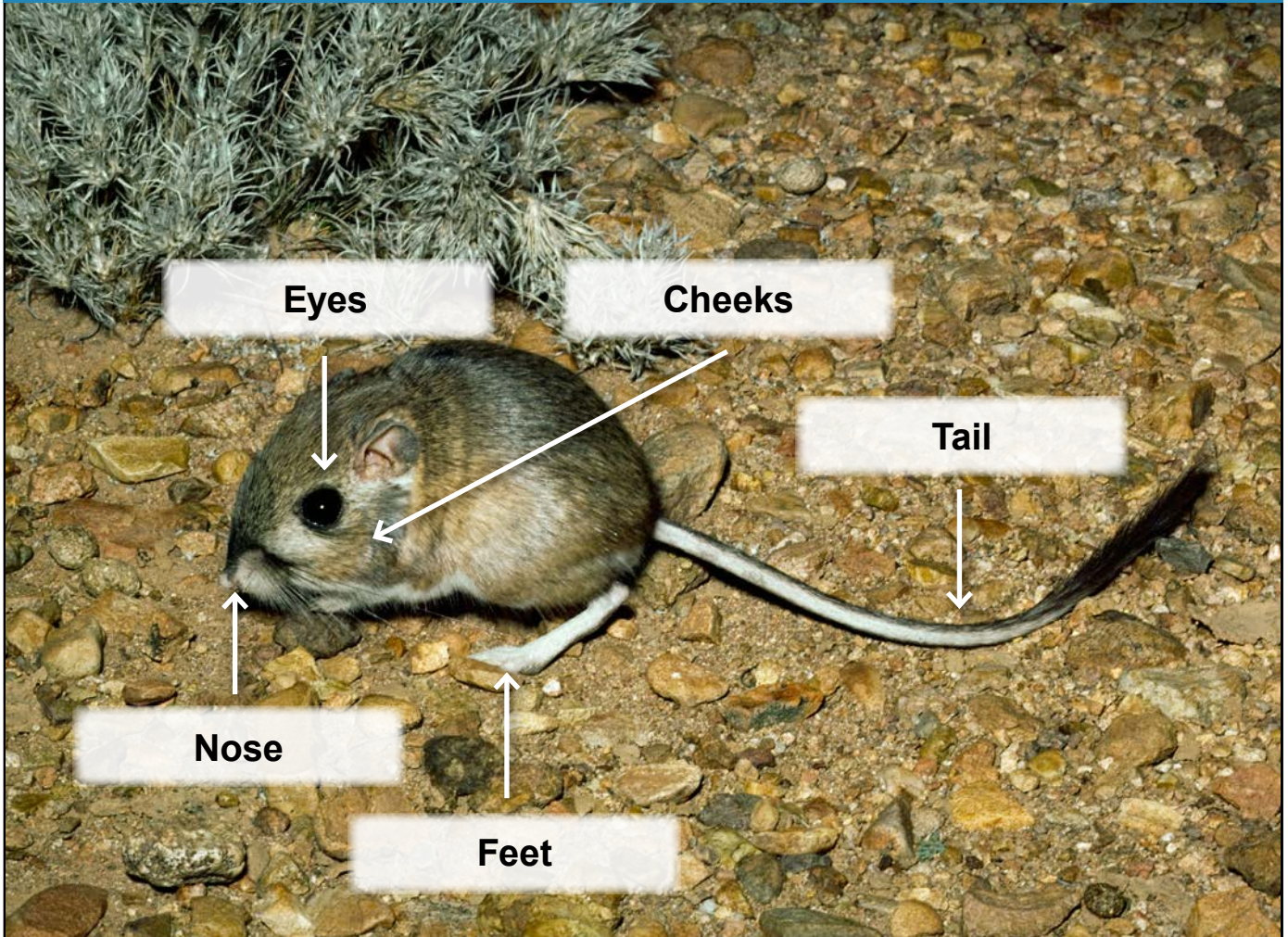


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Getting water—and keeping water in the body—is key to survival in the dry low desert habitat. Without water, no animal can grow, mature, and be healthy enough to reproduce. Merriam's kangaroo rats can get water from the seeds they eat. They do not lose water by sweating or panting.