CAN YOU IMAGINE NEVER DRINKING WATER EVER AGAIN? For us humans, that’s not possible, but for kangaroo rats it is. These amazing rodents get all the moisture they need from dry seeds! Many other animals have special adaptations that allow them to live where water is scarce. We call these animals “xerocoles.” Some get moisture from the plants and animals they eat. Others, like scorpions, have special skin or shells that keep them from losing water or help them collect water. Lots of desert dwellers burrow underground or sleep during the heat of the day so they won’t need as much liquid. As the moon rises and the sun sets, watch how the desert comes to life!
The Chihuahuan Desert slices through West Texas and down into Mexico. It rains less here than anywhere else in our state!

Using their horns and hooves to remove cactus spines lets them get to the wet stuff inside.

This cactus stores precious water in its pads.

These tiny birds (at only 5 ½” tall!) make calls that sound like the yipping of a puppy.

Underneath their hard covering (called an “exoskeleton”) lies a special layer of fat that reduces water loss.

Though they don’t fly very often, they can catch rattlesnakes in a flash!

Enormous ears full of blood vessels release heat and help keep these hares cool.

Special scales on their skin help collect water and channel it to the lizards’ mouths.

Though they don’t fly very often, they can catch rattlesnakes in a flash!

Special scales on their skin help collect water and channel it to the lizards’ mouths.

Ocotillo

Hope, this plant isn’t dead! Within days of a good rain, leaves will spring out from its “dead” branches.

To conserve water, ringtails come out when the sun (and the temperature) goes down.

These tiny birds (at only 5 ½” tall!) make calls that sound like the yipping of a puppy.

Underneath their hard covering (called an “exoskeleton”) lies a special layer of fat that reduces water loss.

Special scales on their skin help collect water and channel it to the lizards’ mouths.

Kangaroo rat

Special microscopic tubes remove liquid from their urine (the official word for “pee”) and turn it back into water!

These tiny birds (at only 5 ½” tall!) make calls that sound like the yipping of a puppy.

Underneath their hard covering (called an “exoskeleton”) lies a special layer of fat that reduces water loss.

Special scales on their skin help collect water and channel it to the lizards’ mouths.

Texas horned lizard

Special scales on their skin help collect water and channel it to the lizards’ mouths.
The Chihuahuan Desert slices through West Texas and down into Mexico. It rains less here than anywhere else in our state!

Using their horns and hooves to remove cactus spines lets them get to the wet stuff inside.

This cactus stores precious water in its pads.

Desert coyotes have paler coats than their relatives in cooler places. The lighter color keeps them from soaking in as much heat from the sun.

Special microscopic tubes remove liquid from their urine (the official word for “pee”) and turn it back into water.

Though they don’t fly very often, they can catch rattlesnakes in a flash!

Underneath their hard covering (called an “exoskeleton”) lies a special layer of fat that reduces water loss.

Enormous ears full of blood vessels release heat and help keep these hares cool.

Special scales on their skins help collect water and channel it to the lizard’s mouth.

Nopé, this plant isn’t dead! Within days of a good rain, leaves will spring out from its “dead” branches.

To conserve water, ringtails come out when the sun (and the temperature!) goes down.

These tiny birds (at only 5 ½” tall!) make calls that sound like the yipping of a puppy.

Ears as a feature of their keen hearing.

Underneath their hard covering (called an “exoskeleton”) lies a special layer of fat that reduces water loss.

Enormous ears full of blood vessels release heat and help keep these hares cool.

Special scales on their skins help collect water and channel it to the lizard’s mouth.
Somewhere in the Chihuahuan Desert in West Texas, cactus flowers decorate the desert with many beautiful colors. Decorate your own desert by coloring the flowers on these cacti (plural for “cactus”) and by adding more flowers. Don’t forget to add color to the other desert dwellers in this picture.

Each spring, cactus flowers decorate the Chihuahuan Desert in West Texas with many beautiful colors. Decorate your own desert by coloring the flowers on these cacti (plural for “cactus”) and by adding more flowers. Don’t forget to add color to the other desert dwellers in this picture.

Need a place to hunt?

Scope these public hunting opportunities:

**Annual Public Hunting Permit**
- Over 1.2 million acres to hunt deer, turkey, quail, waterfowl, dove and much more
- Nearly 140 special dove hunting areas
- Youth under 17 free with permitted adult
- Purchase your $48 Annual Public Hunting Permit wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold

**Special Drawn Hunt Permit**
- Apply now for a limited number of high-quality supervised hunts
- Hunt alligator, pronghorn, deer (archery or gun), exotics, spring turkey and more
- $3 to $10 per person application fee
- Permit fee (if drawn) $80 to $130
- Youth under 17 apply free with adult
- To receive the “Applications for Drawing on Public Hunting Lands” booklet, call (800) 792-1112, opt. 5

To explore all the great hunting opportunities in Texas, please visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publichunts