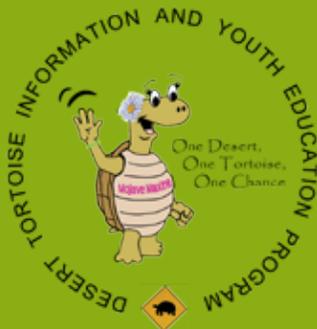


# Why Desert Tortoises?

A symbol of the desert and California's State Reptile, the desert tortoise was easy to find not too many years ago. With increasing development of the desert, tortoise numbers have declined to the point that it is now on the Federal List of Threatened Species, and is protected by law.

The Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education Program offers a variety of different ways to teach about tortoises in your classroom. By teaching students about desert tortoises at a young age, tortoises will have a more promising future.



## Other Websites

[www.aclj.org](http://www.aclj.org)

[www.cctc.org](http://www.cctc.org)

[www.dtpc.org](http://www.dtpc.org)

[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)



## DESERT MANAGERS GROUP

The Desert Managers Group (DMG) is a partnership of county, state and federal agencies working together to conserve and enhance the California desert for current and future generations.

[www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov)



## THE LIVING DESERT

The Living Desert is a remarkable zoo and botanical garden representing the desert environments of North America and Africa whose mission is desert conservation through preservation, education and appreciation.

[www.LivingDesert.org](http://www.LivingDesert.org)



<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>

### Contact Information:

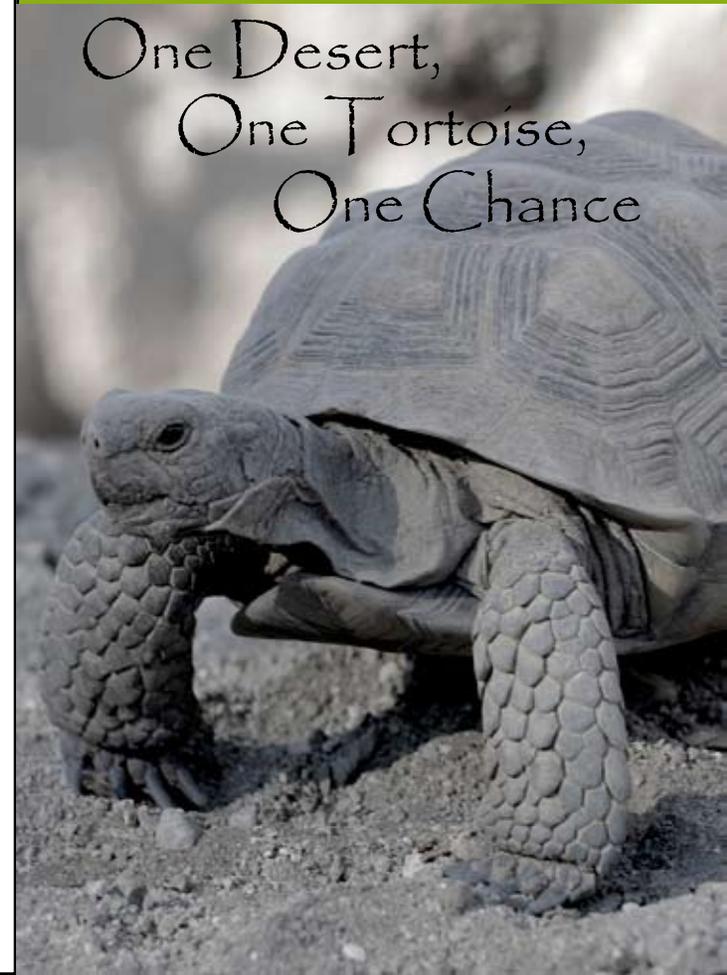
The Living Desert  
47900 Portola Ave  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Phone: 760-346-5694 x 2116

Fax: 760-568-9685

# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO DESERT TORTOISE INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

One Desert,  
One Tortoise,  
One Chance



# MOJAVE MAXINE EMERGENCE CONTEST!!

## What is it?

The Mojave Maxine Emergence Contest is a great way to begin to teach about Desert Tortoises. Students have to guess when Maxine will emerge from brumation (the reptilian form of hibernation).

## Who can enter?

Youth from all 9 southern California counties (Inyo, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Kern, Imperial, San Diego and Orange) are encouraged to enter. Anyone under 18 can submit a guess.

## How do students enter?

Students should visit [www.deserttortoise.gov](http://www.deserttortoise.gov) to participate. Only the first guess from each student will be accepted.

## What are the prizes?

Winners will receive T-shirts for their entire class, gift cards for themselves and their teacher as well as a classroom visit from Mojave Maxine and more.

[www.facebook.com/mojavemaxine](http://www.facebook.com/mojavemaxine)

Twitter: @mojavemaxine

[www.mojavedata.gov/contest](http://www.mojavedata.gov/contest)



# TORTOISE TRUNKS FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

## What are they?

Tortoise trunks are complete tools for teaching about the desert tortoise in the classroom. Trunks include field-tested lesson plans, information packets, books, models, specimens

## How do I borrow one?

Contact the Desert Tortoise Conservation Outreach Coordinator to get started. Trunks will be lent out for 2-week intervals. Trunks can be picked up in Barstow, Joshua Tree or The Living Desert, or shipped to you. \*Shipping charges may apply. Trunks weigh about 30 lbs and measure about 3 ft. x 2 ft. x 2ft.

## Who can use them?

Formal and informal educators in Southern California are eligible to borrow the trunks at no cost.



## K-2nd Grade Trunk

### What is a Desert Tortoise?

Our newest trunk will be a great opportunity for teachers to introduce the desert tortoise to your students.

## 3rd - 4th Grade Trunk

### Needs of the Desert Tortoise

Complete with nine hands-on activities, this trunk covers the Mojave Desert ecosystem and the niche of the desert tortoise. It also covers the history of land use in the Mojave.

## 5th - 6th Grade Trunk

### Needs and Threats to the Desert Tortoise

Complete with eight hands-on activities, this trunk describes the factors that have contributed to the decline of the desert tortoise and shows how students can contribute to their recovery.

## 7th - 8th Grade Trunk - Coming Soon!

### Life Cycle of the Desert Tortoise

## High School Trunk - Coming Soon!

### Conservation Efforts for the Desert Tortoise

