



Rock Pocket Mouse



A typical rock pocket mouse from its nose to the end of its tail is shorter than a pencil. This tiny mouse weighs about as much as a handful of paper clips. Rock pocket mice, however, have had an enormous impact on science. You can find populations of rock pocket mice all over the Sonoran Desert in the southwestern United States. There are two common varieties—a light-colored variety and a dark-colored variety. There are also two major colors that make up the desert floor. Most of the landscape consists of light-colored sand and rock, but patches of dark volcanic rocks that formed from cooling lava flows are found, separated by several kilometers of light-colored sand.



