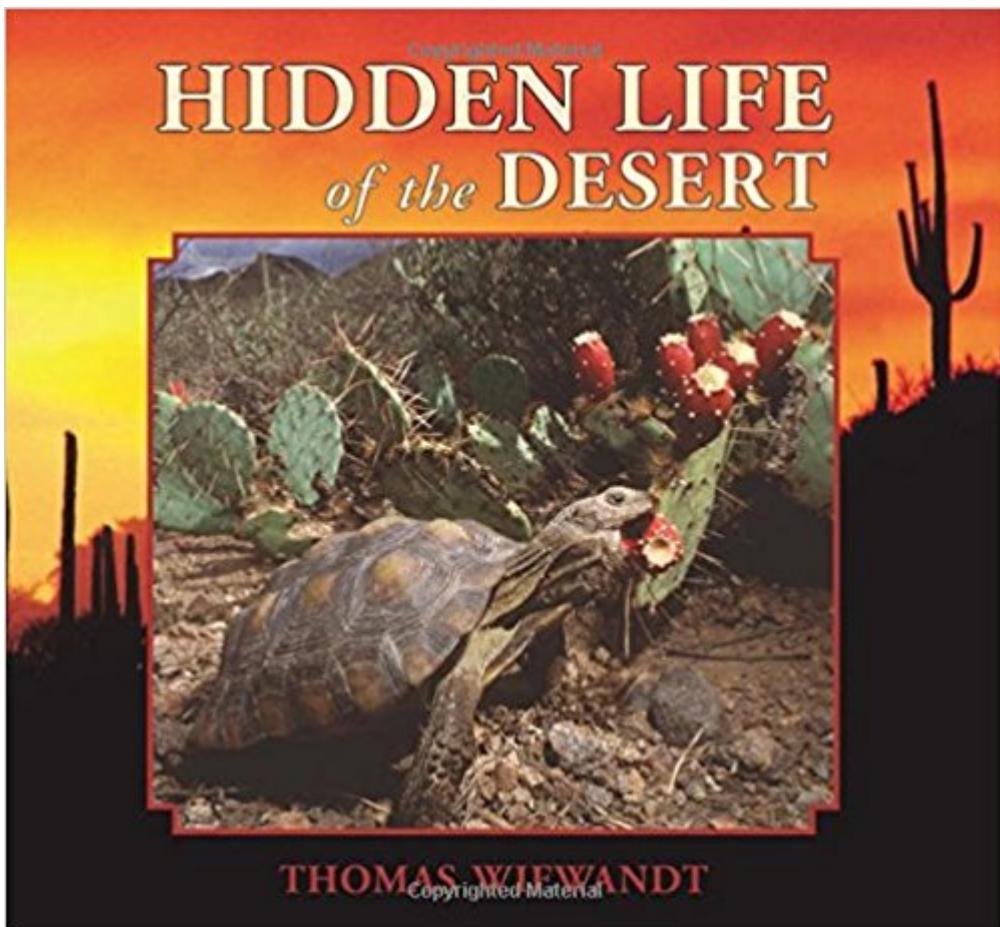


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# Hidden Life Of The Desert



## Synopsis

The Sonoran Desert of the American Southwest is a wonderland of the strange and fascinating. At first glance the hot valley floors and rugged mountainsides may seem barren and inhospitable, but look closely and you may find howling mice and toads that pop out of the sand. With patience you'll see giant centipedes, bobcats, and miniature owls. You could even catch a glimpse of a Gila monster, the only poisonous lizard in the United States. In *Hidden Life of the Desert*, author and nature photographer Thomas Wiewandt introduces young readers to many plants and animals that call the Sonoran Desert home. Following this unique ecosystem through its five seasons spring, dry summer, wet summer, autumn, and winter *Hidden Life of the Desert* uses stunning color photographs and clear, informative text to explore how life can thrive in a seemingly barren land. This greatly expanded edition of *Hidden Life of the Desert* follows in the footsteps of a Crown Books for Young Readers (1990) edition that made the John Burroughs List of Outstanding Nature Books for Young Readers. New in the 2010 edition are expanded text, more pictures, maps, a glossary, plant and animal species lists, an index, and an annotated list of recommended books and Web sites. But perhaps most important is the addition of a thought-provoking chapter titled Facing the Future, which considers where water in the West comes from, how we use it, and how energy and water use are connected.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

## Customer Reviews

Eye-catching photography draws readers into an equally intriguing text in this book that pinpoints life forms of the desert in the southwestern U. S. The variety of plants and animals Wiewandt presents could abolish all traditional notions of deserts as barren, lifeless lands. Vibrant color abounds in many of these high-quality photographs; action shots of the animals and insects add interest. The discussion highlights the interdependence of all living creatures and how they are adapted to their habitat. Everything is clearly explained in both words and images; the last page discusses differences among the world's deserts. Included is a final plea for the prevention of the development of unnatural deserts where human beings have stripped away vegetation. Although there is neither an index nor a table of contents, the book's format allows for easy access. Text is written in a tone similar to documentary narrative and is interspersed among the photographs. The combined quality of this selection and its rather unique scope make it an excellent addition to any collection. --Renee Steinberg, Fieldstone Middle School, Montvale, NJCopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Thomas Wiewandt, a native of the American Southwest, is a natural history photographer with a Ph.D. in ecology from Cornell. His nature films for the BBC and the National Geographic Society have captured numerous honors: an Emmy nomination in cinematography, a Gold Apple Award at the National Educational Film and Video Festival, and four Cine Golden Eagles. His self-published book *The Southwest Inside Out* (2001, 2004) was awarded four top regional and national honors. Tom lives in Tucson, Arizona.

What a great book with great pictures. Was very satisfied with the service and received in a timely manner.

A brief version of the excellent film (now on dv) of the same title. Beautiful color photography of the Sonoran Desert.

Gift for grandchild who loved the book. Fast delivery. Thank you

Beautiful book.

fine

Dry, arid, and commonly called a wasteland, the desert proves to be anything but. "Hidden Life of the Desert" is a guide to the vibrant life one can find in the desert. With full color photographs and no shortage of information, Thomas Wiewandt gives readers a full assortment of the creatures who call the stereotypically inhospitable desert their home where they thrive and flourish. "Hidden Life in the Desert" is a core addition to any nature collection geared towards younger readers.

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