in a desert environment.

State Changes- shifts or changes in plant types found in a given area.

Transpiration- the movement of water from plants through small openings found on the underside of leaves.