



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**ARIZONA  
STATE MUSEUM**

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## **Sonoran Desert Poem Writing Activity Lesson Plan**

### **Objective**

Students will reflect on what they know about the Sonoran Desert and what they have learned from the *Muse2You! O'odham Tour* to create a poem about the desert.

### **Materials**

Pencil, paper, templates, colored pencils

### **Time**

45 minutes

### **Directions:**

#### **Step 1**

Show (project on board) the students the *Sonoran Desert Poem Writing Activity Images PDF*. Have them slowly look at each of the four photographs and write down what they see (plants, colors, etc).

#### **Step 2**

Lead students through creating a list of words focusing on the five senses. Use these suggested prompts to help the students think of words.

What are some things about the Sonoran Desert that we learned in Miss Mae's tour?

What are some colors we find in the desert? (cactus color, the color of the flowers)

What color is the sky here? Is it big or small? What else do we see in the sky?

What are some animals we might find in the desert?

What does the desert smell like to you? (flowers, rain, creosote)

What are some sounds we might hear in the desert?

What is something in the desert that is special and essential? It is something that plants, animals, and people need to survive. (Emphasize how *precious water is in the desert.*)

#### **Step 3**

Have students pull from their word list or from the *Muse2You! O'odham Tour* vocabulary list to create a poem (you can write those words on the board as a supplemental word list). Ask

them to draft it on notebook paper. Once it is finalized, they will write it on their saguaro cactus template.

**Step 4**

Introduce the Saguaro Cactus Templates and show examples of how they can write inside the cactus or outside the cactus and add artwork if they desire. If students are learning from home, email the templates to them or ask them to draw their own saguaro cactus.