



These notes are designed so that you can use them as a guide for teaching or alternatively you can give them to a group of students who will then complete the reading and activities independently or with a partner.

Each set of notes has:

- An activity grid
- The science content and knowledge
- The science vocabulary in the glossary
- The answers to the quiz
- Questions for each chapter to guide reading

There is more than one way to read this book. Here are four examples. No one way is better than the another. You may also like to use the graphic organizers to help guide your reading.

- You can skim through the pages of the entire book, stopping at and studying the diagrams. Then check the glossary to clarify your understanding of any unknown science-related words. This will give you the background science information before you read the story. Then go back and read the story.
- You can read the blurb on the back cover, then jump straight into reading Chapter 1. Read the story as if there were no diagrams or bolded words at all. When you have finished, go back and study the diagrams and glossary words to add to your knowledge.

- You can do a combination of both the above. Read the back cover blurb to find out the storyline. Study the initial diagrams. Then read the book, stopping to consolidate your understanding of the science concepts. Check out the bolded words in the glossary if you are unsure of their meaning.
- You can read the book chapter by chapter, stopping and discussing the story and the science as you go.

When you have finished reading, take the test. You should get six out of six. If you aren't sure of an answer, follow the quiz clues at the end of the book.

Now do one or both of the activities. When you have finished these, complete the black line master activities.

Book Title	Book Activity 1	Book Activity 2	Graphic Organiser 1	Graphic Organiser 2	Black Line Master 1	Black Line Master 2	Black Line Master 3
Cassandra's Clever Dad	Values Honesty	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Literal	Science Inquiry	Literacy Vocabulary	Multiple Intelligence Logical	Literacy Inquiry
Bushfire	Comprehension Inferential	Science Vocabulary	Literacy Vocabulary	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Literal	Multiple Intelligence Linguistic	Values Cooperation & Teamwork
Magnets Malwinski	Values Tolerance	Science Vocabulary	Comprehension Literal	Science Inquiry	Literacy Vocabulary	Multiple Intelligence Linguistic	Comprehension Inferential
Alexander Becomes and Astronaut	Values Responsibility	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Literal	Science Inquiry	Science Vocabulary	Multiple Intelligence Linguistic	Comprehension Inferential
Battered to Bits	Comprehension Literal	Science Experiment	Literacy Vocabulary	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Inferential	Multiple Intelligence Logical	Values Respect
The Devious Desert Racer	Comprehension Inferential	Science Inquiry	Multiple Intelligence Logical	Science Inquiry	Literacy Vocabulary	Comprehension Inferential	Values Respect, Care, Integrity, Responsibility
The Wild Ride	Literacy Vocabulary	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Literal	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Literal	Multiple Intelligence Linguistic	Values Responsibility
Day of Fire	Comprehension Inferential	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Literal	Science Inquiry	Literacy Vocabulary	Multiple Intelligence Linguistic	Values Priorities
Isabella Remington – Basketball Star	Comprehension Inferential	Science Experiment	Comprehension Literal	Science Inquiry	Literacy Vocabulary	Multiple Intelligence Bodily Kinaesthetic	Values Doing Your Best
Hurricane Tamer	Comprehension Inferential	Science Numbers	Values Doing Your Best	Science Inquiry	Literacy Vocabulary	Multiple Intelligence Musical	Comprehension Literal
Trouble on the Track	Literacy Vocabulary	Science Numbers	Comprehension Literal	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Inferential	Multiple Intelligence Naturalist	Values Relationships
Beyond the Thicket	Comprehension Literal	Science Inquiry	Comprehension Inferential	Science Inquiry	Science Vocabulary	Multiple Intelligence Visual Spatial	Values Compassion & Fair Go

The Devious Desert Racer

Science Content and Knowledge:

Life Science: Desert Ecosystem

Level: Middle

Genre: Action Adventure

Reading age: 9.9 years

Science Vocabulary

community	longitudinal
desert	minerals
dune	moisture
ecosystem	oasis
environment	solar panels
evaporation	subtropical desert
gully	terrain
habitat	thermal
heatstroke	

Quiz Answers

Question 1:

A fertile area in the desert where there is water and vegetation

Question 2:

A desert that lies between 15 and 30 degrees latitude around the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and receives little rainfall

Question 3:

Hump to store fat, ears covered in hair and feet with soft pads

Question 4:

Date palms, cactus, and desert oak

Question 5:

Marsupial mole, scorpion, skink, snake, dingo and hawk

Question 6:

To stay out of the sun

Study Guide

Chapter 1 – The Preparation

As the title of the story *The Devious Desert Racer* suggests, the story is set in the desert.

Read the chapter to find out who the main characters are and why the story is set in the desert.

Chapter 2 – Ready, Set, Go!

Chapter 2 is the start of the desert race. Given the information in Chapter 1, what kinds of problems could the main characters have in the desert? Write down some of your ideas. Read the chapter to find out if you were correct.

Chapter 3 – Saved by the Sun

Corrie and Tab are racing through the desert in Astrokid. Using the title of the chapter as a clue, think of what could happen to Corrie and Tab, and how they could be saved by the sun?

Chapter 4 – Falling through the Sand

Why do you think the author gave this chapter this particular title? What does it imply? Predict what could happen in the chapter and jot down your ideas. Read the chapter to see if you were correct.

Chapter 5 – Sabotage

How do you think the story will end? Use your knowledge from previous chapters and the title of the chapter to help with your prediction.

Graphic Organizer 1– Multiple Intelligence

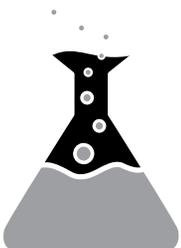
The Devious Desert Racer

Name _____

- Logical Intelligence

As you read the story, plot the position of each of the cars during the race.

Place	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
1st				
2nd				
3rd				
4th				
5th				
6th				



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Graphic Organizer 2 – Science

The Devious Desert Racer

Name _____

- Science Inquiry

As you read the story, make notes about the unique features of the desert environment.



The Devious Desert Racer

Name _____

• Vocabulary

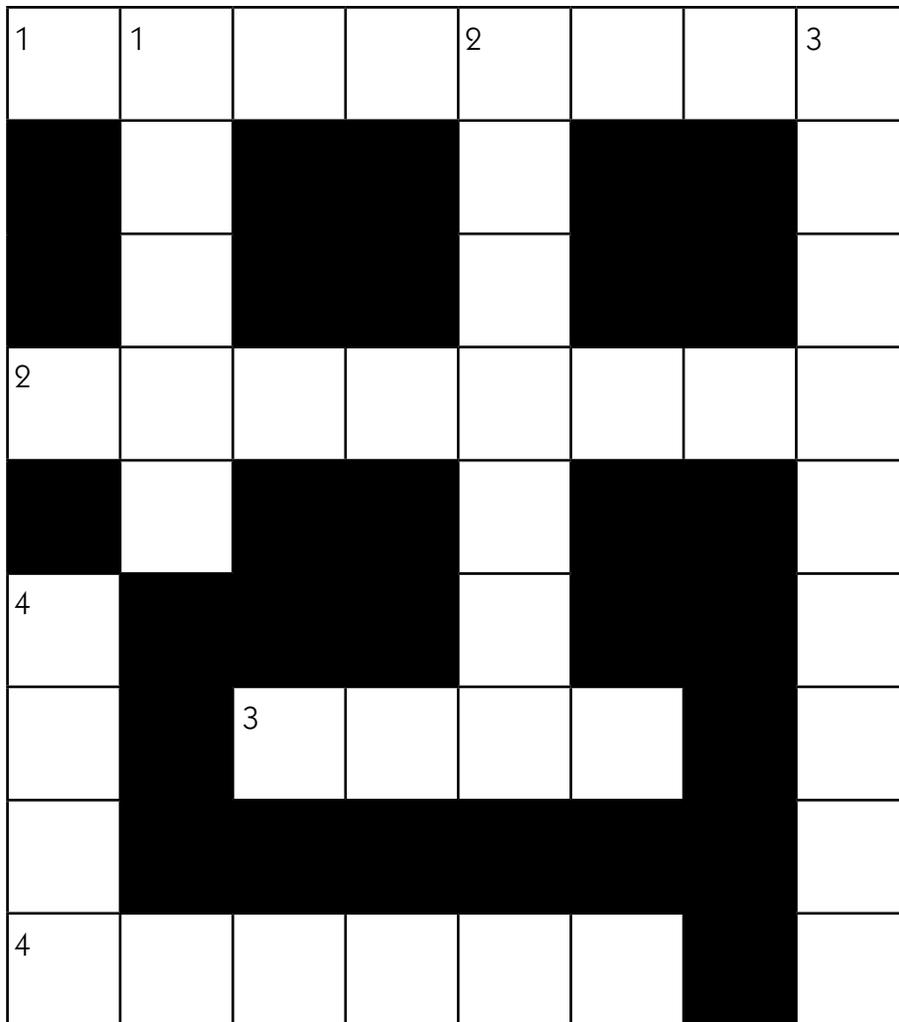
Complete the crossword.

Across

1. Wetness caused by water
2. Natural substances formed in Earth
3. A mound of sand in the desert
4. An arid area with little rainfall or vegetation

Down

1. A fertile area in the desert
2. The surface feature of an area of land
3. A system made up of living and non-living things
4. Small granular materials found in the desert



If you need help with the crossword, check the glossary in the story.



The Devious Desert Racer

Name _____

- Comprehension – Inferential

Look at the food web on pages 68 and 69 of the book. Using the headings below, brainstorm some other species that could be added to the food web. Use examples from the book to help you.

Primary Producers	Primary Consumers	Secondary Consumers	
Vegetation	Herbivores	Small Predators Carnivores, Insectivores	Large Predators



BLM 3 – Values

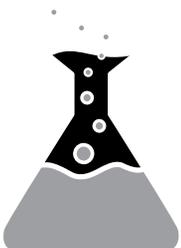
The Devious Desert Racer

Name _____

- Integrity, Respect, Responsibility and Care

Discuss the values of integrity, respect, responsibility and Care. Look up the meaning of each of the words and discuss the meaning with a classmate. Explain how the Shark Girl team and the Astrokid team demonstrated, or did not demonstrate the values.

Value	Meaning	Shark Girl	Astrokid
Integrity			
Respect			
Responsibility			
Care			



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