

## Grand Canyon Facts

The Grand Canyon is a very big, beautiful hole in the ground. The canyon is very, very deep. You want to stay away from the edge! It is also very, very long. If you walked around the rim of the canyon it would take a fast person a whole day! It is made up of many different colors of rock that formed over time. At the bottom of the canyon is the Colorado River. Scientists conclude that the Colorado River used to have much more water, and that river carved through the rock to create the Grand Canyon.



Thank you to [openclipart.org](https://openclipart.org) for this beautiful Grand Canyon clipart!

## Grand Canyon Animals

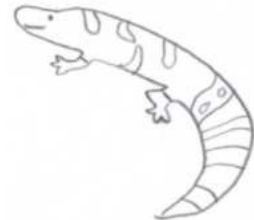
**Big Horn Sheep** are almost the same color as the rock of the Grand Canyon, so sometimes they are difficult to see. They have special hooves that grip the ground. This makes it easier for them to walk along the edges and cliffs of the canyon.



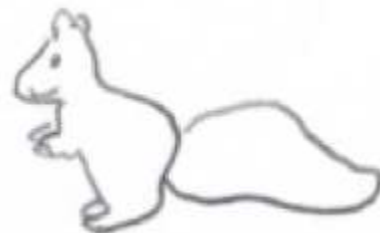
**California Condors** are an endangered species. That means there are not many left. Some scientists are helping these birds. California Condors have the largest wingspan in North America. Their wingspan is longer than a grown up is tall!



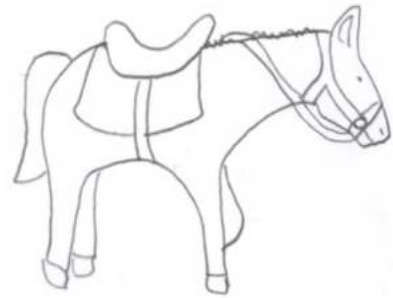
**Gila Monsters** are not actually monsters. They are lizards. A gila monster would most likely be scared of you! They are long, but they do not weigh very much. When you were a baby, you probably weighed more than an adult gila monster!



**Squirrels** in the Grand Canyon are not as shy as the squirrels in your backyard. These squirrels are known to climb into people's bags and backpacks to look for food. They will follow people around and want people to feed them. Do not feed them or pet them! Squirrels in the Grand Canyon have bitten people!



**Mules** are often rode by guests visiting the Grand Canyon. People ride mules on trails in or near the Grand Canyon. Mules are similar to horses. Mules generally have bigger ears than horses and thinner manes and tails.



## **Wild or Tame**

**Wild animals live on their own without any help from people. They find their own water, food, and shelter. Wild animals would probably be scared of you. A wild animal would not want you to pet it. It might run off or bite you.**

**Tame animals do receive help from humans. They might receive food, water, shelter, or all three from humans. A tame animal would be relatively tolerant of you. Maybe you could pet a tame dog or ride on a tame horse.**

**Which animals we read about are tame? Which ones are wild?**