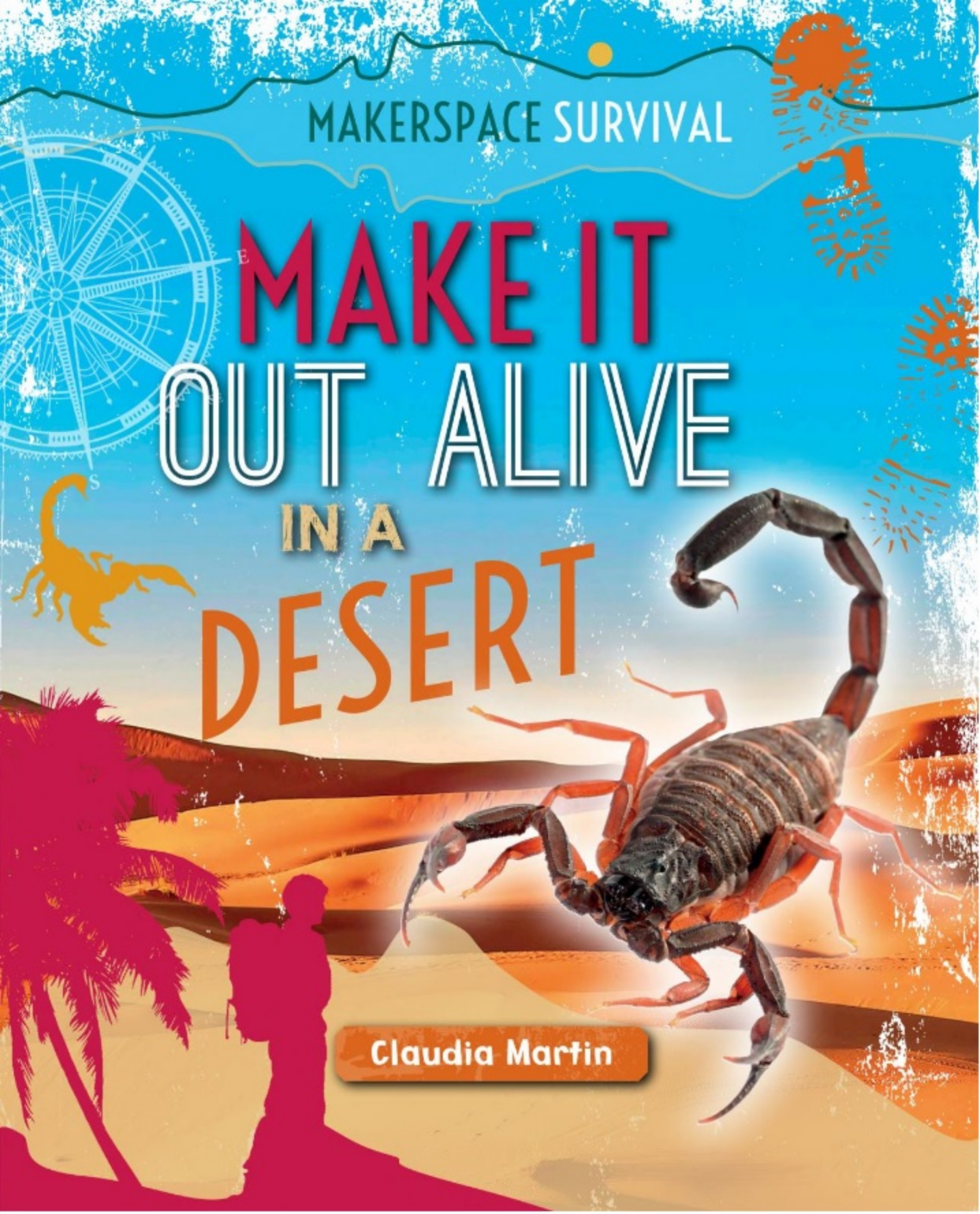


MAKERSPACE SURVIVAL

MAKE IT
OUT ALIVE
IN A
DESERT

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CONTENTS



Chapter 1

Survive the Desert	4
World of Deserts	6
Desert Peoples	8
Desert Survivor	10

Chapter 2

Water, Water	12
Dig a Hole	14
Bag a Plant	16
Use the Sun	18

Chapter 3

Keep Cool	20
Hat Attack	22
In the Shade	24

Chapter 4

Get Cooking	26
Bury It	28
Sunny Oven	30

Chapter 5

Desert Dangers	32
Sliders and Stingers	34
Sandstorm.....	36

Chapter 6

Get Out of There.....	38
Attract Attention	40
Shine Out	42
Make Your Mark	44

Answers—Did You Make It?	45
Glossary	46
Further Reading	47
Index.....	48

CHAPTER 1

SURVIVE THE DESERT



You are about to be parachuted into the center of one of the world's hottest deserts. Your challenge is to make your way back to civilization beneath the burning sun. To make your mission even more difficult, you cannot bring any water, food, tents, fire starters, or cooking equipment. How will you survive?

Will You Make It Out Alive?

You can dress in your choice of clothes and footwear. You can also carry some essential equipment, such as a pocketknife, a tube of sunscreen, and sunglasses. Apart from these items, you will have to provide yourself with water, food, and shelter by making your own tools and equipment. You can use any local materials you find in the desert, as well as any recyclable man-made items you can find lying around. You will also be provided with a backpack in which you will find some useful materials and tools.

Many lizards can survive the extreme desert climate. Can you do the same?



What Is in Your Backpack?

The following materials and tools are in your backpack. When you come across a "Can You Make It?" activity in this book, you must choose from this list of items to construct it. Each item can be used only once. Study the list carefully before you set off. You can find the correct solutions for all the activities on page 45 of this book.

Can You Make It?

Materials

- 2 D batteries
- 2.2 volt light bulb
- 10 tent poles, each 6 feet (183 cm) long
- Aluminum foil
- Black construction paper
- Bucket
- Canvas tarp
- Cardboard tube
- Cord
- Electrical tape
- Electrical wire, 5 inches (13 cm) long, with the plastic coating stripped from each end
- Newspaper

- Pizza box
- Plastic wrap
- Clear plastic sheet

Tools

- Craft knife
- Pair of scissors



Cord



Craft knife

Survival Tip

Use the Internet to look up all the items in your backpack before you begin your journey. Make sure that you understand what they are and how you might be able to use them.



WORLD OF DESERTS

Before your mission begins, take a few moments to understand the hazards you will face. A desert is a region that is very dry because, on average, fewer than 10 inches (25 cm) of **precipitation** falls there in a year, either as rain or snow.

Great Deserts

You are going to be dropped into a hot desert, but deserts may be hot or cold, depending on their distance from the equator. Many deserts lie in two bands called the "horse **latitudes**" about 2,000 miles (3,200 km) north or south of the equator. Hot, moist air rises at the equator, cooling as it does. Cool air can hold less moisture than warm air, so the moisture **condenses** into clouds and falls as rain. The dry air spreads out before sinking, causing bands where little rain falls.



Great deserts are found all over the Earth. Africa's Sahara and Kalahari Deserts lie in the horse latitudes, where little rain falls.

Make a Flashlight

From your list of supplies and some local materials, you will need to make:

- An electrical circuit containing a source of electricity and a light bulb
- A simple switch to turn your bulb on and off
- A container that can snugly hold your circuit.

Can You Make It?

Step 1

Think about which items will make up your electricity source. Examine them to see which way up they should be positioned.

Step 2

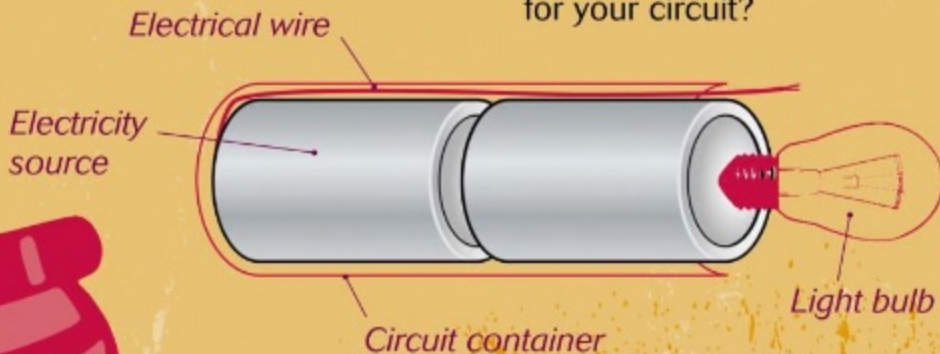
Which item could stick your light bulb to your electricity source?

Step 3

Consider which item will complete your circuit, running from one end of your electricity source to your light bulb. How could you make a switch to open and close the circuit? Remember, the electrical wire must touch the metal part of the light bulb to complete the electrical circuit.

Step 4

Which item could be a container for your circuit?



MAKE YOUR MARK

It is easy to become disoriented in the desert and walk in circles. As you travel, mark your trail, so that you know which way you have come. This will also be a trail for rescuers to follow.

Building Cairns

Piles of stones, called **cairns**, can be used to mark your trail. Cairns are built in a rough pyramid shape, starting with the flattest stones you can find. You may be lucky enough to find a route already marked by cairns. Sometimes, the builder might have inserted a pointing stone, or beak, into the cairn to mark the direction of travel. At each cairn, look around for the next, then keep it in your line of sight.

You Survived!

At last, in the distance, you spot a line of camels. As you get closer, you see Tuareg traders are riding them. You ask if you can travel with them. One of the Tuareg orders a camel to kneel so you can climb aboard. You wrap your legs around the camel's hump as it lurches across the sand toward the nearest market.

Follow a camel caravan: Tuareg traders have been navigating the desert for hundreds of years.

