DOWNLOAD PDF A SEASON IN THE DESERT

Chapter 1 : Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness: Edward Abbey: www.nxgvision.com: Books

Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness by Edward Abbey has a much deserved reputation of being one of the finest book written about the American West. Abbey spent time as a park ranger in Arches National Park in the late 60s, and in the process, traveled all around southern Utah and northern Arizona.

Others outside the U. The seasons are generally warm throughout the year and very hot in the summer. The winters usually bring little rainfall. Desert surfaces receive a little more than twice the solar radiation received by humid regions and lose almost twice as much heat at night. The extreme maximum ranges from Evaporation rates regularly exceed rainfall rates. Sometimes rain starts falling and evaporates before reaching the ground. Rainfall is lowest on the Atacama Desert of Chile, where it averages less than 1. Some years are even rainless. Inland Sahara also receives less than 1. Soils are course-textured, shallow, rocky or gravely with good drainage and have no subsurface water. They are coarse because there is less chemical weathering. The finer dust and sand particles are blown elsewhere, leaving heavier pieces behind. Canopy in most deserts is very rare. Plants are mainly ground-hugging shrubs and short woody trees. Leaves are "replete" fully supported with nutrients with water-conserving characteristics. They tend to be small, thick and covered with a thick cuticle outer layer. In the cacti, the leaves are much-reduced to spines and photosynthetic activity is restricted to the stems. Some plants open their stomata microscopic openings in the epidermis of leaves that allow for gas exchange only at night when evaporation rates are lowest. The animals include small nocturnal active at night carnivores. The dominant animals are burrowers and kangaroo rats. There are also insects, arachnids, reptiles and birds. The animals stay inactive in protected hideaways during the hot day and come out to forage at dusk, dawn or at night, when the desert is cooler. Semiarid desert The major deserts of this type include the sagebrush of Utah, Montana and Great Basin. The summers are moderately long and dry, and like hot deserts, the winters normally bring low concentrations of rainfall. Cool nights help both plants and animals by reducing moisture loss from transpiration, sweating and breathing. Furthermore, condensation of dew caused by night cooling may equal or exceed the rainfall received by some deserts. The average rainfall ranges from cm annually. The soil can range from sandy and fine-textured to loose rock fragments, gravel or sand. It has a fairly low salt concentration, compared to deserts which receive a lot of rain acquiring higher salt concentrations as a result. In areas such as mountain slopes, the soil is shallow, rocky or gravely with good drainage. In the upper bajada lower slopes they are coarse-textured, rocky, well-drained and partly "laid by rock bench. The spiny nature of many plants in semiarid deserts provides protection in a hazardous environment. The large numbers of spines shade the surface enough to significantly reduce transpiration. The same may be true of the hairs on the woolly desert plants. Many plants have silvery or glossy leaves, allowing them to reflect more radiant energy. These plants often have an unfavorable odor or taste. Creosote bush, bur sage Franseria dumosa or F. During the day, insects move around twigs to stay on the shady side; jack rabbits follow the moving shadow of a cactus or shrub. Naturally, many animals find protection in underground burrows where they are insulated from both heat and aridity. These animals include mammals such as the kangaroo rats, rabbits, and skunks; insects like grasshoppers and ants; reptiles are represented by lizards and snakes; and birds such as burrowing owls and the California thrasher. Coastal desert These deserts occur in moderately cool to warm areas such as the Nearctic and Neotropical realm. A good example is the Atacama of Chile. The cool winters of coastal deserts are followed by moderately long, warm summers. The average rainfall measures cm in many areas. The maximum annual precipitation over a long period of years has been 37 cm with a minimum of 5 cm. The soil is fine-textured with a moderate salt content. It is fairly porous with good drainage. Some plants have extensive root systems close to the surface where they can take advantage of any rain showers. All of the plants with thick and fleshy leaves or stems can take in large quantities of water when it is available and store it for future use. In some plants, the surfaces are corrugated with longitudinal ridges and grooves. When water is available, the stem swells so that the grooves are shallow and the ridges far apart. As the water is used, the stem shrinks so that the grooves are deep and ridges close together. The plants living in this type of desert include the salt bush, buckwheat bush, black bush, rice grass, little leaf horsebrush,

black sage, and chrysothamnus. Some animals have specialized adaptations for dealing with the desert heat and lack of water. Some toads seal themselves in burrows with gelatinous secretions and remain inactive for eight or nine months until a heavy rain occurs. Amphibians that pass through larval stages have accelerated life cycles, which improves their chances of reaching maturity before the waters evaporate. Some insects lay eggs that remain dormant until the environmental conditions are suitable for hatching. The fairy shrimps also lay dormant eggs. Cold desert Lichen growing on Torgerson Island, Antarctica; kangaroo rat. These deserts are characterized by cold winters with snowfall and high overall rainfall throughout the winter and occasionally over the summer. They occur in the Antarctic, Greenland and the Nearctic realm. They have short, moist, and moderately warm summers with fairly long, cold winters. The winters receive quite a bit of snow. The mean annual precipitation ranges from cm. Annual precipitation has reached a maximum of 46 cm and a minimum of 9 cm. The heaviest rainfall of the spring is usually in April or May. In some areas, rainfall can be heavy in autumn. The soil is heavy, silty, and salty. It contains alluvial fans where soil is relatively porous and drainage is good so that most of the salt has been leached out. The plants are widely scattered. In areas of shadscale, about 10 percent of the ground is covered, but in some areas of sagebush it approaches 85 percent. Plant heights vary between 15 cm and cm. The main plants are deciduous, most having spiny leaves. Widely distributed animals are jack rabbits, kangaroo rats, kangaroo mice, pocket mice, grasshopper mice, and antelope ground squirrels. In areas like Utah, population density of these animals can range from individuals per hectare. All except the jack rabbits are burrowers. The burrowing habit also applies to carnivores like the badger, kit fox, and coyote. Several lizards do some burrowing and moving of soil. Deer are found only in the winter.

Chapter 2 : Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness | www.nxgvision.com

Shane McComb, Palm Desert coach: "We had a hell of a season. It's tough to end it with a game like that. It's tough to end it with a game like that. I told the guys to look at the positives.

He began his writing career as a novelist in the s, scoring a modest success with The Brave Cowboy The story of a traditional cowboy confronted and ultimately crushed by the forces of modernity in the new West, The Brave Cowboy was made into the critically acclaimed film Lonely Are the Brave , starring Kirk Douglas. Abbey worked at a series of part-time jobs while he wrote, becoming a road inspector for the U. Forest Service and a ranger for the U. Even after the success of Desert Solitaire made it no longer financially necessary, Abbey would go on taking seasonal work as a ranger. This widely read novel is often called the Bible of the Earth First! Events in History at the Time of the Essay The national park system in the postwar years In the mids, when Edward Abbey first worked as a National Park Service ranger, both the service and the national parks themselves were facing an acute crisis. After the Great Depression of the s and the national emergency of World War II , a postwar economic boom brought many Americans newfound prosperity and the leisure time in which to enjoy it. Encouraged by low gasoline prices and by a vast automotive industry accustomed to high, wartime levels of production, Americans in large numbers first began vacation trips by car after the war. In the first postwar decade, the numbers of visitors to the parks each year more than quadrupled, from less than 12 million in to nearly 50 million in Yet funding to the National Park Service, which had been drastically cut during the war, remained at or near the low wartime levels. In a rhetorical attempt to arouse public indignation at the chaotic situation, DeVoto suggested closing some of the favorite parks because of the lack of funding. A savvy politician who strongly supported tourist development in the parks, Wirth had taken office in and would serve until In Wirth successfully shepherded Mission 66 through Congress. Mission 66 amounted to a massive construction campaign that ultimately cost around one billion dollars. New and renovated physical facilities in the parks included: Approximately 1, miles of new roads within the parks More than 1, miles of renovated roads Nearly 1, miles of new or renovated trails More than 1, new parking areas and renovated parking areas More than new campgrounds, water systems, and sewer systems More than new administrative and utility buildings, and more than new power systems More than 1, new employee housing units More than renovated historic buildings new visitor centers Adapted from Sellars, p. As many had observed, the Colorado River is especially well suited for damming. Flowing from the western flanks of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, the river has cut a 1,mile-long series of deep canyons including the Grand Canyon into the high mesas through which it runs. Many of the narrow canyons can be easily dammed, so that their wails form the sides of a man-made lake. Furthermore, because it begins at nearly 10, feet above sea level , the Colorado unleashes immense amounts of energy as it flows downhill to the Gulf of California. Its sharp losses in elevation make the Colorado especially attractive to those wishing In build hydroelectric dams. While some 20 dams now interrupt its flow, most famous is Hoover Dam , completed in b, which forms Lake Mead on the Colorado below the Grand Canyon. They were bolstered by a new Interstate Highway System, which entailed the simultaneous construction of nearly 40, miles of interstate highways throughout the nation. By annual park visits had climbed to over million; by they would exceed million. Wirth and other Park Service officials believed that by encouraging more people to visit the parks, they were helping to protect park wilderness lands from the political pressures of commercial development. Powerful logging, mining, hydroelectric, and other interests were continually lobbying for the right to develop national park lands and other government owned lands for their own profit. Only strong public involvement with the parks would give the Park Service the political clout to resist such efforts, the thinking went. The rise of the environmental movement While the tradition of wilderness preservation has roots as far back as the influential American author Henry David Thoreau ; see Waiden, also in Literature and Its Times , the modern environmental movement first arose in response to the commercial expansion and population pressures of the postwar era. At the urging of real-estate developers, utility companies, and others, in the late s and early s, the U. Bureau of Reclamation proposed a number of canyons along the Colorado River as dam sites. The major ones lay within

land administered by the National Park Service, which, under Conrad Wirth, deferred to the powerful Bureau of Reclamation. But in the ensuing years these parks would be at the center of a series of highly publicized controversies. The environmental movement can be said to have begun in the early s with the first of these struggles. At that time several conservation organizations took the then revolutionary step of rallying public opposition to a large hydroelectric dam planned at Echo Park, a part of Dinosaur National Monument on the Green River, which is a major tributary of the Colorado. Encouraged by the Sierra Club , the Wilderness Society, and other groups, thousands of Americans wrote letters to Congress expressing their opposition to the proposed Echo Park dam. Drawing on lessons learned in the campaign against the proposed dam at Echo Park, the Sierra Club became a highly effective political action group. In the s the organization was instrumental in influencing the National Park Service to give more weight to ecology, biology, and wilderness preservation in its stewardship of the land, and less to accessibility and recreation. This shift in emphasis would reshape Park Service practices starting in the s. However, for many activists victory at Echo Park came at a high price, because as part of their bargain with the Bureau of Reclamation, the Sierra Club and other organizations agreed not to oppose another dam planned farther south on the Colorado, at Glen Canyon. Construction on the Glen Canyon Dam began in , and the dam began operation in Because Glen Canyon was a place of rare beauty, its flooding generated the most enduring controversy of all the Colorado River dam projects, with recriminations lasting long after the waters had risen. Also hotly contested, the attempts to dam parts of the Grand Canyon would meet with defeat in Utah was settled in the nineteenth century by pioneers belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, commonly called the Mormons. Mormons in Utah are still noted for the spirit of communal, cooperative living that helped those early settlements prosper. By the s and s, however, small ranchers throughout the West were being pushed out of business by modern corporate operations, which raise livestock on a large scale and can thus undersell the small rancher. While decrying the harmful environmental impact of cattle and sheep, Abbey expresses sadness at the passing of the small, independent ranchers. By the late s, similar competition with large corporations drove off the independent uranium prospectors who had flocked to Utah and other Western states a decade earlier, as nuclear energy came into use. As he observes, the Navajos have fared better than many other native peoples, partly because they control a vast reservation containing rich natural resources. An aspect of history that Abbey does not mention is the way the Park Service took unilateral possession of native lands in the West during the early to mid-twentieth century. Yet the Navajos managed to retain control of their communal lands, which occupy parts of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico , and Arizona, and are virtually surrounded by national parks. One measure Navajos took in response to the Park Service threat was to create a number of protected tribal parks within their reservation, such as Monument Valley Tribal Park in Arizona, established in Warning readers, he concedes that: Serious critics, serious librarians, serious associate professors of English will if they read this work dislike it intensely; at least I hope so. Leaving a Park Service pickup with Abbey, the two men depart that evening, and beside a fire of fragrant juniper wood Abbey exults in his solitude. In the next two chapters Abbey describes some of the plants and animals with which he shares the desert. They include snakes, deer, lizards, birds, wildflowers, sage, and juniper and pinyon pine trees. Impulsively he throws a rock at a rabbit, killing it. Industrial Tourism and the National Parks. As I type these wordsâ€¦ Arches National Monument has been developed. The Master Plan has been fulfilled. Where once a few adventurous people came on weekends to camp for a night or two and enjoy a taste of the primitive and remote, you will now find serpentine streams of baroque automobiles pouring in and out, all through the spring and summer, in numbers that would have seemed fantastic when I worked there: The little campgroundsâ€¦ have now been consolidated into one master campground that looks, during the busy season, like a suburban village: Industrial Tourism has arrived. He lists other parks in which similar development has taken place, including the newly established Canyonlands National Park and Grand Canyon National Park. This expectation has been created and encouraged by those politically powerful interests that stand to make money from it: Abbey calls for banning cars from the national parks. Over the next three chapters Abbey shifts his focus temporarily from parks to people. In it, Abbey moves from a lyrical description of water including flash floods and its role in the desert to protest schemes to develop the West by hatching plans to fix a supposed water shortage. Abbey challenges the modern ideal of

growth: Abbey argues that wilderness preservation is essential to liberty. Where he and his brave men once lined the rapids and glided through the silent canyons two thousand feet deep the motorboats now smoke and whine, scumming the water with cigarette butts, beer cans and oil, dragging the water skiers on their endless roundsâ€¦. To grasp the nature of the crime that was committed imagine the Taj Mahal or Chartres Cathedral buried in mud until only the spires remained visible. He reflects on his attraction to the desert: I am a desert rat Desert Solitaire, p. Yet he is not entirely unwilling. He takes a final tour of the park in his pickup, then cleans out the house trailer and accepts a lift from another ranger to Thompson, Utah, where he will catch a train east. Changing attitudes to land use In proposing a ban on cars in the national parks, Abbey offers an example of how such a ban might be handled even at popular destinations such as Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. When Abbey wrote Desert Solitaire, this idea was ignored. More than three decades later, however, the Park Service is implementing essentially similar plans at both parks. Many tourists still cling to their cars, but since the publication of Desert Solitaire hiking, camping, mountain biking, river rafting, kayaking, and other outdoor activities have indeed exploded in popularity. Today, hiking and other wilderness activities have become so popular that in most national park wilderness areas rangers have been forced to issue limited numbers of permits, with enthusiasts often waiting in line overnight in order to obtain one. During the public debate over Glen Canyon, one argument used by those supporting the dam was that while few would enjoy the river by rafting, many would benefit from motorboating on the resulting lake. Even as similar debates were going on over damming parts of the Grand Canyon, however, greater numbers of people began discovering the pleasures of rafting through the canyon, and today about 26, people make this trip every year. Indeed, river-running rafting itself has become a nationally popular sport. Ironically, rafting in the Grand Canyon was adversely affected by Glen Canyon Dam upriver, because the dam caused the Colorado to recede during peak power usage. Such changes reflect not just decades of traffic jams in national parks, but also a greatly increased concern for and appreciation of the environment on the part of the American public. Historians have pointed to the first Earth Day , April 22, , as marking a turning point in raising public awareness, and they credit it with bringing the words environment and environmen-talism into their current widespread use. Indeed, an early title for the book was Desert Journal. The journals also reflect incipient versions of some central ideas Abbey elaborated in the final book. As a boy growing up in Pennsylvania, Abbey devoured the cowboy books of Western writers such as Zane Grey , an early visitor to Glen Canyon and other sites mentioned in Desert Solitaire. He was later profoundly influenced by the writings of Henry David Thoreau , whose seminal book Walden originated American nature writing. Like Thoreau in Walden, Abbey compresses more than one season of wilderness living into a single, composite season for literary purposes. Abbey frequently either refers to Thoreau or quotes him directly in Desert Solitaire. Eliot, Abbey refers to previous authors and books celebrating desert environments, including C. Krutch was an eminent author and naturalist whom Abbey met around the time Desert Solitaire was published. While both shared a love of nature, Krutch belonged to an older, more conservative generation. Abbey, while not exactly a hippie, shared the irreverent and anarchistic outlook of the emerging s counterculture movement. He and Krutch disagreed over the Vietnam War , which Abbey strongly opposed.

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Chapter 3 : BFGoodrichÂ® Tires Seize Season Opening Races In The Desert - www.nxgvision.com

Desert Solitaire () is to a certain extent sand-mad Edward Abbey's homage to the beauty of the American Southwest and to the necessity of wilderness but mostly, the book is an autobiographical paean to the sheer wonder of Abbey himself.

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Chapter 4 : Changing seasons in the desert - The Daily Wildcat

A Season in the Desert: Making Time Holy by W. Paul Jones is a theological gem. -- Spirituality and Health, November 3, W. Paul Jones is one of the serious, disciplined, and committed writers who is dealing with living the Christian life.

Lower Colorado River Valley Named for its location surrounding the lower Colorado River in parts of four states, this is the largest, hottest, and driest subdivision. Summer highs may exceed F Annual rainfall in the driest sites averages less than three inches 75 mm , and some localities have gone nearly three years with no rain. Even so, life exists here, abundantly in the rare wet years. See additional images in the report on Ironwood Forest National Monument. The geography is mostly broad, flat valleys with widely-scattered, small mountain ranges of mostly barren rock. There is also a sand sea the Gran Desierto and the spectacular Pinacate volcanic field. The valleys are dominated by low shrubs, primarily creosote bush Larrea divaricata and white bursage Ambrosia dumosa. These are the two most drought- tolerant plants in North America, but in driest areas of this subdivision even they are restricted to drainage courses i. Trees are found only in the larger washes. The mountains support a wider variety of shrubs and cacti, but the density is very sparse. Columnar cacti, one of the indicators of the Sonoran Desert, are rare virtually absent in California and restricted to drainages. This is the only part of the Sonoran Desert that extends into California, where it is usually called the Colorado Desert. North of a sagging line between Palm Springs and Needles, California, it merges almost imperceptibly with the lower Mohave Desert. Arizona Upland Image galleries are associated with each season below. See more images in the Ironwood Forest National Monument web pages. This northeastern section, mostly in south-central Arizona and northern Sonora, is the highest and coldest subdivision of the Sonoran Desert. The terrain contains numerous mountain ranges, and the valleys are narrower than in the Lower Colorado River Valley subdivision. Trees are common on rocky slopes as well as drainages, and saguaros are found everywhere but on the valley floors. This community is also called the saguaro-palo verde forest. It is the only subdivision that experiences frequent hard winter frosts, so many species of the lower elevation and more southerly subdivisions cannot survive here. Nevertheless it is a rich area. Tucson is the only major city located in Arizona Upland. Residents who moved to this city from temperate climates often complain about the lack of seasons. Actually Arizona Upland has five seasons, which, though more subtle than the traditional temperate four, are distinct if one learns what to look for: Summer monsoon or summer rainy season early July to mid- September: The year traditionally begins with the most dramatic weather event of the region - the often abrupt arrival of the summer rains. Monsoon is an Arabic word for a wind that changes directions seasonally. Be aware that it does not refer to rain or storms in any way. The word is often misused, even by some weather forecasters. Warm temperatures; low humidity; little rain; few species in flower, but beginning of growing season for winter annuals in the rare years with enough rain. Autumn and late summer occasionally receive heavy rains from the remains of Pacific hurricanes tropical storms This image is of the Baboquivari Mountains and the Avra Valley from the Desert Museum. Mostly sunny, mild days, with intermittent storms with wind, rain, and cool to cold temperatures; February often warm and dry, more spring-like. This image shows a rare snowfall in the Tucson Mountains. Spring From early to late February through April: Mild temperatures; little rain; often windy; main flowering season for annuals, shrubs and trees; winter annuals may bloom in February in warm, wet years. The image at left shows poppies at Picacho Peak State Park. High temperatures; very low humidity; no rain in most years; May is very warm and often windy; June is hot and usually calm. There is little biological activity except for the flowering and fruiting of saguaro, foothill palo verdes as seen at left , and desert ironwood trees. Nearly every living thing is in basic survival mode until the rains arrive. End of Arizona Upland five seasons Plains of Sonora This small region of central Sonora is a series of very broad valleys between widely separated ranges. It supports denser vegetation than Arizona Upland because there is more rain with summer rain dominant and the soils deeper and finer. It contains most of the same species as Arizona Upland, plus some more tropical elements because frost is less frequent and less severe. There are abundant legume trees, especially mesquite, and relatively few columnar cacti. The few hills in this region support islands of thornscrub. Most of this subdivision has been converted to

agriculture in the last few decades. If Arizona Upland is reclassified as thornscrub, the wetter Plains of Sonora subdivision would have to join it. Extreme aridity determines the distinctive appearance of this subdivision. It straddles the horse latitude belt, and desert vegetation grows right to the seashore. Small shrubs are nearly absent; their shallow root systems and lack of water storage cannot sustain them through the droughts which commonly last for several years. The average annual rainfall of less than five inches mm occurs mostly in summer, though not dependably enough to call it a rainy season. Vizcaino The Vizcaino subdivision is on the Pacific side of the central third of the Baja California peninsula. Though rainfall is very low, cool, humid sea breezes with frequent fog ameliorate the aridity. Winter rain predominates and averages less than five inches mm. This subdivision contains some of the most bizarre plants and eerily beautiful landscapes in the world. In stark contrast, the coastal Vizcaino Plain is a flat, cool, fog desert of shrubs barely a foot tall, with occasional mass blooms of annual species. Magdalena Located in coastal Baja California south of the Vizcaino, it is similar in appearance to the Vizcaino but the species are somewhat different. Most of its meager rainfall comes in summer and the aridity is modified by Pacific breezes. It has since been reclassified as foothills thornscrub community and is no longer part of the desert biome because of its greater rainfall, taller trees and cacti, and denser vegetation.

Chapter 5 : The desert biome

Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness. by Edward Abbey. THE LITERARY WORK. An essay set in the American Southwest in the late s and s; published in New York City in

This is because they reflect more of the incoming light and their albedo is higher than that of forests or the sea. The structure of the sheet consists of thin horizontal layers of coarse silt and very fine to medium grain sand, separated by layers of coarse sand and pea-gravel which are a single grain thick. These larger particles anchor the other particles in place and may also be packed together on the surface so as to form a miniature desert pavement. They form perpendicular to the wind direction and gradually move across the surface as the wind continues to blow. The distance between their crests corresponds to the average length of jumps made by particles during saltation. The ripples are ephemeral and a change in wind direction causes them to reorganise. They form downwind of copious sources of dry, loose sand and occur when topographic and climatic conditions cause airborne particles to settle. As the wind blows, saltation and creep take place on the windward side of the dune and individual grains of sand move uphill. When they reach the crest, they cascade down the far side. As this wind-induced movement of sand grains takes place, the dune moves slowly across the surface of the ground. When these are extensive, they are known as sand seas or ergs. Barchan dunes are produced by strong winds blowing across a level surface, and are crescent-shaped with the concave side away from the wind. When there are two directions from which winds regularly blow, a series of long, linear dunes known as seif dunes may form. These also occur parallel to a strong wind that blows in one general direction. Transverse dunes run at a right angle to the prevailing wind direction. Star dunes are formed by variable winds, and have several ridges and slip faces radiating from a central point. Rounded mounds of sand without a slip face are the rare dome dunes, found on the upwind edges of sand seas. In "eolian deflation", the wind continually removes fine-grained material, which becomes wind-blown sand. This exposes coarser-grained material, mainly pebbles with some larger stones or cobbles , [36] [47] leaving a desert pavement , an area of land overlaid by closely packed smooth stones forming a tessellated mosaic. Different theories exist as to how exactly the pavement is formed. It may be that after the sand and dust is blown away by the wind the stones jiggle themselves into place; alternatively, stones previously below ground may in some way work themselves to the surface. Very little further erosion takes place after the formation of a pavement, and the ground becomes stable. Evaporation brings moisture to the surface by capillary action and calcium salts may be precipitated, binding particles together to form a desert conglomerate. Other landforms include plains largely covered by gravels and angular boulders, from which the finer particles have been stripped by the wind. In some places the wind has carved holes or arches and in others it has created mushroom-like pillars narrower at the base than the top. Here the Colorado River has cut its way over the millennia through the high desert floor creating a canyon that is over a mile 6, feet or 1, meters deep in places, exposing strata that are over two billion year old. One of the driest places on Earth is the Atacama Desert. The cold Humboldt Current and the anticyclone of the Pacific are essential to keep the dry climate of the Atacama. Some weather stations in the Atacama have never received rain. Evidence suggests that the Atacama may not have had any significant rainfall from to The desert surface is evidence of this with dry stream channels known as arroyos or wadis meandering across its surface. These can experience flash floods , becoming raging torrents with surprising rapidity after a storm that may be many kilometers away. Most deserts are in basins with no drainage to the sea but some are crossed by exotic rivers sourced in mountain ranges or other high rainfall areas beyond their borders. The River Nile , the Colorado River and the Yellow River do this, losing much of their water through evaporation as they pass through the desert and raising groundwater levels nearby. There may also be underground sources of water in deserts in the form of springs , aquifers , underground rivers or lakes. Where these lie close to the surface, wells can be dug and oases may form where plant and animal life can flourish. A lake occupied this depression in ancient times and thick deposits of sandy-clay resulted. Wells are dug to extract water from the porous sandstone that lies underneath. They are usually shallow and saline, and wind blowing over their surface can cause stress, moving the water over nearby low-lying areas. When the lakes dry

up, they leave a crust or hardpan behind. This area of deposited clay, silt or sand is known as a playa. The deserts of North America have more than one hundred playas, many of them relics of Lake Bonneville which covered parts of Utah, Nevada and Idaho during the last ice age when the climate was colder and wetter. The smooth flat surfaces of playas have been used for attempted vehicle speed records at Black Rock Desert and Bonneville Speedway and the United States Air Force uses Rogers Dry Lake in the Mojave Desert as runways for aircraft and the space shuttle. Problems they need to solve include how to obtain enough water, how to avoid being eaten and how to reproduce. Photosynthesis is the key to plant growth. It can only take place during the day as energy from the sun is required, but during the day, many deserts become very hot. Opening stomata to allow in the carbon dioxide necessary for the process causes evapotranspiration , and conservation of water is a top priority for desert vegetation. Some plants have resolved this problem by adopting crassulacean acid metabolism , allowing them to open their stomata during the night to allow CO2 to enter, and close them during the day, [68] or by using C4 carbon fixation. Cacti are desert specialists and in most species the leaves have been dispensed with and the chlorophyll displaced into the trunks, the cellular structure of which has been modified to allow them to store water. When rain falls, the water is rapidly absorbed by the shallow roots and retained to allow them to survive until the next downpour, which may be months or years away. Saguaro grow slowly but may live for up to two hundred years. The surface of the trunk is folded like a concertina , allowing it to expand, and a large specimen can hold eight tons of water after a good downpour. Other xerophytic plants have developed similar strategies by a process known as convergent evolution. Some are deciduous, shedding their leaves in the driest season, and others curl their leaves up to reduce transpiration. Others store water in succulent leaves or stems or in fleshy tubers. Desert plants maximize water uptake by having shallow roots that spread widely, or by developing long taproots that reach down to deep rock strata for ground water. Some desert plants produce seed which lies dormant in the soil until sparked into growth by rainfall. When annuals , such plants grow with great rapidity and may flower and set seed within weeks, aiming to complete their development before the last vestige of water dries up. For perennial plants, reproduction is more likely to be successful if the seed germinates in a shaded position, but not so close to the parent plant as to be in competition with it. Some seed will not germinate until it has been blown about on the desert floor to scarify the seed coat. The seed of the mesquite tree, which grows in deserts in the Americas, is hard and fails to sprout even when planted carefully. When it has passed through the gut of a pronghorn it germinates readily, and the little pile of moist dung provides an excellent start to life well away from the parent tree. Even small fungi and microscopic plant organisms found on the soil surface so-called cryptobiotic soil can be a vital link in preventing erosion and providing support for other living organisms. Cold deserts often have high concentrations of salt in the soil. Grasses and low shrubs are the dominant vegetation here and the ground may be covered with lichens. Most shrubs have spiny leaves and shed them in the coldest part of the year. Xerocole Animals adapted to live in deserts are called xerocoles. There is no evidence that body temperature of mammals and birds is adaptive to the different climates, either of great heat or cold. In fact, with a very few exceptions, their basal metabolic rate is determined by body size, irrespective of the climate in which they live. One well-studied example is the specializations of mammalian kidneys shown by desert-inhabiting species. Deserts present a very challenging environment for animals. Not only do they require food and water but they also need to keep their body temperature at a tolerable level. In many ways birds are the most able to do this of the higher animals. They can move to areas of greater food availability as the desert blooms after local rainfall and can fly to faraway waterholes. In hot deserts, gliding birds can remove themselves from the over-heated desert floor by using thermals to soar in the cooler air at great heights. In order to conserve energy, other desert birds run rather than fly. The cream-colored courser flits gracefully across the ground on its long legs, stopping periodically to snatch up insects. Like other desert birds it is well- camouflaged by its coloring and can merge into the landscape when stationary. The sandgrouse is an expert at this and nests on the open desert floor dozens of kilometers miles away from the waterhole it needs to visit daily. Some small diurnal birds are found in very restricted localities where their plumage matches the color of the underlying surface. The desert lark takes frequent dust baths which ensures that it matches its environment. Kangaroos keep cool by increasing their respiration rate, panting, sweating and moistening the

skin of their forelegs with saliva. The arctic weasel has a metabolic rate that is two or three times as high as would be expected for an animal of its size. Birds have avoided the problem of losing heat through their feet by not attempting to maintain them at the same temperature as the rest of their bodies, a form of adaptive insulation. Being ectotherms , reptiles are unable to live in cold deserts but are well-suited to hot ones. They have few adaptations to desert life and are unable to cool themselves by sweating so they shelter during the heat of the day. In the first part of the night, as the ground radiates the heat absorbed during the day, they emerge and search for prey. Lizards and snakes are the most numerous in arid regions and certain snakes have developed a novel method of locomotion that enables them to move sidewards and navigate high sand-dunes. These include the horned viper of Africa and the sidewinder of North America, evolutionarily distinct but with similar behavioural patterns because of convergent evolution. Many desert reptiles are ambush predators and often bury themselves in the sand, waiting for prey to come within range. In fact, the few species that are found in this habitat have made some remarkable adaptations. Most of them are fossorial, spending the hot dry months aestivating in deep burrows. While there they shed their skins a number of times and retain the remnants around them as a waterproof cocoon to retain moisture. Heavy rain is the trigger for emergence and the first male to find a suitable pool calls to attract others. Eggs are laid and the tadpoles grow rapidly as they must reach metamorphosis before the water evaporates. As the desert dries out, the adult toads rebury themselves. The juveniles stay on the surface for a while, feeding and growing, but soon dig themselves burrows. Few make it to adulthood. Invertebrates, particularly arthropods , have successfully made their homes in the desert.

Chapter 6 : Watch Desert Flippers Episodes on HGTV | Season 3 () | TV Guide

HGTVs "Desert Flippers" returns for Season 3 on July 24, with hosts Lindsey and Eric Bennett.

As if things always go wrong during this time? Or that the spiritual pressing and testing intensifies somehow? The month is Elul. It is the sixth Biblical month. Often times, this process involves the relationships and people that YHVH has placed in our lives. YHVH uses these people and relationships to show us the issues that need our attention and the areas of our lives where we need emotional healing. The Month of the Bride pt2. So when your spouse, parent, child, or best friend says or does something that hits a nerve, try to not react out of anger but realize that YHVH is using your circumstances to make you healed and whole! During this time, we ask YHVH to search us and reveal ANY wrongs that we have not yet made right, any areas of our lives we still need healing in, and any issues we have not yet resolved in order that we can make them right. I asked YHVH why He would show me something that seemed so far in the past and how something so small could be such a big deal. And why during the month of Elul? These 10 days are a final chance to repent and make things right, not only between you and other people, but also between you and YHVH. It is a time when the nations with gather together and when the lost sheep of the House of Israel will return to be reunited with Messiah Yeshua. Sukkot And the Word became flesh and pitched His tent or dwelt among us, and we saw His esteem, esteem as of an only brought-forth of a father, complete in favor and truth. It can mean tabernacle, dwelling, or booth. So when Yeshua promised that He would come and tabernacle among us, what He was really saying is that He would celebrate Sukkot with us! Sukkot is also known as a time of great rejoicing and celebrating. After making ti through Elul and Judgment Day, I suppose there is plenty to celebrate! For all these reasons, Sukkot is generally seen as the Wedding Feast of the Lamb! Rather, I say all this to emphasize just how important Elul and the time leading up to Sukkot really is. The Process of Repentance So how do we make things right and resolve our unresolved issues? Well it all starts by being humble and submitting to the process. Rather, humble yourself and submit to the process of repentance that brings forth healing. Forgiveness plays a huge role in this process. A quick side-note clarification: The people who always turn you back to Him. The people who encourage you to walk in His ways and to seek after His face. The other people may just be a distraction. There are three separate levels in the process of forgiveness. The first is known as slichah. The second is mechilah. And the third is kapparah. The cycle of forgiveness is a living process that is completely dependent on our actions, so you may pass between these phases at any given time during the entire process. Slichah The first stage in the process of forgiveness is slichah. In Hebrew, this means to pardon. If you take a look at the picture, the chaos and darkness is kind of what its like when we start the process of forgiveness. Its dark, chaotic, and hard to make sense of anything. So it is with slichah. Before we can deal with the root of the matter, we must forgive the other person for their role in the situation. When we look at the gematria for this word, this is what we learn. The gematria also describes a wall. Once we have extended forgiveness to someone and started the process of forgiveness, we cannot return to the place from which we started. Remember, once you extend this level of forgiveness, the focus shifts from the other person to you. Notice that this level requires the person to learn how to build these walls. There is a wall that divides us from those on the outside of His house. This is similar to the parable of the wedding feast. Inside are the honored guests who accepted the invitation and the wall separates them from those who rejected the invitation and are on the outside where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Mechilah The second level of forgiveness is mechilah. In this phase, the person learns how to let go; to be free from the power that others hold over you. The focus of mechilah is on yourself. In my opinion, this is the hardest level of forgiveness because for most of us it is very difficult to get over the obstacle of our own self. When we let go of these hurts is when we are finally able to receive a vital piece of healing within ourselves. We are letting go of the power that others hold over us and instead returning that power back to God. Notice this picture for mechilah. The colors have returned and things are beginning to take shape. The gematria for mechilah shows us the following picture. The picture we see in this stage is one of new beginnings through the coming plan of YHVH. When we learn to release the power that others hold over us through unforgiveness, we make YHVH free to release those new

beginnings in our lives. When we surrender the man with raised arms , YHVH becomes the wall that divides us from the outside chaos and, instead, keeps us in His perfect peace. Kapparah The third and final stage of forgiveness is kapparah. In this phase, a person is made whole again. Now, while every stage requires YHVH to help learn the lesson, it is this stage where He takes center stage and where only He can do the work necessary. In the first two stages, the work that needed to be done required the other person or yourself. In this stage, however, we have let go of the other person and our own self and finally let YHVH take over and complete the process of forgiveness. The gematria shows us the following about kapparah. Man with raised arms; To look, reveal, breath The strong arm of YHVH which tames the mouth and reveals the man with raised arms as the highest or the head. This level of forgiveness starts and ends with balance but the end does not come back empty or void but instead increases a hundredfold. Notice we see the pictures of a mouth and a head. This means that once you have truly forgiven someone, you cannot bring up the matter anymore. It is over and done with. You cannot make snide remarks or hold it against them in any way. By surrendering to forgiveness and the softening our hearts, we let our hurt and anger go. The chaos is released and the final picture can finally come together.

Chapter 7 : Desert - Wikipedia

Jazz is coming back in a big way out here in the desert! A number of concert series are taking place building on earlier successes along with the best places to hear it. Here's a run-down on some of the best Jazz Happenings this season.

I hope you enjoy! A Hot and Dry Desert is, as you can tell from the name, hot and dry. They do have some low down plants though. The only animals they have that can survive have the ability to burrow under ground. This is because they would not be able to live in the hot sun and heat. They only come out in the night when it is a little cooler. A cold desert is a desert that has snow in the winter instead of just dropping a few degrees in temperature like they would in a Hot and Dry Desert. It never gets warm enough for plants to grow. Just maybe a few grasses and mosses. The animals in Cold Deserts also have to burrow but in this case to keep warm, not cool. That is why you might find some of the same animals here as you would in the Hot and Dry Deserts. Cold Deserts are near the Arctic part of the world. The extreme maximum temperature for Hot Desert ranges from This averages out to under 15 cm a year. Cold Deserts usually have lots of snow. They also have rain around spring. This averages out to 15 - 26 cm a year. Hot and Dry Deserts are warm throughout the fall and spring seasons and very hot during the summer. Cold Deserts have quite a bit of snow during winter. The summer and the beginning of the spring are barely warm enough for a few lichens, grasses and mosses to grow. Hot and Dry Deserts vegetation is very rare. Plants are almost all ground-hugging shrubs and short woody trees. All of the leaves are replete packed with nutrients. For all of these plants to survive they have to have adaptations. Some of the adaptations in this case are the ability to store water for long periods of time and the ability to stand the hot weather. In areas with little shade,about 10 percent of the ground is covered with plants. In some areas of sagebrush it reaches 85 percent. The height of scrub varies from 15 cm to cm. All plants are either deciduous and more or less contain spiny leaves. Hot and Dry Deserts animals include small nocturnal only active at night carnivores. There are also insects, arachnids, reptiles, and birds.

Chapter 8 : Elul: A Season of Repentance and Forgiveness | Voice in the Desert

Estimated delivery dates - opens in a new window or tab include seller's handling time, origin ZIP Code, destination ZIP Code and time of acceptance and will depend on shipping service selected and receipt of cleared payment - opens in a new window or tab.

Others outside the U. The seasons are generally warm throughout the year and very hot in the summer. The winters usually bring little rainfall. Desert surfaces receive a little more than twice the solar radiation received by humid regions and lose almost twice as much heat at night. The extreme maximum ranges from Evaporation rates regularly exceed rainfall rates. Sometimes rain starts falling and evaporates before reaching the ground. Rainfall is lowest on the Atacama Desert of Chile, where it averages less than 1. Some years are even rainless. Inland Sahara also receives less than 1. Soils are course-textured, shallow, rocky or gravely with good drainage and have no subsurface water. They are coarse because there is less chemical weathering. The finer dust and sand particles are blown elsewhere, leaving heavier pieces behind. Canopy in most deserts is very rare. Plants are mainly ground-hugging shrubs and short woody trees. They tend to be small, thick and covered with a thick cuticle outer layer. In the cacti, the leaves are much-reduced to spines and photosynthetic activity is restricted to the stems. Some plants open their stomata microscopic openings in the epidermis of leaves that allow for gas exchange only at night when evaporation rates are lowest. The animals include small nocturnal active at night carnivores. The dominant animals are burrowers and kangaroo rats. There are also insects, arachnids, reptiles and birds. The animals stay inactive in protected hideaways during the hot day and come out to forage at dusk, dawn or at night, when the desert is cooler. The summers are moderately long and dry, and like hot deserts, the winters normally bring low concentrations of rainfall. Cool nights help both plants and animals by reducing moisture loss from transpiration, sweating and breathing. Furthermore, condensation of dew caused by night cooling may equal or exceed the rainfall received by some deserts. The average rainfall ranges from cm annually. The soil can range from sandy and fine-textured to loose rock fragments, gravel or sand. It has a fairly low salt concentration, compared to deserts which receive a lot of rain acquiring higher salt concentrations as a result. In areas such as mountain slopes, the soil is shallow, rocky or gravely with good drainage. The spiny nature of many plants in semiarid deserts provides protection in a hazardous environment. The large numbers of spines shade the surface enough to significantly reduce transpiration. The same may be true of the hairs on the woolly desert plants. Many plants have silvery or glossy leaves, allowing them to reflect more radiant energy. These plants often have an unfavorable odor or taste. Creosote bush, bur sage Franseria dumosa or F. During the day, insects move around twigs to stay on the shady side; jack rabbits follow the moving shadow of a cactus or shrub. Naturally, many animals find protection in underground burrows where they are insulated from both heat and aridity. These animals include mammals such as the kangaroo rats, rabbits, and skunks; insects like grasshoppers and ants; reptiles are represented by lizards and snakes; and birds such as burrowing owls and the California thrasher. Coastal Desert These deserts occur in moderately cool to warm areas such as the Nearctic and Neotropical realm. A good example is the Atacama of Chile. The cool winters of coastal deserts are followed by moderately long, warm summers. The average rainfall measures cm in many areas. The maximum annual precipitation over a long period of years has been 37 cm with a minimum of 5 cm. The soil is fine-textured with a moderate salt content. It is fairly porous with good drainage. Some plants have extensive root systems close to the surface where they can take advantage of any rain showers. All of the plants with thick and fleshy leaves or stems can take in large quantities of water when it is available and store it for future use. In some plants, the surfaces are corrugated with longitudinal ridges and grooves. When water is available, the stem swells so that the grooves are shallow and the ridges far apart. As the water is used, the stem shrinks so that the grooves are deep and ridges close together. The plants living in this type of desert include the salt bush, buckwheat bush, black bush, rice grass, little leaf horsebrush, black sage, and chrysothamnus. Some animals have specialized adaptations for dealing with the desert heat and lack of water. Some toads seal themselves in burrows with gelatinous secretions and remain inactive for eight or nine months until a heavy rain occurs. Amphibians that

pass through larval stages have accelerated life cycles, which improves their chances of reaching maturity before the waters evaporate. Some insects lay eggs that remain dormant until the environmental conditions are suitable for hatching. The fairy shrimps also lay dormant eggs. Cold Desert These deserts are characterized by cold winters with snowfall and high overall rainfall throughout the winter and occasionally over the summer. They occur in the Antarctic, Greenland and the Nearctic realm. They have short, moist, and moderately warm summers with fairly long, cold winters. The winters receive quite a bit of snow. The mean annual precipitation ranges from cm. Annual precipitation has reached a maximum of 46 cm and a minimum of 9 cm. The heaviest rainfall of the spring is usually in April or May. In some areas, rainfall can be heavy in autumn. The soil is heavy, silty, and salty. It contains alluvial fans where soil is relatively porous and drainage is good so that most of the salt has been leached out. The plants are widely scattered. In areas of shad-scale, about 10 percent of the ground is covered, but in some areas of sagebush it approaches 85 percent. Plant heights vary between 15 cm and cm. The main plants are deciduous, most having spiny leaves. Widely distributed animals are jack rabbits, kangaroo rats, kangaroo mice, pocket mice, grasshopper mice, and antelope ground squirrels. In areas like Utah, population density of these animals can range from individuals per hectare. All except the jack rabbits are burrowers. The burrowing habit also applies to carnivores like the badger, kit fox, and coyote. Several lizards do some burrowing and moving of soil. Deer are found only in the winter.

Chapter 9 : Desert Solitaire Quotes by Edward Abbey

Edward AbbeyÂ¿s Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness, is an autobiographical account of AbbeyÂ¿s stint working as a park ranger at Arches National Monument in Utah. At once this book is philosophical and poetic, yet at the same time, sardonic and polemical.

Abbey held the position from April to September each year, during which time he maintained trails, greeted visitors, and collected campground fees. He lived in a house trailer provided to him by the Park Service, as well as in a ramada that he built himself. The area around Moab in that period was still a wilderness habitat and largely undeveloped, with only small numbers of park visitors and limited access to most areas of the monument. These notes remained unpublished for almost a decade while Abbey pursued other jobs and attempted with only moderate success to pursue other writing projects, including three novels which proved to be commercial and critical failures. Eventually Abbey revisited the Arches notes and diaries in , and after some editing and revising had them published as a book in Abbey cited as inspiration and referred to other earlier writers of the genre, particularly Mary Hunter Austin , Henry David Thoreau , and Walt Whitman , whose style Abbey echoed in the structure of his work. Abbey went on to admire the nature writing and environmentalist contemporaries of that period, particularly Annie Dillard. In this early period the park is relatively undeveloped: Abbey provides detailed inventories and observations of the life of desert plants, and their unique adaptations to their harsh surroundings, including the cliffrose , juniper , pinyon pine , and sand sage. He comments on the decline of the large desert predators, particularly bobcats , coyotes , mountain lions , and wildcats , and criticizes the roles ranchers and the policies of the Department of Agriculture have had in the elimination of these animals, which in turn has fostered unchecked growth in deer and rabbit populations, thereby damaging the delicate balance of the desert ecosystem. Some of the oddities of water in the desert, such as flash floods and quicksand , are also explored. Abbey contrasts the natural adaptation of the environment to low-water conditions with increasing human demands to create more reliable water sources. Rock and Tree and Cloud describes the intensity of the summer months in the park, and the various ways in which animals and humans have tried to survive and adapt in those conditions. In Rocks, Abbey examines the influence of mining in the region, particularly the search for lead , silver , uranium , and zinc. Abbey contrasts the difficult lives of the many who unsuccessfully sought their fortune in the desert whilst others left millionaires from lucky strikes, and the legacy of government policy and human greed that can be seen in the modern landscape of mines and shafts, roads and towns. Abbey offers the fable of one "Albert T. Husk" who gave up everything and met his demise in the desert, in the elusive search for buried riches. Abbey also comments on some of the particular cultural artifacts of the region, such as the Basque population , the Mormons , and the archaeological remains of the Ancient Puebloan peoples in cliff dwellings , stone petroglyphs , and pictographs. Specifically, his search for a wild horse in the canyons The Moon-Eyed Horse , his camping around the Havasupai tribal lands and his temporary entrapment on a cliff face there Havasu , the discovery of a dead tourist at an isolated area of what is now Canyonlands National Park The Dead Man at Grandview Point , his attempt to navigate the Maza area of the Canyonlands National Park Terra Incognita: Their journey is taken in the final months before its flooding by the Glen Canyon Dam , in which Abbey notes that many of the natural wonders encountered on the journey would be inundated. Industrial Tourism and the National Parks is an essay fiercely criticizing the policies and vision of the National Park Service , particularly the process by which developing the parks for automotive access has dehumanized the experiences of nature, and created a generation of lazy and unadventurous Americans whilst permanently damaging the views and landscapes of the parks. In Bedrock and Paradox, Abbey details his mixed feelings about his return to New York City after his term as a ranger has finished, and his paradoxical desires for both solitude and community. Abbey also describes his difficulty finding the language, faith, and philosophy to adequately capture his understanding of nature and its effect on the soul. He describes how the desert affects society and more specifically the individual on a multifaceted, sensory level. Many of the ideas and themes drawn out in the book are contradictory. Abbey is dogmatically opposed in various sections to modernity that alienates man

from their natural environment and spoils the desert landscapes, and yet at various points relies completely on modern contrivances to explore and live in the desert. He introduces the desert as "the flaming globe, blazing on the pinnacles and minarets and balanced rocks" [18] and describes his initial reaction to his newfound environment and its challenges. For Abbey, the desert is a symbol of strength, and he is "comforted by [the] solidity and resistance" of his natural surroundings. It is this harshness that makes "the desert more alluring, more baffling, more fascinating", increasing the vibrancy of life. This duality ultimately allows him the freedom to prosper, as "love flowers best in openness in freedom. To Abbey, the desert represents both the end to one life and the beginning of another: The finest quality of this stone, these plants and animals, this desert landscape is the indifference manifest to our presence, our absence, our staying or our going. Whether we live or die is a matter of absolutely no concern whatsoever to the desert. Let men in their madness blast every city on earth into black rubble and envelope the entire planet in a cloud of lethal gas - the canyons and hills, the springs and rocks will still be here, the sunlight will filter through, water will form and warmth shall be upon the land and after sufficient time, now matter how long, somewhere, living things will emerge and join and stand once again, this time perhaps to take a different and better course. His message is that civilization and nature each have their own culture, and it is necessary to survival that they remain separate: This is made apparent with quotes such as: Abbey is critical of the industrial pressures on the desert, particularly the inundation of Glen Canyon as a result of the Glen Canyon Dam My God! I am thinking, what incredible shit we put up with most of our lives â€” the domestic routine same old wife every night , the stupid and useless degrading jobs, the insufferable arrogance of elected officials, the crafty cheating and the slimy advertising of the business men, the tedious wars in which we kill our buddies instead of our real enemies back in the capital, the foul diseased and hideous cities and towns we live in, the constant petty tyranny of automatic washers and automobiles and TV machines and telephone! There may be some among the readers of this book, like the earnest engineer, who believe without question that any and all forms of construction and development are intrinsic goods, in the national parks as well as anywhere else, who virtually identify quantity with quality and therefore assume that the greater the quantity of traffic, the higher the value received. There are some who frankly and boldly advocate the eradication of the last remnants of wilderness and the complete subjugation of nature to the requirements of--not man--but industry. This is a courageous view, admirable in its simplicity and power, and with the weight of all modern history behind it. It is also quite insane. I cannot attempt to deal with it here. A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself. If industrial man continues to multiply its numbers and expand his operations he will succeed in his apparent intention, to seal himself off from the natural and isolate himself within a synthetic prison of his own making. He will make himself an exile from the earth. To meet God or Medusa face to face, even if it means risking everything human in myself. He also concludes that its inherent emptiness and meaninglessness serve as the ideal canvas for human philosophy absent the distractions of human contrivances and natural complexities. As such, Abbey wonders why natural monuments like mountains and oceans are mythologized and extolled much more than are deserts. I am almost prepared to believe that this sweet virginal primitive land would be grateful for my departure and the absence of the tourist, will breath metaphorically a collective sigh of relief - like a whisper of wind â€” when we are all and finally gone and the place and its creations can return to their ancient procedures unobserved and undisturbed by the busy, anxious, brooding consciousness of man. The word suggests the past and the unknown, the womb of the earth from which we all emerged. Abbey is not unaware, however, of the behaviour of his human kin; instead, he realizes that people have very different ideas about how to experience nature. Some like to live as much in accord with nature as possible, and others want to have both manmade comforts and a marvellous encounter with nature simultaneously: Too much for some, who have given up the struggle on the highways, in exchange for an entirely different kind of vacation- out in the open, on their own feet, following the quiet trail through forests and mountains, bedding down in the evening under the stars, when and where they feel like it, at a time where the Industrial Tourists are still hunting for a place to park their automobiles. Abbey also was concerned with the level of human connection to the tools of civilization. He was in favor of returning to nature and gaining the freedom that was lost with the inventions that take us

places in this day and age: A man could be a lover and defender of the wilderness without ever in his lifetime leaving the boundaries of asphalt, power lines, and right-angled surfaces. We need wilderness whether or not we ever set foot in it. We need a refuge even though we may never need to go there. I may never in my life go to Alaska, for example, but I am grateful that it is there. We need the possibility of escape as surely as we need hope; without it the life of the cities would drive all men into crime or drugs or psychoanalysis. But he wants others to have the same freedom. His only request is that they cut their strings first. When Abbey is lounging in his chair in degree heat at Arches and observes that the mountains are snow-capped and crystal clear, it shows what nature provides: That a median can be found, and that pleasure and comfort can be found between the rocks and hard places: Mountains complement desert as desert complements city, as wilderness complements and complete civilization. He makes the acknowledgement that we came from the wilderness, we have lived by it, and we will return to it. This is an expression of loyalty: It is where we came from, and something we still recognize as our starting point: Standing there, gaping at this monstrous and inhuman spectacle of rock and cloud and sky and space, I feel a ridiculous greed and possessiveness come over me. I want to know it all, possess it all, embrace the entire scene intimately, deeply, totally, as a man desires a beautiful woman. Encyclopedia of the Environment in American literature.