*Teacher note: Consider combining this RAP Text Set with the “Desert Giant” 1st Grade resource to expand student learning on this topic.*

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| **Key Content (Synopsis of two weeks)** |
| Read Aloud:Around One Cactus<http://achievethecore.org/page/2576/around-one-cactus> | **Synopsis of Text:**This is a literary text with a poetic structure that draws in information and content-specific vocabulary focusing on the saguaro cactus in the Sonoran Desert. The author uses rhyme, repetition, and building text to explain how the saguaro cactus provides the means for some creatures to survive in desert conditions. The text also features lots of notes about the creatures. |
| Related Text 1: Life in the Desert Night<https://www.raz-plus.com/book.php?id=1679&lang=English>  | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**This text explains how some animals have adapted to living in the desert by becoming nocturnal. It features some of the same animals as *Around One Cactus*, including the kit fox, owl, kangaroo rat, and bat but explains more about their adaptations. |
| Related Text 2:Gila Woodpecker<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/birds/gila-woodpecker/> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**This article explains how the gila woodpecker lives in a cactus. Although this animal is not featured in *Around One Cactus*, it also uses the cactus as a home. This builds students’ background on the variety of animals that depend on the cactus.  |
| Related Text 3:The Mighty Saguaro Cactus<https://www.raz-plus.com/books/leveled-books/book/?id=141&lang=English>  | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**This text provides a variety of information on the cactus. Although the cactus is an important part of *Around One Cactus*, the book does not have a lot of information on the cactus. This text will provide students with information on the cactus. |

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| **Optional Supporting Resources** |
| How to Make Paper Plate Masks<http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/50883/make-paper-plate-masks>  | Description/rationale for inclusion:Students could make simple paper plate masks of the animals in *Around One Cactus*, and use them to act out the poem of *Around One Cactus*. Then they could act as the narrator reads the text, or they could memorize the rhyming couplet that goes with their animal (a rattlesnake with deadly teeth/slip-slides across the ground beneath) and recite it as it appears in the text. Multiple students could be one animal. To include the gila woodpecker, challenge students to write a rhyming couplet about the bird after reading the text above. |
| Aggressive nightlife of the Kangaroo Rat - Attenborough - BBC<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkJLHnYy_G0>  | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**This video shows footage of one of the animals featured in the book: the kangaroo rat.  |
| **Writing/Culminating Tasks** |
| Text Type 1: Informational | **Description of task:**Choose one of the animals you read about in the texts. Explain why the cactus is important to this animal. Think about what animals need to survive—food, water, shelter, and space. How does the cactus provide one (or more) of these things? |
| Text Type 2: Narrative | **Description of task:**Someone has decided to chop down the cactus featured in the *Around One Cactus.* Working with a partner, write a story about how the animals react. Remember to use all that you have learned in this set!  |
| Task Type 3: Oral presentation | **Description of task:**With a partner, read one of the field notes at the end of the book. Then create a poster that explains what you learned about the animal. Use the poster to explain the information to your classmates. |
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