

Hotel Saguaro Puppet Show

Hotel Saguaro is designed for children in kindergarten through second grade. The show focuses on the interactions between plant and animals and demonstrates how they rely on each other. The role of humans in protecting or destroying saguaros is also explored, showing the relationship between plants, animals, and humans. Hand puppets, Chinese rod puppets, and songs are used to make this show exciting. Following the show the children will be shown items from a saguaro cactus including a boot, ribs, and seeds.

The Story

Hotel Saguaro tells the story of a young saguaro named Sammy. Sammy is beginning to notice the plants and animals that share his desert home. He is frightened by some and fascinated by others. Sammy's wise, old grandfather shares what he has learned about their neighbors during his long life in the Sonoran Desert. Together they explore the desert's web of life.

- Teaching Points:
- A great variety of life can be found in the Sonoran Desert.
 - Special adaptations allow plants and animals to thrive.
 - The desert's web of life is exciting and interesting to learn about.

The Characters

Sammy Saguaro
Grandpa Saguaro
White Wing Dove
Rattlesnake
Elf Owl (Mama, Papa, and Baby)
Woodpecker
Kangaroo Rat
Long-nosed Bat

Before the Show

- Brainstorm a list of animals that might live around a saguaro with your students. If any are incorrect, it's OK, as you will review this list after the show and make changes based on what they have learned.
- Tell your students briefly what the play is about and let them know they will be seeing some of the animals that are on the list.
- Begin the bulletin board activity (see attached.)

After the Show

- Go through each character from the show and ask the students for one fact they learned about each.
- What kinds of relationships do animals have with saguaros? (food, shelter, water)
- Conclude the bulletin board activity.

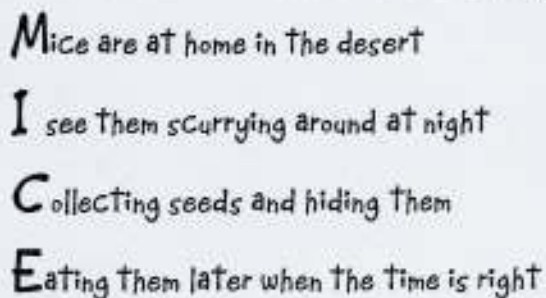
Writing Activities

Goals: To reinforce information learned during the puppet show
To help students form connections with desert plants and animals

Activity 1: Poems begin with just one word!

The challenge here is to write a poem about the desert and have the first letter of each line spell out a word! Here are a few words to try:

Saguaro	Rain	Snake
Desert	Day	Sammy
Bat	Night	Tortoise
Dove	Cactus	Sun
Wind	Coyote	Flower
Owl	Tree	Hawk



Mice are at home in the desert
I see them scurrying around at night
Collecting seeds and hiding them
Eating them later when the time is right

Activity 2: Poetry of Words

Kids love this activity as it makes writing poetry easy! Pick a plant or animal from the show and fill in the chart below. In the chart there is a list of questions followed by a number of words. You must answer the question using that number of words. Even words like 'and' and 'the' count! Make sure to use only the number of words allowed for each line. When you are finished filling in this chart, transfer each line in the same order into the form below, create a title, and read your beautiful poem.

Question	# of Words	Your Words
What are you looking at?	1	
What shape is it?	2	
What color is it?	3	
What is it doing?	2	
Make a wish for it.	1	

The Desert's Tree of Life

Mesquite
Spreading Tall
Green, Yellow, Brown
Giving Life
Survive

More Activity Ideas

Goals for all activities:

- To reinforce information learned during the puppet show
- To help students form connections with desert plants and animals
- To extend learning about desert plants and animals into many other areas of curricula

Activity Idea #1: Make Mobiles!

Draw, cut and paste, or design the characters from the show. Tie them to strings and hang them from hangers. Students can take these home as a way to share the puppet show with their family.

Activity Idea #2: Make Puppets!

White paper lunch bags make a great basis for hand puppets. The puppets can be decorated with cut up construction paper, crayons, or glued on items.

Activity Idea #3: Make a Diorama!

Create a desert scene filled with the characters from the puppet show. Shoeboxes turned on their sides make the perfect 'stage'.

Activity Idea #4: Write a Story!

Create a story about a desert plant and its surroundings.

Activity Idea #5: Change Your Story into a Screenplay!

After the students have a story line, break into the movies and write a screenplay.

Activity Idea #6: Create a Food Web Card Game

Each student creates a picture of a certain desert plant or animal. Have the student try to connect them all together in a giant web of life.

If you already have activities that you do with your students before or after the puppet shows, we would love to hear about them!

Here at the Garden we consider you to be the experts in the classroom.
Please share your ideas with us so that we can help other teachers.

You can contact the Environmental Education Coordinator by:

Writing to: Educational Services Department
C/O Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008

Faxing to: (480) 481-8189

Or

Email: dbgeducation@qwest.net

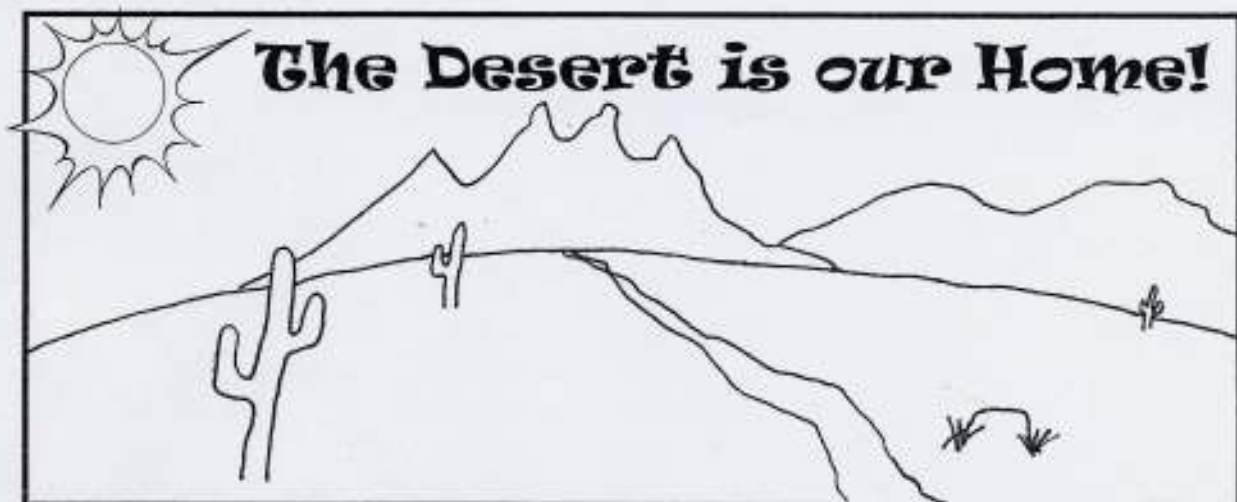
Create a Desert Bulletin Board

Goal: To introduce students to the desert environment as a home to plants, animals, and people.

Pre-show Activities:

1. Students should select books and magazines from the library that reflect desert themes to use as resources. Set up a library in the classroom that contains other desert-related resources. The Gift Shop of the Desert Botanical Garden has an excellent selection of children's books, resource information, and other desert related items.
2. Have students create a bulletin board entitled "The Desert is Our Home." Students could design the letters to look like plants and animals of the desert. Space should be left below the title to create a desert scene. This scene will be finished after your puppet show.

Example:



Post-visit Activities:

3. Students complete the bulletin board by adding the plants and animals they discovered during their the puppet show.

Extensions:

4. After specific plants and animals have been added to the bulletin board, students could:
 - Learn about life-webs by using yarn to connect plants, animals and habitat features that interact with each other. Different colors of yarn could represent different types of relationships (food, shelter, water, ...) Plants and animals might be connected to just one other thing or to many. Discuss why this might be. Do the students themselves have connections to plants, animals, and desert habitat?
 - Discuss the concept of habitat. Habitats include the food, water, shelter, and space an organism needs to survive. Can they identify some of these things on the bulletin board? What about in their lives? What provides the shelter, food, water and space in their "habitat"?
 - Learn about valuing nature and living things by removing single animals, plants, or habitat features from the bulletin board and discussing the impact this would have on the remaining organisms. Which animals would be affected by the removal of a saguaro? How would they be impacted? How might they compensate?

We Love to Hear From You!

In order to improve our programming and supporting materials, we rely on feedback from you and your students. Please take a few minutes to have your students complete these statements. We love to receive drawings too! We also use these items to support grant writing to support our programs. You can send your letters and pictures to:

Educational Services Department
Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy.
Phoenix, AZ 85008

The name of the show I saw was:

My favorite part of the puppet show was:

My favorite character in the show was:

I was surprised to find out that:

I didn't know that:

Desert plants are very important because:

I would like to learn more about:

If I could grow a desert plant, I would grow a _____ because:

**Pictures are
worth a
thousand words!**

