

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 46 of 130

Desert food webs

by Paul Fleisher.

Cataloging in Publication

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Minneapolis : Lerner Publications Company, c2008.

p. cm.

Horn Book Guide:

Spring 2008 Nonfiction-Science Rating 4, Recommended, with minor flaws.

Reading Measurement Programs:

Accelerated Reader

Interest Level Lower Grade

Book Level 3.3

Accelerated Reader Points **0.5**

Lexile, MetaMetrics, Inc.

Lexile Measure 490

Reading Counts-Scholastic

Interest Level 3-5

Reading Level 2.7

Title Point Value 3

Lexile Measure 490

Reviews:

Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

This addition to the "Early Bird Food Webs" series includes the following sections: Be a Word Detective, Deserts, Desert Plants, Desert Plant Eaters, Desert Meat Eaters, Desert Decomposers, People and Deserts, A Note to Adults on Sharing a Book, Learn More about Deserts and Food Webs (websites, books), Glossary, and Index. The concept of food chains in the desert is emphasized but never illustrated, so a child who is either not familiar with the concept or is a literal reader will be envisioning "chains" in the desert, chains moving across the desert, and chains from the sun to the desert. A simple illustration of a food chain would have clarified this concept easily. In the front is an illustration of a "food web" and, later, is the author states that a food web is made up of many food chains. You can imagine what the literal child may be imagining. On the other hand, full-color photographs on every page make this an attractive browsing title for readers. While most of the illustrations seem to focus on the Sonoran desert, mention is made of meerkats, which are African, and camel skeletons are shown. A map of world deserts on page 8 doesn't tie in to any of the other illustrations, but it could have with a simple key system. While lack of water is mentioned as one of the defining elements of desert, there no mention of aquifers, water storage, evaporation or other factors affecting the desert, nor is there a definition of how much or how little water defines a desert, instead relying on the reader to intuit this information. 2008, Lerner Publishing, \$26.60. Ages 4 to 8.

Horn Book (The Horn Book Guide, Spring 2008)

These books explain the components of food webs for different ecosystems. The chapters describe specific

animals' eating habits and how those animals fit into the web. The choppy texts detract from the presentations, but the books do offer basic information. Color photographs illustrate every page; each book contains a food web diagram. Reading list, websites. Glos., ind. (Early Bird Food Webs series). Category: Nonfiction-Science. 2007, Lerner, 48pp, 26.60. Ages 5 to 9. Rating: 4: Recommended, with minor flaws.

Series:

[Early bird food webs](#)

Subjects:

[Desert ecology Juvenile literature.](#)

[Food chains \(Ecology\) Juvenile literature.](#)

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