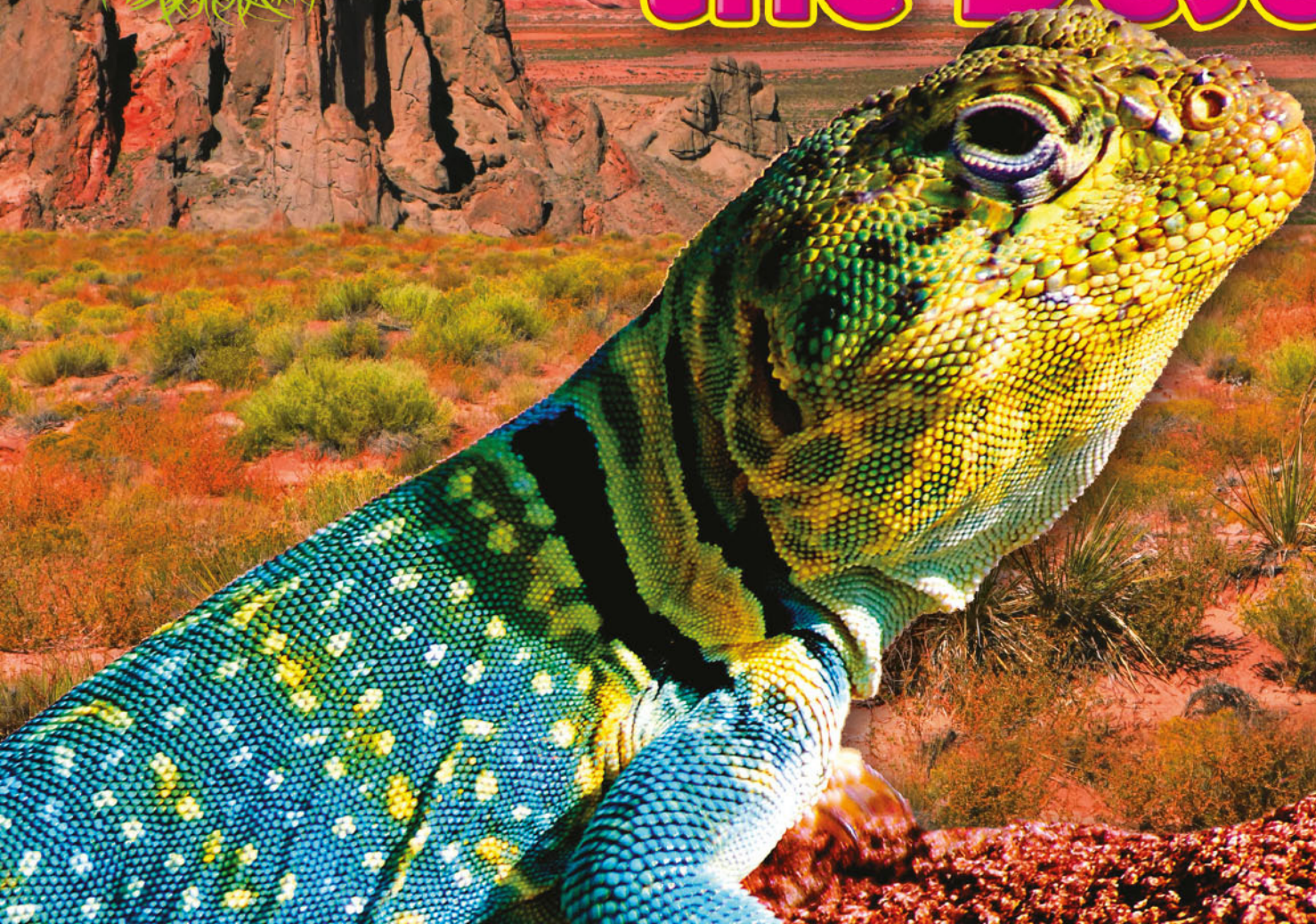




Welcome to the Desert



by Honor Head

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Words shown in **bold** in the text are explained in the glossary.



Welcome to the Desert

Who and what lives in the Sonoran Desert in the United States?


This hot, dry, dusty desert is home to spiky cacti and other plants.



Birds, snakes, lizards, and wild cats are some of the animals that live in this **habitat**.

The plants and animals get what they need to live from the desert.





A desert is a type of ecosystem. An ecosystem includes all the living things in an area. It also includes non-living things, such as sand, rocks, sun, and rain. Everything in an ecosystem has its own part to play.

Let's find out what happens in this habitat. Welcome to the desert!

Spring in the Desert

It is spring in the Sonoran Desert.

Colorful flowers provide food for insects, birds, and other animals.

Cacti also help animals in the Sonoran Desert survive in lots of ways.



Cactus



Queen butterfly

Ground squirrel



A tiny ground squirrel nibbles on a cactus flower.

Butterflies and birds drink **nectar** from cactus flowers.

Gila woodpecker



Cactus flower

How do cacti survive in the hot, dry desert?

In spring and summer, the Sonoran Desert is scorching hot during the day. There may be no rain for many months.