

West Texas Wildlife

Lions and tigers and bears, Oh My! Well, there aren't any tigers, but black bear and mountain lions do live in West Texas. As you look out the window of the train, try to see if you can spot any wildlife. Here the train tracks pass through habitats of a wide variety of plants and animals. You will have to watch closely because many of the animals have a natural camouflage to protect them from predators. Some of the animals have evolved this camouflage to the point that they might look like a leaf or a stick. Other animals have developed unique characteristics in order to help them survive in the harsh west Texas environment.

The Red Fox is one of the many species of animals that you might encounter along your journey. The Red Fox is legendary for its intelligence and adaptability. The most prominent feature of the fox is its large bushy tail. The fox uses its tail in many different ways; one of the most important uses is for balance. The tail gives the Fox an extreme level of agility that it uses to navigate the rough terrain. The fox's tail is also important for warmth - when curled in a ball with its furry tailed wrapped around it like a scarf, the fox can keep warm during the cold desert winter nights.

If you are having trouble locating animals on the ground, try looking into the sky above. You can see a range of different bird species year round, but at certain times of the year, this part of the United States is a major pathway for migratory birds. Some of the year-round residents include hawks, quail, and owls.

This part of Texas is also famous for a unique bird portrayed in cartoons for a large portion of the 20th century and now familiar to many of us, the road runner. This crow-sized bird is believed by many to be flightless but it actually has the ability to fly short distances to escape its predators. The roadrunner looked quite large in the cartoon but in reality it is less than two feet long. One thing the Cartoon did portray correctly is the speed of the bird. Road runners have the ability to reach speeds of up to 20 MPH while running on the ground.

Keep an eye out for other animals which call West Texas home, including a type of wild pig called a javelina, both white-tailed deer and mule deer, and a close deer relative, the pronghorn antelope. As the train continues down the tracks, see how many animals you can spot!

Source(s):

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