



### Home Learning, E-Learning Ideas

Books are a wonderful way to start a learning engagement. Even though our travel may be limited right now, we can still learn about the great outdoors. Today we are going to read a book and watch a video which describe the ecosystem of a desert.

The first book is Cactus Hotel by Brenda Z. Guiberson. In this book, the author describes the animals that make their home in a saguaro cactus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSbeOyPRgOU>

The second video describes Saguaro National Park.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DevwfwfiRoE>

### Lesson Ideas for Primary Elementary Students:

- ◆ As you listen to the videos make a list of animals who make their home in the saguaro cactus when it is alive. Include one fact about each animal. Use the notetaking sheet on the next page or make your own.
- ◆ As you listen to the videos, make a list of animals who make their home in the saguaro cactus after it dies. Include one fact about each animal. Use the notetaking sheet on the next page or make your own.
- ◆ Make a set of word cards for a desert habitat. On a 3 x 5 index card, draw a picture of a plant or animal that lives in the saguaro. Younger students can label the picture. Older students may write two sentences describing the animal found in this desert home.
- ◆ Students may create a model of the cactus hotel. Ideas for a model include:
  - ⇒ Create a diorama using a cardboard box. Place the box vertically and draw a cactus on the back of the box. Include pictures of animals making their home in the cactus.
  - ⇒ Cut open a brown paper bag. Laying the bag out vertically, draw a picture of a saguaro cactus. On construction paper, draw animals which make their home in the cactus and glue these to your picture.
- Send a picture of your creation to your teacher!
  
- ◆ (Check out the following pages for lessons for older students.)

## Animals which make their home in a Saguaro Cactus

As you listen to the book, make a list of animals which make their home in the cactus when it is alive and after it dies.

**Animals who live in the cactus  
while it is alive**

**Animals who live in the cactus after  
it dies**

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## Older Students:

Interdependence is defined as the relationship between organisms when plants and animals depend on each other for survival. Listen to the book:

Cactus Hotel by Brenda Z. Guiberson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSbeOyPRgOU>

And watch the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DevwfwjRoE>

- As you listen and read, note the interdependence between plants and animals in a desert ecosystem. Choose one animal to research further.

As you research this animal, look for information on the following:

- ♦ Where the animal lives
- ♦ Adaptations the animal has that helps it live in this ecosystem
- ♦ The interdependent relationship between the animal and its environment
- ♦ A note-taking sheet is on the next page.

Think of a creative way to share this information. Some ideas include:

- ⇒ Make a poster
- ⇒ Design a power point slide show
- ⇒ Paint a picture
- ⇒ Record yourself reading the information you have learned.

**OR**

- Compare and contrast the cactus hotel with a real hotel. Complete the chart which follows. Think of three ways these two hotels are alike and three ways they are different.

We would love to learn how you are doing! Send us pictures or comments at our email:  
[darlene-and-terry@writenow-rightnow.com](mailto:darlene-and-terry@writenow-rightnow.com)

Do you have books or topics you would like us to address? Send us ideas or requests at  
[darlene-and-terry@writenow-rightnow.com](mailto:darlene-and-terry@writenow-rightnow.com)

## T = Desert Animal —

<p>* Where the animal lives</p>	
<p>* Animal's adaptation to its home</p>	
<p>* Animal's interdependent relationship with environment</p>	

## T = Compare and Contrast Cactus Hotel with Human Hotels

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Similarities</b></li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* <b>Differences</b></li></ul>	