



Figure 22.20 How does mesquite escape drought?



Figure 22.21 The kangaroo rat can survive without drinking any water. What adaptations might make this possible?

...ed **estivation** (es tih VAY shun). Estivation is similar to hibernation, but is a response to heat and dryness rather than to cold. Others animals are light colored, thereby reflecting light, and have adaptations that enable them to conserve water. The kangaroo rat, shown in Figure 22.21, which lives in the American Southwest, can survive without drinking any water.

Concept Review

- Why are there grasslands in the same latitude as forests?
- What two abiotic factors must be considered together in describing desert climate?
- How are plants adapted to desert conditions?
- In what way is estivation an adaptive behavior?

Savannas Are Tall Grasslands in Tropical Dry Areas

Savanna (suh VAN uh) is a tropical or subtropical grassland with a few scattered trees. Three distinct seasons characterize the savanna: cool and wet; hot and dry; and warm and wet. Most savanna soils are rather poor. Savannas cover wide areas of central South America, central and South Africa, and parts of Australia, and portions of southern Asia.

In Africa, the savanna is home to some of the world's largest herbivores, including elephants, giraffes, and rhinos. These animals are preyed on by leopards, and cheetahs. Scavengers, such as hyenas and vultures, clean up carcasses left by the predators. Often, leopards and cheetahs will drag their kill in trees so other animals cannot steal the carcass. Large herds

Guidepost: What is the effect of variable rainfall and uniform temperature on a biome?