

Progress Monitoring Probe 18

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

In a landscape of rugged mountains and stark plains grows a plant common in Mexico but rare in the United States. The plant is the organ pipe cactus. It is named for its clusters of tall fingers that resemble the pipes of an organ. It grows on slopes that face south, the better to catch the sun's rays. In late spring and early summer, its pale purple and white blooms open at night. This cactus is one of more than twenty species found in the desert wilderness of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona.	11
The animals and plants of the park have adapted themselves to extreme temperatures and little rainfall. Nature has equipped them with ways to conserve moisture, since there is little water to drink. Temperatures on summer days can be scorching. Nights are much cooler than the days, during all seasons.	23
Animals are less visible than the plants in the park, especially during the day. On an afternoon hike, you're not likely to see the kangaroo rats, elf owls, jackrabbits, or snakes. These creatures rest in cool, shady spots during the day. At nightfall, they emerge from their hiding places. If you are lucky, you might see bighorn sheep, birds, lizards, and coyotes in the early morning or late afternoon.	37
The park's mountains were formed from ancient volcanoes. Its basins were formed from flowing water. Perhaps the most unexpected natural feature in the park is the presence of springs. A variety of plants grow near these rare sources of water.	50
Wildlife from the surrounding desert are drawn to the springs. The largest spring in the park can be reached from a hiking trail.	63
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Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Continued)

The park can fool the casual gazer. It may seem lifeless and unwelcoming at first. But to the careful observer, it reveals an abundance of life and amazing scenery under the clear desert sky.	288
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Total words: _____ — errors: _____ = words correct: _____

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