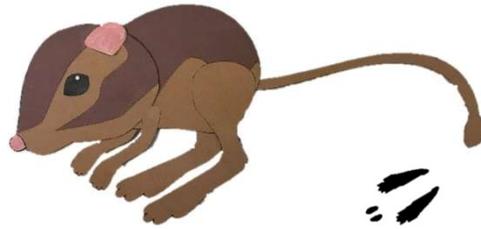


Adventures with Calli, the Kangaroo Rat!



Meet Calliandra Kangaroo Rat, or Calli for short. She is very well adapted to living in the hot, dry Sonoran Desert. Her favorite foods are mesquite pods and seeds from desert grasses, but sometimes she snacks on insects or green plants. To keep cool, Calli is nocturnal, meaning she is active at night and sleeps during the day. She has a burrow in the ground next to a fairy duster plant (called Calliandra eriophylla by scientists), which is how she got her name.

Did you know that kangaroo rats...

- Are not kangaroos or rats? They are in the pocket mouse family.
- Have four toes on each foot?
- Can use their large back feet to jump up to 9 feet and can change direction in mid-air? These ninja skills help them escape predators like snakes, owls, coyotes, and cats.
- Often have tails as long as or longer than their bodies?
- Can survive without ever drinking water? They actually make water from their food as they digest it.
- Don't waste water by sweating or panting to cool off?
- Can hear extremely quiet sounds, like sneaky predators? Their ears are 90 times more sensitive than ours.
- Have fur-lined pouches (pockets) on the outside of their cheeks that they use to carry seeds?
- Have burrows with multiple entrances, so they can escape out the back if a snake or other predator comes in the front "door"

Make Your Own Kangaroo Rat

1. **Color** all the parts (head, body, legs, etc.) of your kangaroo rat. You can use the same colors shown in the example in the lower right corner of the pattern – or choose your own.
2. **Cut out** all the parts; **arrange** them on a table or flat surface.
3. Once your kangaroo rat is in the position you want, carefully **glue or tape** the parts together. Start by attaching the head to the body. Then add the tail and both sets of legs. Finally, attach the eye and ear to the head.
4. Name your Kangaroo rat, and take him or her on adventures! You can attach the **popsicle stick** to make taking pictures easier. **Try snapping a photo:** in your yard, at a park, in your room, with your pet, from high up in the air (bird's-eye view), or from down low on the ground (bug's-eye view). Be creative!



Calli checking out a prickly pear cactus at Feliz Paseos Park.

Share a picture of your own kangaroo rat and see some of Calli's other adventures on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/PimaCountyNRPR

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