



Desert Resource Dictionary

Introduction

The deserts of the world provide many different types of resources. Some desert resources are mentioned in the book *Around One Cactus: Owls, Bats and Leaping Rats* by Anthony Fredericks. In this activity students will identify resources from the book, research additional resources and then combine their findings to create a desert resource dictionary.

Materials Needed

- ◆ *Around One Cactus: Owls, Bats and Leaping Rats*
- by Anthony Fredericks

Procedure

1. After reading *Around One Cactus* have students identify different resources that are mentioned or alluded to in the text.
2. Resources fall into three categories:
 - ◆ Basic materials (air, water, soil)
 - ◆ Nonmaterial (quiet places, beauty, security, safety)
 - ◆ Produced (food, fuel, building materials)
3. Invite students to form small groups - with each group responsible for gathering words and definitions for several letters of the alphabet.
4. For each word, have students identify its resource type. For example: A - Arid (nonmaterial), Agate (basic material)

Key Concepts

- ◆ Resources are things we get from the living and nonliving environment to meet the needs and wants of a population.
- ◆ Some resources are basic materials.
- ◆ Some resources are nonmaterial.
- ◆ Some resources are produced.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to rewrite part of the story from the perspective of one of the animals. For example, how would the rattlesnake view the actions of the other animals? How would the long-nose bat view the other creatures?
- ◆ Obtain a copy of "Cactus Poems" by Frank Asch. Share some of the poems with your students. Afterwards, invite students to create their own cactus poetry. Place the poems on an oversized cutout of a Saguaro cactus.

Additional Resources

Videos and films about deserts:

- ◆ Nova: A Desert Place
- ◆ Exploring Deserts of the Earth
- ◆ The Mojave Desert
- ◆ Season of the Sand Blossoms: A Desert Wildflowers Journey
- ◆ National Geographic's Sonoran Desert

