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| About this Resource:  *This text set centers around the topic of a high-quality read aloud anchor text, in order to build students’ knowledge and vocabulary. Anchor texts are a part of Student Achievement Partners’ Read Aloud Project and full lesson plans are hyperlinked. Each Related Text is a suggested lightweight resource that connects to the topic of the read aloud and builds student knowledge and vocabulary. Also included are high-interest, topically related Optional Supporting Resources and Writing/Culminating Tasks in varied genres. Suggested resources are free or almost free (requiring a teacher license or sign on) and can be used as read aloud texts or for small group or independent reading depending on their complexity. All are intended to be optional resources for the classroom and teachers are encouraged to modify, adapt, or supplement these text sets with related resources. Text Sets are intended to support approximately two weeks of instruction. For additional suggestions for use, read this blog post:* [*https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/*](https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/)*.* |

*Teacher note: Consider combining this RAP Text Set with the “Around One Cactus” 2nd Grade resource to expand student learning on this topic.*

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| **Key Content (Synopsis of two weeks)** | |
| Read Aloud:  Desert Giant  <http://achievethecore.org/page/2569/desert-giant> | **Synopsis of Text:**  This informational text by Barbara Bash focuses on the saguaro cactus in the Sonoran Desert, which provides shelter and food for a diverse population of desert animals and people. While each animal visits the cactus, a description of the animal and how it uses the cactus is provided. The story also takes the reader through the life cycle of the cactus. |
| Related Text 1:  What Lives in the Desert?  <https://www.readworks.org/article/What-Lives-in-the-Desert/211e2a85-cdbb-4ad2-905f-ce89084c6492#!articleTab:content/> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  This article includes a basic definition of the desert, as well as information about living things in the desert. Living things from *Desert Giant*, such as owls, snakes, lizards, and coyotes, and cactus, are included in this text. |
| Related Text 2:  Saguaro Cactus  <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/plants/saguaro-cactus/> | **Synopsis, highlighting related learning:**  This virtual encyclopedia page includes information about where the Saguaro cactus is located and how it survives in the desert. Click the photograph labels for more information about its branches and ribs. |
| 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 informational text supplements *Desert Giant* by sharing extensive information about the Saguaro cactus and its life in the Sonoran Desert.  Sections include facts about its physical features, its habitat, its growth and life cycle, and ways it is useful to animals and people.  *Teacher note: You might consider focusing on a few chapters rather than reading the whole text. These chapters contain content that most directly links to Desert Giant: “One Cool Cactus,” “Surviving the Sonoran Desert,” and “Cactus Hotel.”* |

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| **Optional Supporting Resources** | |
| Desert Museum  <http://www.desertmuseum.org/kids/oz/> | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**  This webpage includes links to two interactive pages (at the bottom of the linked page) featuring both daytime and nighttime life around a saguaro cactus. By clicking on the images of living things surrounding the cactus, students are taken to pages with facts about each living thing. |
| A Day in the Desert: Saguaro Wilderness  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWM0hYyHDvQ> | **Description/rationale for inclusion:**  This video showcases the animals living around a saguaro cactus in a single day’s time. From early in the morning to late at night, various animals from *Desert Giant* are featured. |
| **Writing/Culminating Tasks** | |
| Text Type 1: Narrative | **Description of task:**  Imagine that you are a giant saguaro cactus. Write a story about a day in your life. What living things visit you? Think about what you have learned from *Desert Giant* and the other texts about the saguaro cactus to help you. Remember to:   * Include the major events * Describe your character’s thoughts, feelings and actions * Use words to tell the order of events (first, next, then, last) * Provide a closing sentence |
| Text Type 2: Informational | **Description of task:**  Think about what you have learned about the saguaro cactus from *Desert Giant* and the other texts you read. Create a diagram of a saguaro cactus that explains what you have learned. You may choose to show the cactus in the daytime or the nighttime. Include three living things that around your cactus. Remember to:   * Give your diagram with a title * Draw an illustration of a saguaro cactus * Draw three living things around the cactus * Label each living thing * Write a fact about each living thing in your illustration |
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