

Camel painting

You will need: Camel fact sheet, paper, yellow, red and black paints, paintbrushes, old plastic containers for mixing paints.

What to do: ● Look at the camel picture with your helper.

Talk about how camels are adapted to live in the desert.

- Let's paint our own camel. Mix a little red paint into some yellow to make orange. Add a tiny drop of black paint. What colour do you have now? Brown.
- Start by painting a large brown oval in the middle of the paper. Add one or two humps.
- Add a curved neck and a small oval for your camel's head. Don't forget to paint some hairy ears!
- Paint four strong legs with big flat feet, and a short tail. Make some dark brown to paint his mane and use black paint to paint his eyes and the tip of his tail.
- Once your camel is dry. Draw labels for your camel's ears, eyes, tail, legs, feet and hump(s).
- Bring your camel to school.



This activity helps your child to explore colour and shape to paint a camel. They will also practise writing simple labels. Take some time to talk to your child about how camels are adapted to living in the desert. If possible paint a camel picture at the same time as your child and talk through each step. Encourage your child to sound out the words to help them to write their labels.

Foundation Curriculum areas covered:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication, Language and Literacy; Knowledge and Understanding of the World; and Creative Development.



Camels



- Camels are large mammals that live in dry areas.
- There are two types of camel. The Arabian camel (Dromedary) has one hump and lives in the hot, dry deserts of Africa. The Bactrian camel has two humps and lives in the rocky deserts of Asia, where it is very hot during the day and very cold at night.

- Camels are very big. They are 2 metres tall at the hump and weigh more than 725kg.
- The camel's hump is made of fat, which is broken down into water inside the camel's body. Camels can go without food or drink for nearly a week! When he is thirsty the camel can drink as much as ten buckets of water. This makes his hump big and firm. The hump goes saggy as he uses up the fat.
- Camels have very hairy ears to stop sand blowing into their ears. They can also close their nostrils to stop the sand from blowing up their noses.
- Camel's eyes are very special. They have very thin skin on their eyelids. This means that they can still see when their eyes are closed! Bushy eyebrows and long eyelashes also help to protect the camel's eyes from the harsh desert weather.
- Camels have strong legs and big feet. The wide, flat feet help to stop them from sinking into the sand. They have thick leathery skin on their knees and chest to stop them getting sore when they kneel down on the rough ground.
- A camel's mouth is very tough, so that they can eat thorny desert plants. They have very thick fur that keeps them warm at night and cool during the day.

