



Desert Habitat: Vultures

Preschool Activities

VULTURE PUKE TOSS

Hand-eye coordination, isolated movement

QUICK FACTS

- Vulture heads are balds so the skin of the carrion (or already dead animal they eat) will not stick to their feathers.
- They can smell carrion from over a mile away and less than 12 hours old.
- In the hot summer months (or in the hot desert day), turkey vultures poop on their own legs to cool down and to get rid of any rotting flesh that got on their legs.
- If turkey vultures are upset or threatened they throw up on whoever or whatever is doing it. (This includes cars that approach while the vultures are eating. It also lightens their load so they can fly away faster.)
- They can projectile vomit up to 10 feet.
- A group of vultures is called a committee, a venue, or a volt.
- A vulture's stomach acid is significantly stronger and more corrosive than that of other animals or birds. (So corrosive it can eat through certain metals.) This allows these scavengers to feed on rotting carcasses that may be infected with dangerous bacteria; the acid will kill that bacteria (like rabies and anthrax) so it does not threaten the vulture. (They are natural sanitizers! That pooping on their legs things is helpful in stopping the spread of bacteria to water, ground, and other animals.)

PREPARATION

- Make Puke Patties
- Pour glue into a small bowl.
- Mix in feathers, fake bones, googly eyes.
- Pour mixture into muffin cups. Only fill about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.
- Let dry for 3–5 days.
- Peel out puke patties.
- Draw or cut out a picture of a car and place it on cardboard.

DIRECTIONS

- Place car picture on/in/or behind a plastic bin.
- Have youths throw puke patties at the car from varying distances.