

## PROJECT #1

### DESERT DIORAMA



These activities give your class the opportunity to create desert inspired art projects that compliment the grade's theme. Have students present and discuss their creations with the class. Included is a suggested bulletin board idea for your class to participate in as a group.

#### MATERIALS

shoebox or small box/student glue makers, crayons, color pencils nature walk collection construction paper

#### **PREP**

Have students take a nature walk at school or home to observe habitats. As students make observations, have them collect fallen material from the habitat, e.g., leaves, stems, etc.

#### IN THE CLASSROOM

Students will use materials to construct a desert diorama and discuss with the class their observations of their desert habitats.



## PROJECT #2

Paper Mache Saguaro Boot These activities give your class the opportunity to create desert inspired art projects that compliment the grade's theme. Have students present and discuss their creations with the class. Included is a suggested bulletin board idea for your class to participate in as a group.

#### **MATERIALS**

1 balloon/student
twine, string, yarn
instant coffee
1 brown paper lunch bag/student
paintbrush/student
paper mache paste (recipe below

#### PREP

- 1. Make paper mache paste ahead of time and store in an air tight container.

  (Both options make about the same amount of paste:
  - Paper mache paste: 1 part flour to 5 parts water, boil about 3 minutes, let cool.

    OR
  - Alternate recipe requires no heating: 1 part flour to 1 part water, stir together.

    You will have to triple or quadruple recipe for 10 boots.)
- 2. Rip up brown paper bags in odd size strips.
- 3. Blow up 1 balloon for each student.

#### IN THE CLASSROOM

- 1. Apply paper mache paste to a paper bag strip and apply to balloon. Cover whole balloon with strips of the paper bag, leaving an opening for the entrance to the boot.
- 2. Tie a piece of twine, string or yarn to the knot of the balloon, making sure it is secure and keeping it free from the paper mache strips. This will later be used to hang the boot.
- 3. After applying the paper mache, let dry completely for a day or two before painting.
- 4. Brush on water with a paintbrush or wet with hands then smear instant coffee grounds to the area that is wet, doing sections at a time, continue until the whole surface is covered. You may wipe grounds gently off with a cloth or leave them on the surface for a dirty look. As an alternative, you can paint the boot with acrylic paint.
- 5. When dry, pop balloon inside and remove as much of it from inside the form and hang.



## BULLETIN BOARD



Gila Woodpecker



Hummingbird



Pocket mouse



Desert Tortoise



Tree Lizard

### "OUR SONORAN COMPANIONS"

Ask the students what a companion means. Explain to the students it is similar to a buddy or a friend, and how their relationship benefits each other. Talk to the students about the relationships between animals and plants.

Assign students a pair of plant and animal companions, have the students construct the plant and animal companions out of materials that are readily available (paper, cloth, magazines, etc.) be creative, and attach to the board. Use the Sonoran Desert as a background by using materials like, brown paper bags crumbled up as trees, green butcher paper for Palo Verde trees, sand for groundcover, cotton for clouds, brown butcher paper for mountains, etc. Make observations of plant shape and color and why is it important to each buddy.

### **EXAMPLES OF DESERT COMPANIONS:**

Gila Woodpecker & Saguaro cactus

Hummingbird & Penstemon wildflower or Ocotillo

Palo Verde tree & Arizona Pocket mouse

Prickly Pear cactus & the Desert Tortoise

Mesquite & the Tree Lizard



#### **ARIZONA STATE STANDARDS**

### **Beginning Visual Arts**

- S1C1: PO 001 Contribute to a discussion about ideas for his or her own artwork
- S1C2: PO 001 Identify and experiment with materials, tools, and techniques in his or her own artwork
- S1C2: PO 002 Use materials, tools, and techniques appropriately in his or her own artwork
- S1C3: PO 001 Identify and use elements in his or her own artwork
- S1C4: PO 001 Describe and explain his or her own artwork
- S1C5: PO 001 Identify successful aspects of his or her own artwork and possible revisions

#### Life Science

- S4C2: PO 2 Identify similarities and differences between animals and their parents (See 1 CH-F4)
- S4C3: PO 1 Identify some plants and animals that exist in the local environment.
- S4C3: PO 2 Compare the habitats (e.g., desert, forest, prairie, water, underground) in which plants and animals live
- S4C3: PO 03 Describe how plants and animals within a habitat are dependent on each other