

Sidewinder



by Eloise Macgregor

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Moving Sideways


The sun is beating down on the desert.

A sidewinder moves quickly across the hot sand.

Over and over, it curls its body into an S shape and then pushes off the ground.

It glides sideways across the desert looking for shade.



A photograph of a sidewinder rattlesnake on a sandy beach. The snake is coiled in an S-shape, with its head facing the bottom left. It has a light-colored body with dark, wavy bands. To the left of the snake is a small, green, flat-topped cactus with spines. The background is a vast expanse of sand with some faint tracks.

A sidewinder
is a kind of
rattlesnake. Some
people call it a
sidewinder
rattlesnake.

A Desert Home

Sidewinders live in the hottest deserts in North America and Mexico.


The temperature in these places can reach 120°F (49°C).

Moving sideways helps the sidewinder spend less time touching the hot, sandy ground.

The soft sand is hard to move over.

The snake's sideways movement gives it a better grip as it glides across the sand.



A sidewinder snake is shown slithering across a vast expanse of hot, orange-brown sand. The snake's body is a light tan color with dark brown spots and bands. It is coiled in a loose 'S' shape, with its head raised and facing towards the right. In the upper left corner, a green, spiky cactus is visible. A text box is overlaid on the cactus, explaining the snake's movement.

As the
sidewinder moves
over hot sand, parts of
its body are raised up off
the ground. These body
parts never touch
the sand.

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Learn More Online

To learn more about sidewinders, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/DesertAnimals

About the Author

Eloise Macgregor lives in Cornwall, England. She writes nonfiction books for children, mostly about wildlife. She keeps pet chickens, and her favorite wild animals are sloths.

Answers for page 22



1) A grasshopper



2) A lizard



3) A toad



4) A scorpion

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**DESERT
ANIMALS**
Searchin'
for Shade

Sidewinder

A snake glides sideways across the hot desert sand. As it moves, it makes an S shape with its body. Then the sidewinder buries itself under the sand. There, with only its head poking out, it waits for prey to pass by. Welcome to life in the desert!

Look inside to learn all about this intriguing desert dweller, including where the sidewinder lives, what it eats, and how it survives in its hot, dry home.

Bark Scorpion

Bobcat

Camel

Collared Lizard

Roadrunner

Sidewinder

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