

RESEARCHING LIFE TO IMPROVE LIFE

FOCAL
SPECIES &
BEYOND

DIY TRADING CARDS



1. PRINT

Load paper into printer and print all the pages single-sided.



2. FOLD

Fold along the solid center line to create two sided card.



3. GLUE

Adhere the back of cards with a glue stick or double sided tape.



4. CUT

Cut along dotted lines to separate each trading card.



DESERT WOODRAT

SPECIES	<i>Neotoma lepida</i>
WEIGHT	122-350 g (4.3-12.3 oz)
LENGTH	28-39 cm (11-15.4 in)
LIFESPAN	3 YEARS AVERAGE



CREOSOTE BUSH

SPECIES	<i>Larrea tridentata</i>
HEIGHT	Up to 3.7 m (12 ft)
WIDTH	1-1.5 m (3-5 ft)
DESCRIPTION	Evergreen shrub



AXOLOTL

SCIENTIFIC NAME	<i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i>
WEIGHT	2-8 oz
LENGTH	15-45 cm (6-18 in)
LIFESPAN	10-15 YEARS

Illustration & design - Jessica de Soria

U.S. National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences

NSF FACT NSF-funded researchers identified the genetic transformations that allowed Desert woodrats in the Mojave to switch from diets of juniper to the toxic creosote bush, which became more prevalent in their habitat at the end of the Ice Age.

- Are found in the Sonoran, Mojave, and Great Basin Deserts of the western United States and northern Mexico.
- Regularly ingest toxins that naturally occur in their plant-based diet.
- Nest in the crevices of rocky areas and are solitary.

DID YOU KNOW THAT DESERT WOODRATS...?

Neotoma lepida

DESERT WOODRAT

Illustration & design - Jessica de Soria

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NSF FACT Researchers examining data from phenocams at NSF National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) sites found creosote bush branches can move in predictable, rhythmic ways, possibly related to changes in humidity.

- Is native to the deserts of southwestern United States and Mexico.
- Produces small yellow blooms following rains.
- Has leaves containing chemicals, whose odor is often referred to as the "smell of rain," that make the plant unpalatable to animals.
- Is traditionally used in many Native American cultures for its medicinal properties.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CREOSOTE BUSH...?

Larrea tridentata

CREOSOTE BUSH

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NSF FACT Researchers supported by NSF have studied axolotls to understand the mechanical and neural signaling involved in the regeneration of limbs, spines, and some organs.

- Were once widespread in the Mexican Central Valley but now exist only at three sites in Mexico City.
- Are a paedomorphic salamander so they do not undergo complete metamorphosis and live permanently in water.
- Have a name that comes from the Nahuatl language of the Aztecs meaning "water dog."
- Are dark-colored but can shift hue to camouflage.

DID YOU KNOW THAT AXOLOTL...?

Ambystoma mexicanum

AXOLOTL