



Children's Book Network

Putting children and books on the same page

LOCKDOWN LEARNING PROGRAMME WEEK 15 DESERTS – MORE THAN JUST HEAT AND SAND



Name: _____



BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

- This is your booklet to keep forever.
- Write your name on it, colour in the headings and the pictures, and have fun!
- Share what you have learnt with your friends and family.

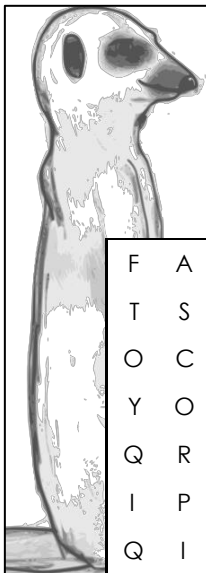


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DESERT ANIMAL WORD SEARCH



Desert Animals Word Search

F	A	X	W	Q	A	T	Z	T	R	Q	E	K	M	V	T	H
T	S	Q	W	G	R	O	A	D	R	U	N	N	E	R	L	Z
O	C	C	P	J	Z	G	J	O	I	K	Z	G	R	M	M	O
Y	O	H	T	P	R	F	O	X	P	A	P	L	Y	B	G	G
Q	R	U	I	O	H	L	Y	F	I	N	E	S	P	P	K	R
I	P	C	H	R	H	S	K	B	T	G	Z	T	E	Y	Z	O
Q	I	K	P	O	P	R	E	R	N	A	J	O	J	Q	R	U
Y	O	W	Z	H	Y	E	N	A	C	R	L	R	Z	W	L	N
D	N	A	S	G	S	A	I	R	W	O	L	T	Y	O	L	D
E	V	L	L	V	A	F	F	M	X	O	U	O	G	Q	I	S
T	W	L	N	U	J	E	Z	D	W	R	F	I	Z	X	Z	Q
T	B	A	D	A	J	Y	I	A	L	A	G	S	U	G	A	U
L	X	R	N	S	N	U	B	D	P	T	L	E	W	V	R	I
F	W	G	E	R	B	I	L	X	Q	R	V	L	K	H	D	R
I	N	Q	B	G	M	Y	Q	V	H	O	S	E	T	X	C	R
I	E	W	U	Y	W	Q	X	G	S	I	G	C	Z	V	B	E
C	D	I	N	G	O	M	Y	N	C	O	Y	O	T	E	R	L
K	O	V	H	N	R	K	K	R	C	V	S	D	M	L	M	H
D	V	L	E	H	P	L	Z	M	E	E	R	K	A	T	M	Z
F	S	N	A	K	E	P	J	L	P	D	U	Z	O	T	J	Z
X	L	H	U	O	Z	W	E	P	A	Q	J	E	G	E	I	B
K	H	F	J	A	C	K	R	A	B	B	I	T	P	J	H	F



FOX

LIZARD

SNAKE

SCORPION

ROADRUNNER

TORTOISE

GERBIL

CHUCKWALLA

COYOTE

GROUND SQUIRREL

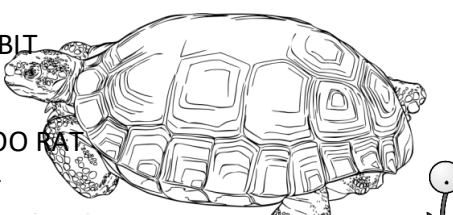
HYENA

JACK RABBIT

DINGO

KANGAROO RAT

MEERKAT





DESERTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has many different kinds of places in it. We have grasslands and forests, coastlines and wetlands, mountains and deserts. We are very lucky in South Africa to have so many different and beautiful places.

We call each of these different areas **biomes**.



DEFINITION

A **biome** is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate (that's the weather patterns) and certain types of living things.

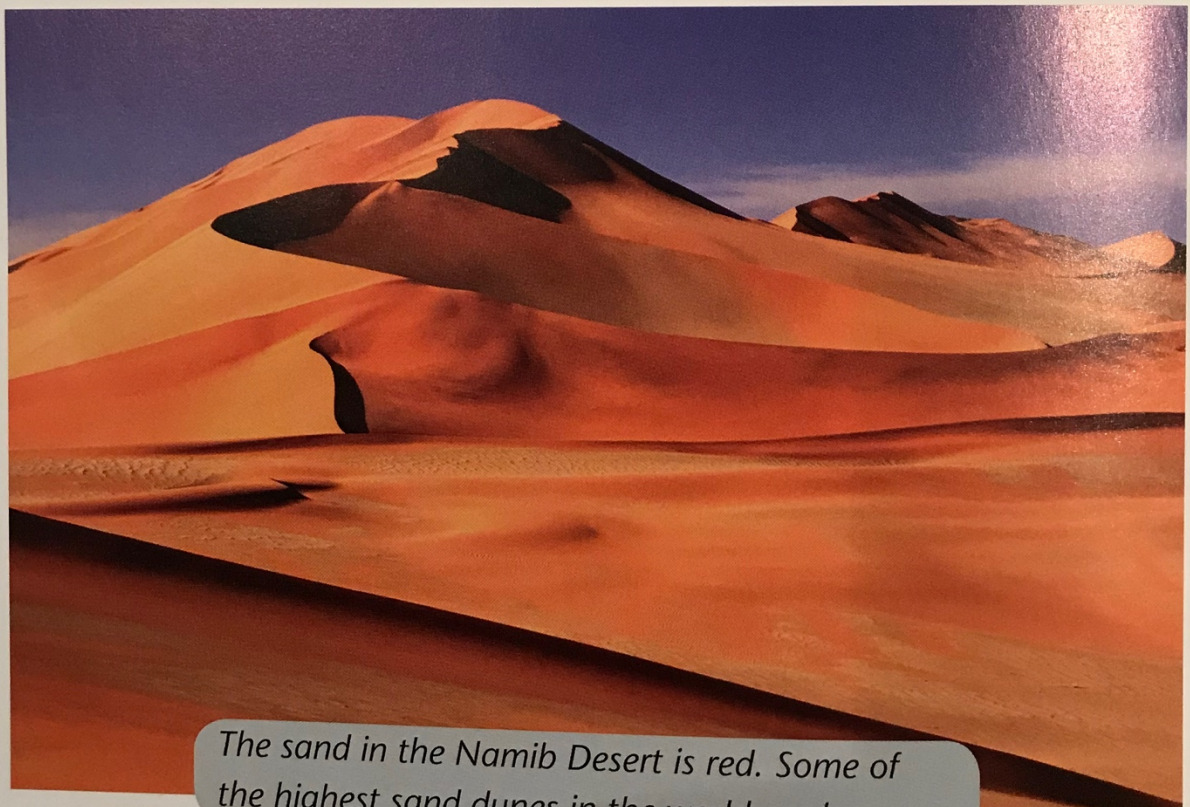
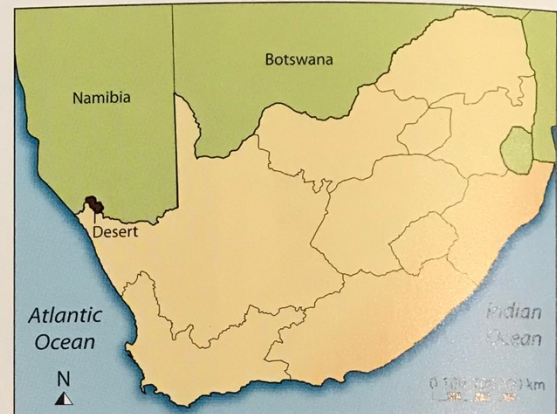
The plants and animals of each biome have things that help them to survive in their particular biome. For example, the **gemsbok** – read about how they survive in the desert further on.



**THE DESERT BIOME IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The desert

There are not many people living in the desert in the north-western part of South Africa. Very little rain falls there and the land is dry and bare. Water is a very precious resource.



The sand in the Namib Desert is red. Some of the highest sand dunes in the world are here.



Plants that can survive in the desert have special ways to cope with the lack of rain. Some, like the welwitschia (below), grow where there is underground water. Their roots grow very deep. Others, like the stone plant (bottom left), store their own water.



This sand-diving lizard dances on the sand to cool down.



All insects and animals that live in the desert have found special ways of surviving. When there is fog in the desert, this fog-trapping beetle makes a trench in the sand. The trench absorbs water from the fog, which the beetle drinks.





ANIMALS IN THE DESERT

Animals that live in the region include:

brown hyenas, lions, meerkats, giraffe, warthogs, jackals and several species of antelope (including the eland, gemsbok, springbok, hartebeest, steenbok, kudu, and duiker), and many species of bird and reptiles.



Brown hyena

Meerkat

Jackal

Warthog

A Gemsbok is a particular type of antelope. They eat in the early morning and late afternoon and sometimes on moonlit nights when there is more moisture in the plants .

They eat grasses and browse from thorny shrubs and bushes. They will dig up succulent roots, bulbs and tubers and eat wild melons for their water content. Because these plants have found ways to store water in the dry desert, it allows the Gemsbok to get the water they need from what they eat allowing them to survive for days or even weeks without drinking water. They will sometimes eat soil for the mineral content.



Gemsbok eating melons

Tubers

Desert melons



COLOUR IN

Maths and Colours

1. Solve these quick Maths sums to see what picture you can find!
2. Your answer to the sum will tell you what colour to use to colour in each piece of the puzzle. For example: $2+4=6$, so I colour that piece in light blue.

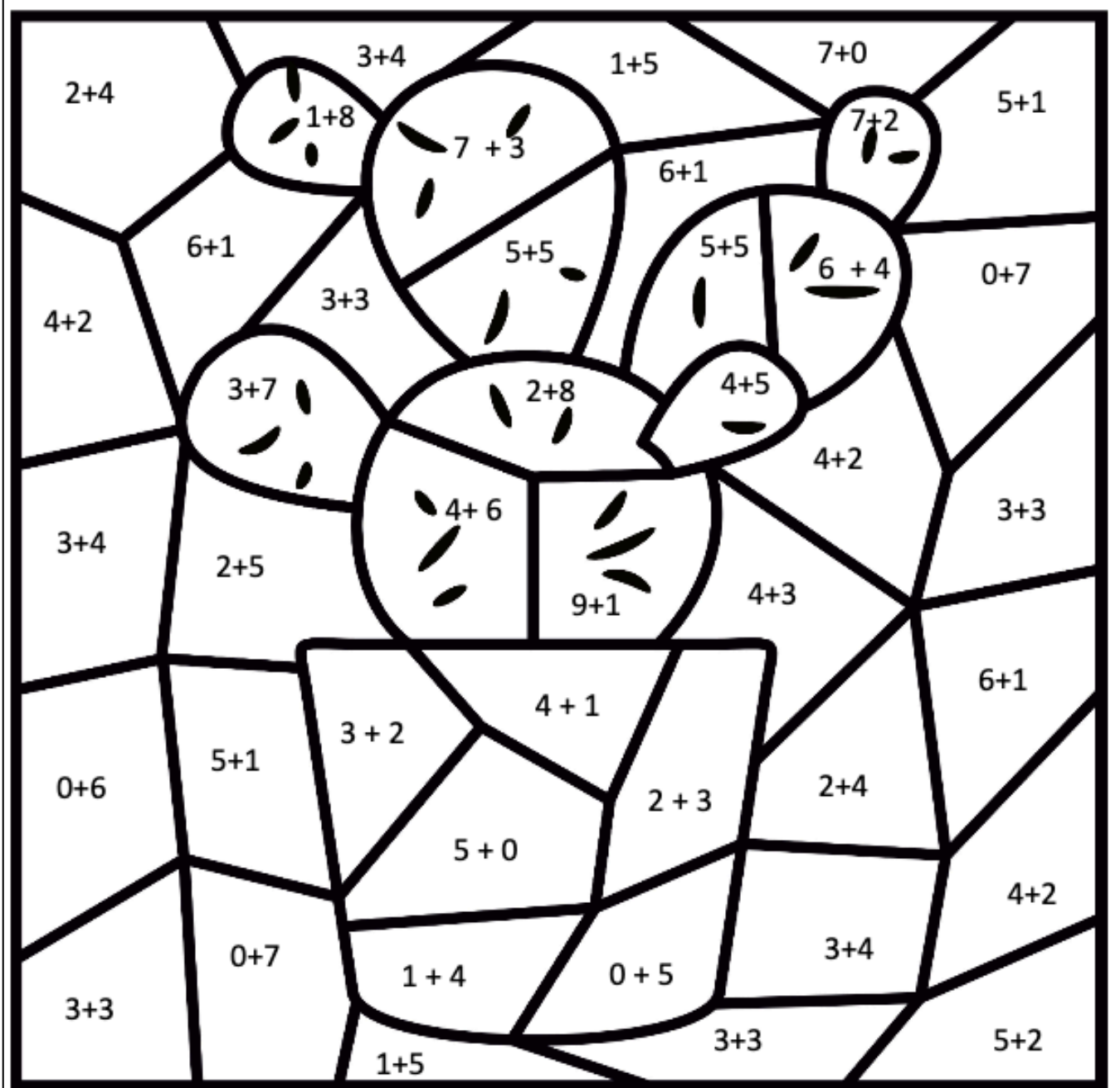
5 - YELLOW

6 - LIGHT BLUE

7 - DARK BLUE

9 - RED

10 - GREEN





SPELLING

Desert or Dessert?



DESERT VS DESSERT

DESERT

Definition

Desert is a noun that means a large, dry area with few plants or uncultivated area.

Examples

- Sahara desert is located in Africa.
- Deserts lack vegetations and have high temperatures.
- This area of the country is mostly desert.
- Nobody likes to live in the desert.



DESSERT

Definition

Dessert is a noun that means the sweet dish you sometimes eat after a meal, like fruit, ice cream, or cake.

Examples

- The five-course meal included desserts as well.
- Ice-cream is my favorite dessert.
- I was tempted by the dessert menu.
- After dinner, we had ice cream for dessert.



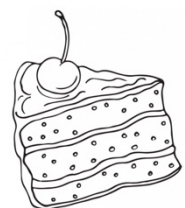
 Englishstudyonline.org

An Easy Way To Remember Which Spelling To Use:

After you have **one** dessert, you'll want a **second**!
Remember, dessert has **two** s's

OR

The two s's in dessert stand for **sweet stuff**





READ

The Tortoise's Song - English

Long, long ago, a terrible drought dried up all the streams, rivers, wells and springs. It turned the whole world into a dusty desert. The termites gobbled up every leaf and blade of grass, and the animals were forced to chew on dry twigs just to stay alive.

Because life was so hard, the animals met to talk about the problem. They talked and talked, and talked and talked until eventually they all agreed that the way to find water, was to dig a deep well. Only Hare refused to take part.

"No! Your plan won't work," he said, "so I won't waste my time digging."

"Then we won't share our water with you!" said the other animals.

Hare just laughed, but the other animals were sure that their plan would work.

So, that same day, the animals went down to the valley, where the ground was at its lowest. Lion began digging a hole. Then, one after the other, the animals entered the hole to dig – all except Hare and Tortoise.



Hare just sat around laughing. He didn't want to dig, and nobody forced him to. But it was different for Tortoise – when she crept along to take her turn, the others wouldn't let her dig.

"No, Tortoise," they said. "You're just too slow. You'll waste too much time!"

Months passed. There had been lots and lots of digging and at last the hole was deep ... but there was still no sign of water.

"Ha! Ha! Ha! I told you!" laughed Hare. "There's no water down there!"

"He's right," said the warthog to the zebra. "Let's just give up!"

"No, let's carry on. We'll find water," said Tortoise. "You wish!" laughed Hare.

Each day, Tortoise watched quietly as the other animals took turns to dig. More time passed and more digging was done, but still there was no sign of water.



One baking hot day, when all the animals lay exhausted in the hot sun near the deep, dry hole, Tortoise again asked if she could have a turn to dig. None of the other animals answered her. Some of them were too tired and miserable to care. Most of them just lay sweating and moaning in their sleep.



Tortoise walked slowly over to the hole and started to dig. The soil was as hard as rock, but she kept on scratching away, flinging the dry soil behind her. “I’m scratching and scratching to find water,” she said as she dug. “It’s not easy, but it will be worth it!”

Soon she made up a little song to help herself keep digging. Tortoise sang it over and over again:

“I am scratching and scratching and scratching for water, I’ll dig, dig, dig and I will find it.”

After some time, Hare came strolling by. When he heard these words drifting out of the hole, he burst out laughing. This woke up the other animals. With an angry roar, Lion leapt into the hole, picked up Tortoise and flung her onto the mound of soil next to the hole.



“OW!” she cried, as she landed with a thump. “It’s not fair! I also want to dig!”

“Don’t waste our time! Play on the soil next to the hole,” said Lion so sharply that it made Tortoise cry.

Some of the other animals felt sorry for the brave little tortoise.

“Give her a chance!” pleaded Bushbuck.

“Yes,” said Giraffe, “let her try!”

Without a word, Lion climbed out of the hole and made way for Tortoise. Slowly, she wiped away her tears and climbed back down into the hole. Again, she started digging and singing:

“I am scratching and scratching and scratching for water, I’ll dig, dig, dig and I will find it.”

Hare and Monkey rolled about laughing.

Lion threw back his mane and smiled. “I told you it’s a waste of time!” he said.

Rhino stepped forward to peer inside the hole ... when suddenly, THWACK! a lump of wet soil flew out of the hole and hit his face!

“Be careful of my eyes!” he shouted covering his face, but the other animals saw that the soil was wet.

“Water!” they shouted. “Tortoise has found water!”



The animals rushed forward, trying to reach the well where water was rising up. The big animals shoved their smaller friends out of the way, but mighty Elephant was bigger than all the others. In a few huge slurps, he drank all the water and started to dig for more. The other animals could only moan and cry – or squeeze the wet soil for tiny drops of water.



Elephant dug hard and threw out clump after clump of soil. Soon, though, the animals noticed that with each throw, the soil was getting drier, until eventually the soil was completely dry.

The animals watched sadly. Slowly, one by one they turned towards Tortoise who sat a little way away.

“Elephant!” shouted Rhino. “Get out!”

“Tortoise! Tortoise!” the animals shouted loudly. “Please help us!”

So Tortoise slowly climbed back down into the hole where she began to dig and sing her song again:

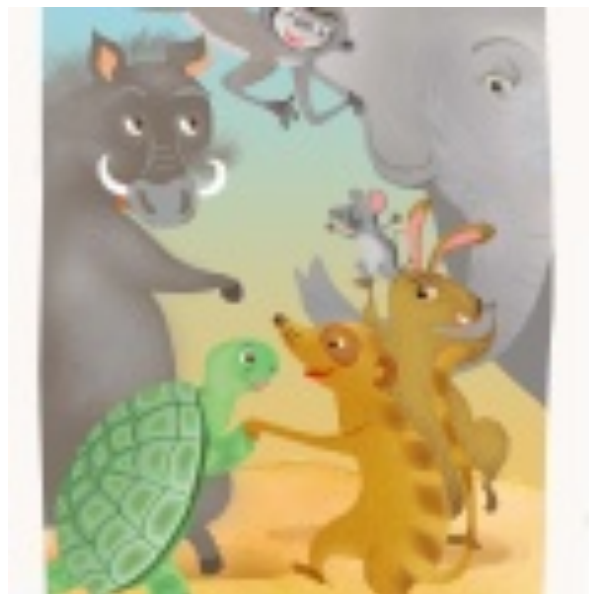
“I am scratching and scratching and scratching for water, I’ll dig, dig, dig and I will find it.”

This time, the others, joined in too:

“She’s scratching and scratching and scratching for water...”

It wasn’t long before Tortoise started throwing wet soil out of the hole. Then she stopped scratching the ground and moved away. The clean, cold water gurgled as it rose up to fill the well.

The animals sang and danced, and drank as much water as they wanted. Even Hare joined in – and, because everyone was so happy, they forgot to chase him away. Tortoise had saved them all!





FUNDA

Ingoma yofudo – isiXhosa

Kudala-dala, imbalela egqugqisayo yomisa yonke imijelo yamanzi, imilambo, amaqula nemithombo. Loo mbalela yajika ilizwe eli lonke layintlango eqhumayo. Iintubi zanqwamza onke amagqabi emithana kwakunye nengca, zaza izilwanyana zanyanzeleka ukuba zihlafune amagqabi omileyo ukuba nje zihlale ziphilile.

Kuba ubomi babunzima, kwafuneka ukuba izilwanyana zidibane ukuze zithethe ngale ngxaki izehleleyo. Zathetha ke, zixoxa, zancwina, zandumzela, zenjenjeyaa, zada ekugqibeleni zavumelana ngokuba indlela yokufumana amanzi, yayikukuba zembe iqula elinzulu. NguMvundla yedwa ke owala ukuthatha inxaxheba kuloo msebenzi.

“Hayi! Icebo lenu alisayi kusebenza konke,” watsho uMvundla, “ngoko ke andisayi kuzimoshela xesha mna, ndisemba.”

“Xa kunjalo ke nathi asizukwabelana nawe ngamanzi wethu!” zatsho ezinye izilwanyana.

UMvundla wavele nje wahleka, kodwa ezinye izilwanyana zona zaziqinisekile ukuba icebo lazo laliza kusebenza.

Kwangalo mini, izilwanyana zehla zaya entlanjeni, apho umhlaba wawusezantsi kakhulu khona. UNgonyama waqalisa ukwemba umngxuma. Kwaza ke, esinye emva kwesinye, izilwanyana zangena emngxunyeni ukuya kwemba – zonke nje ngaphandle koMvundla noFudwazana.

UMvundla wahlala kufuphi, ezihleka izilwanyana. Zange afune ukwemba kwaye akuzange kubekho mntu umnyanzelayo. Kodwa kwakohlukile kuFudwazana – wayesithi xa erhubuluza esiya kwemba, ezinye izilwanyana zingamvumeli ukuba embe.

“Hayi, Fudwazana,” zatsho. “Ucotha kakhulu. Uza kusichithela ixesha elininzi!”

Zanqengqeleka iinyanga. Kwakukudala kakhulu zisemba kwaza ekugqibeleni umngxuma wanzulu kakhulu ... kodwa kwabe kungekho nethontsi eli lamanzi.

“Ha! Ha! Ha! Bendinixelele!” wahleka waqikileka uMvundla. “Akukho manzi phaya ezantsi!”

“Unyanisile,” yatsho inxagu kwiqwarhashe. “Masivele sincame!”





“Hayi, masiqhube. Siza kuwafumana amanzi,” watsho uFudwazana.

“Ngumnqweno nje lowo!” wahleka uMvundla.

Ngosuku ngalunye, uFudwazana wayebukela ezolile xa ezinye izilwanyana zibolekisana ngokwemba. Lahamba ixesha, kwembiwa ngakumbi, kodwa akwabikho phawu lwamanzi.

Ngolunye usuku olwalunqanqaza ukutshisa oku, xa zonke izilwanyana zazilele, zidinwe lelo langa litshisayo, kufutshane nomgxuma onzulu, owomileyo, uFudwazana wabuza kwakhona ukuba akangembi na naye. Asikho nasinye isilwanyana esamphendulayo. Ezinye zazidinwe kakhulu, zikhathazekile kwaye zingakhathalele kuphendula loo ntshwaqane wayeyithetha. Uninzi lwazo zazizilelele nje zibilile, zimbombozela kobo buthongo bazo.

UFudwazana wacothoza waya emngxunyeni waza waqalisa ukwemba. Umhlaba wawuqine okwelitye, kodwa waqhubeka ephanda-phanda, ephosa umhlaba owomileyo ngasemva. “Ndiyaphanda, ndiyaphanda ukuze ndifumane amanzi,” wadanduluka ecula njalo lo gama wayesemba. “Akululanga, kodwa kuza kulunga!”

Ngokukhawuleza waqamba ingonyana ukuzikhuthaza ukuba aqhubeke embe. UFudwazana wayicula eyiphinda-phinda:

“Ndiyaphanda ndiyaphanda Ndiphandela amanzi, Ndiza kwemba, ndembe, ndembe Ndaye ndiza kuwafumana la manzi.”

Emva kwexesha, uMvundla weza ethe chu. Wathi akuva la mazwi ephuma emngxunyeni, watsho esingakanani sona isiqhazolo senthini. Oku kwavusa nezinye izilwanyana. Ngomgqumo omkhulu womsindo, uNgonyama watsibela emngxunyeni, hlasi uFudwazana wamphosa kwinqumba yomhlaba okufutshane nomngxuma.

“Yho-o-o!” wakhala lo gama esiya kuthi bhaxa phaya phantsi. “Asibobulungisa obu! Nam ndiyafuna ukwemba!”

“Musa ukumosha ixesha lethu apha! Dlala phaya emhlabeni okufuphi nomngxuma,” watsho uNgonyama kabukhali, nto leyo yenza watsho walila uFudwazana.

Ezinye izilwanyana zamsizela uFudwazana okhaliphileyo nomncinci.

“Mnike ithuba naye!” wacenga njalo uMpunzi. “Ewe,” watsho uNdlulamthi, “myeke akhe azame!”





Engenzanga nelimdaka, uNgonyama waphuma emngxunyeni wadedela uFudwazana. Ngokucutha, wazisula iinyembezi zakhe waza watsibela emngxunyeni kwakhona. Kwakhona, waqalisa wemba, ecula:

“Ndiyaphanda ndiyaphanda Ndiphandela amanzi, Ndiza kwemba, ndembe, ndembe Ndaye ndiza kuwafumana la manzi.”

UMvundla noNkawu baqikaqikeka behleka.

UNgonyama wazinzisa isingci sakhe esaye sele sime nkqo, waza wancuma. “Bendinixelele ukuba yinkcitha xesha nje le!” watsho.

UMkhombe wasondela ngaphambilana ukuze akrobe emngxunyeni ... ngequbuliso, TSHWAAA! udaka olumanzi lwabhabha ukuphuma emngxunyeni lwambetha ebusweni!

“Lumka, uza kuphanyaza amehlo am!” wakhwaza esogquma ubuso bakhe, kodwa ezinye izilwanyana zaqaphela ukuba umhlaba umanzi.



“Amanzi!” zakhwaza zonke. “UFudwazana uwafumene amanzi!”

Izilwanyana zagilana, zishiyisana, iseso sizama ukuya kufika kuqala equleni apho amanzi ayesonyuka etsaza khona. Izilwanyana ezikhulu zatyhiliza abahlobo bazo abancinane ukuba basuke endleleni, kodwa uNdlovu omkhulukazi wayemkhulu ngaphezu kwazo zonke izilwanyana. Wathatha amathamo amakhulu nje ambalwa, wawasela onke loo manzi waza waqalisa, wemba amanye. Ezinye izilwanyana zanelwa nje kukukhalaza zindumzela – okanye ziqhwaye umhlaba lowo umanzi ukuze zifumane amaqabazana nje ambalwa amanzi.

UNdlovu wemba ngokukhuthala, ekhupha kwaye ephosa iimbumba ngeembumba zodaka lomhlaba lowo. Kwahle kwacaca ukuba ngokuya ekhupha ezo mbumba zodaka, loo mhlaba wawuya usoma ngokoma, wada ekugqibeleni woma nko.

Izilwanyana zawubukela loo mbono kalusizi. Ngokucuthayo, zaguqukela kuFudwazana owayezihlelele buqelela kuzo.

“Ndlovu!” wakhwaza uMkhombe. “Phuma apho!”

“Fudwazana! Fudwazana!” izilwanyana zakhwazela phezulu. “Yiza wethu, sincele!”

Waza uFudwazana wacuthoza ukubuyela apho emngxunyeni, waza waqalisa ukwemba ecula ingoma yakhe kwakhona:

“Ndiyaphanda ndiyaphanda Ndiphandela amanzi, Ndiza kwemba, ndembe, ndembe Ndaye ndiza kuwafumana la manzi.”

Kweli ityeli nezinye izilwanyana zangenelela:



“Uyaphanda, uyaphanda uphandela amanzi ...”

Akuzange kube kudala phambi kokuba uFudwazana aqalise ukuphosela ngaphandle udaka olumanzi. Waza wanqumama ekuqhwayeni umhlaba, wabhekela kude. Amanzi acocekileyo nabandayo abhobhoza enyuka, ezalisa iqula.

Izilwanyana zacula zaxhentsa, zaza zasela amanzi kangangoko zazifuna. NoMvundla nawo wangenelela – kwaye, kuba zonke izilwanyana zazonwabile, zalibaba nokumgxotha. UFudwazana wayebasindise bonke!





THE TORTOISE'S SONG

Questions to answer

Read **The Tortoise's Song** and then answer these questions. Remember to answer in full sentences:

1. Why was there no water for the animals in the streams, rivers, wells and springs?

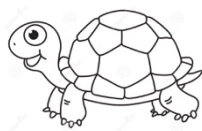
2. Why did the Hare not join in digging for water?

3. Why was Tortoise not allowed to help dig for water?

4. Why did Tortoise cry in the story?

5. Find one word in the story that represents a **sound**.

6. Why do **you** think that Tortoise's song helped her find the water?





COLOUR IN Happy Meerkats

