Zack Rabbit & Lenny Lizard's Guide to Desert Wash Safety

Fun activities and safety tips about desert washes from Zack & Lenny!

You can color us, too!
Desert Wash Safety was made possible with help from the following students and teachers:

Mrs. Fleming’s 4th Grade Classes at Saints Peter & Paul Elementary

Mrs. Young’s 3rd Grade Class at Los Ranchitos Elementary

Ms. Waddill’s 4th Grade & Mrs. Damon’s 3rd Grade Classes at Lawrence Intermediate

Thank you for your help and participation!
Hi! My name is Zack Rabbit and this is my good buddy, Lenny Lizard...

We're here to tell you about DESERT wash SAFETY.

When it rains, stormwater that doesn't soak into the ground starts to flow. This is called RUNOFF. Runoff collects in low, sandy areas called WASHES. The washes carry water to larger rivers. We learned that a desert wash or riverbed can be a dangerous place to play—so be very careful!
A wash is home to many desert CREATURES. Most of them don’t like to be disturbed.
Snakes and scorpions often hide under bushes and rocks near washes. Since I don't like to get bit or stung, I don't play in the wash--it isn't safe!

Hey Kids! Check out Lenny Lizard's

**CREATURE-FIND!**

How many hidden desert creatures can you find? (There are 7 creatures besides the rattlesnake.)
Sometimes, Lenny and I see junk in the wash—like rusty metal cans and TRASH. Once, Lenny tried to pick up an old car battery and acid leaked all over his tail. Lucky for him, lizards can grow a new tail, or it could have been a lot worse!

It's illegal to dump your trash in the wash!
Connect the dots below to see what was dumped in the wash.

START HERE

POOR LENNY!
Digging a FORT in the banks of the wash sounds like fun, but believe us, it's not. The walls and roof can collapse and you could be trapped! Find a safer place to build your fort.
**DRAW A DESERT FORT**

Let's see if you can find a safe place to build your fort...
draw a fort in one of the safe areas below.
One cloudy day, Lenny and I were riding our mountain bikes on a desert trail. Lenny thought it would be cool to try and ride our bikes in the wash. It started to rain, but we went in anyway.
Suddenly, a huge wall of water was coming right toward us! We had to jump off our bikes and get out fast! We made it out, but our bikes got washed away in the FLOOD. After that, Lenny and I got smart and decided to stay out of the washes when it rains.
During the summer, it rains hard and washes can quickly fill with water. A summer rain is called a MONSOON. During a monsoon, the streets and washes get flooded and it's hard to tell how deep the water is. It's dangerous to drive or wade across a flowing wash—you or your car might get stuck or washed away!
Lenny and I also learned where stormwater goes after it rains...down the stormdrains!

After Lenny painted his house, he dumped the leftover paint into the street and it went down a stormdrain.

**FIND THE POLLUTANTS**

Circle all 5 pollutants that are being washed down the stormdrain.
I wish he had known that the stormdrain travels underground and comes out in a wash. When it rains, any POLLUTANTS dumped in the stormdrain are carried along with the rain to the wash. So remember...ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN!

It doesn't DISAPPEAR...

...it comes out HERE!
Back at home, Lenny and I collect STORMWATER from our rooftops and use it around our houses. This is called WATER HARVESTING.

Water harvesting is a great way to use stormwater to help plants grow!
ACROSS

1. Zack & Lenny's bikes got washed away in a _______.

2. _______ collects in low, sandy areas called washes.

3. Water Harvesting is a great way to use ____________

4. Be careful playing around _______!

5. We live in the__________

6. It's illegal to dump your _______ in the wash!

7. This book is about desert wash _______

8. A summer rain is called a _______

DOWN

9. Remember. _______ _______ in the_______!


11. Don't build your_____ in a wash!

12. Collecting and using stormwater is called_______ _________

13. Many desert___________live in the wash.
Lenny and I have learned a lot about being safe around washes, especially when it rains! We know where the stormdrains go, and all the pollutants that can end up in a wash. Plus, we learned how to use stormwater wisely in the desert!

So remember... have fun, but BE SAFE AROUND WASHES!
Answer Guide to

WASH SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Creature Find (pg. 2 & 3)

Dot-to-Dot (pg. 5)

Desert Wash Maze (pg. 11)

Draw a Fort (pg. 7)
(Safe areas are shaded)

Find The Pollutants (pg. 12)

1. Oil 
2. Paint 
3. Gasoline 
4. Bottle/Can 
5. Fast Food Cup 
Cigarette, Trash

Desert Water Crossword (pg. 15)
Brought to you by the

CITY OF TUCSON

TUCSON DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation

STORMWATER SECTION

DO NOT ENTER WHEN FLOODED

ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN

Call 791-4372 for more information!