



Save Our Desert Home

Introduction

In *Around One Cactus: Owls, Bats and Leaping Rats* author Anthony Fredericks talks about creatures of the Sonoran Desert and how they interact with each other and the Saguaro Cactus. In this activity, students reflect on the different aspects of desert animal homes and then create a poster on why that home should be saved if threatened.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Poster/Paper
- ◆ Pens, Pencils, Crayons, Markers
- ◆ Other art supplies

Key Concepts

- ◆ The environment must supply the needs of organisms.
- ◆ Environments are the space, conditions, and factors that affect an individual's and a population's ability to survive and their quality of life.
- ◆ Changes in environments can be natural or influenced by humans.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Invite students to imagine that they are one of the creatures in the story.
2. Encourage them to create a poster that says "Save Our Home".
3. Students should include a full-color drawing of the selected creature and write a convincing ad for preserving the Sonoran Desert Environment.
4. To encourage discussion about desert animal homes ask these questions:
 - ◆ How does your animal protect itself from the desert heat?
 - ◆ What does your animal eat, and where can it find its food? What resources does the food source rely on?
 - ◆ How much water does your animal need?
 - ◆ How can humans help preserve your animals home?

Nature Connections

- ◆ After students have had an opportunity to read other books about the desert, encourage them to create a sequel to *Around One Cactus*. What animals would they like to include in an "extension" of the *Around One Cactus* story? Encourage students to discuss the various types of actions and/or creatures they could include in their additions.

Additional Resources

Desert Animals

<http://desertanimals.net>

More Desert Animals

<http://www.desertusa.com/animal.html>

Even More Desert Animals

http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/desert_animal_page.htm

Australian Desert Animals

<http://www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au/kids/>

