The Green Room News

THE DESERT

Where in the world are deserts?
Why does very little rain fall in the desert?
What plants and animals live in the desert?
How have plants and animals adapted to life in the desert?
How do people live in the desert?

These are some of the questions that we have explored in our study of The Desert.

Theme Highlights

The Green Room began the Desert Theme by changing the dramatic play area into an Adobe House. We surrounded it with paint and sand textured paper and painted a large saguaro cactus at the entrance. We continued to create different desert animals, such as scorpions, to display around the house as we studied them. On the other side of the desert (our room), we created an oasis and a desert town in the Block Center.

We completed many creative arts projects such as making designs with colored sand, folding tissue paper to make flowers, painting desert sunsets with frozen paint; using cut paper to decorate camels; and building adobe houses from bricks we made from red clay.

Our math activities included measuring with standard (ruler) and non-standard (small cube blocks) tools; the Guessing Jar; Desert Bingo; recording the number of days of school past 100; the Cactus Number Challenge (recognizing and ordering numerals, and skip counting); and drawing and cutting out basic shapes.

Language-related activities included recording Desert Stories about our drawings; listening to and discussing many fiction and non-fiction books about the desert; and being challenged by the Desert Memory Tray Game (take away an item from the tray and guess which one is missing).
More Theme Highlights

Working together to make some classroom desert dioramas sparked lots of discussion about desert habitats. Other science projects we tried were making our own playdough; using a volcano model, vinegar and baking soda to discover how a volcano works; observing the tadpole that Clark Henne donated from his Sharing Bag; and learning how to take care of the new algae-eating fish in our fish tank.

Daily Work

This month, we began a new routine called Daily Work. Each day, the children are responsible for independently completing a simple task, putting their name on it, delivering it to their group’s Daily Work tray, and putting a check by their name on the checklist. Some examples of daily work are copying numerals 1-10 and completing an ABAB pattern.
Birthday Celebrations and Special Visitors

This month we celebrated birthdays for Elisabeth, Savanna, Woojin and Nera.

We welcomed back several Children’s School alumni who shared their talents with us: Sage Grodin demonstrated some gymnastics and helped with a gym class; Garrett and Harrison Grodin led some music with guitar and piano; Nina Cranor joined us for singing time with her electric guitar; Ryan Handron read a story about a violin while his brother David played the violin; and Juliette Guillou read a book to the group during French class.
We also had several special visitors in the Green Room this month. Our thanks to: Alex (a class intern) and her partner Elias for demonstrating ballroom dancing; Corrine Guillou (Felix) for our Friday morning French lessons; and Miss Debbie from the Carnegie Library for sharing stories and songs about desert animals.

Activity Time

Take a look at some of our favorite activities that we have enjoyed during the month of March!