**Think and Write!**

Day 1

Name: Date:

Title of story/article: “**Saguaro Cactus”**

***There are many forms of life in the Sonoran Desert. One of the most amazing is the saguaro cactus. How is the saguaro cactus the center of life in the desert?***

1. What will you be writing about? **Underline** the Focusing Question in the assignment above.
2. What information will you need to be able to answer the Focusing Question and to explain your answer? Turn to a partner. **Look** carefully at the graphic organizer as you **discuss** the answers to the questions below. **Color in** the circle next to each question after you have talked about it.

* What information will you put in the first two columns?
* Where will you get this information?
* What information will go in the third column?
* Where will this information come from?
* Why are you gathering all this information? What are you trying to figure out?

***How is the saguaro cactus the center of life in the desert?***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Evidence***  **How the saguaro cacti and animals**  **depend on each other** | *Page* | ***Elaboration / explanation***  **How this helps the animal**  **or the cactus survive** | *Used in your piece?* |
| elf owl lives in hole | 548 | protection from predators, raise family |  |
|  |  |  |  |
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1. When the class is ready, your teacher will reread the story aloud. Your job is to **listen** **carefully** for information that will help you to complete the graphic organizer. During the read aloud, every time you hear some evidence from the text that you think belongs on the chart, **raise your hand**. The class will stop to discuss what you have noticed and decide whether to add that evidence to the chart.

You may have noticed that there is not much room to write in each box! Don't worry, your teacher will show you how to **"take notes"** in that small space using just key words and phrases.

1. Once you have taken notes, **look** back at your assignment, **copy** the Focusing Question onto your Writing Draft Sheet. **Think** about the evidence you found. How could you answer the Focusing Question in a single sentence? Turn and **tell** your partner how you might answer.
2. The answer to a Focusing Question is called a Focus Statement. With your teacher, **develop** a class Focus Statement. Then, **copy** that focus statement on the Writing Draft Sheet right underneath the Focusing Question.

**Think and Write!**

Day 2

Name: Date:

Title of story/article: “**Saguaro Cactus”**

1. **Look** at your Writing Draft Sheet from yesterday. With a partner, take turns. Have one person **read** the Focusing Question and the other person **read** the Focus Statement. Then **switch**, so that you each have read both.
2. **Look** at your graphic organizer. **Listen** carefully as your teacher gives an example of how to write the first evidence paragraph of your response. Where are these sentences coming from? On your graphic organizer, **check the box** next to the evidence your teacher used to write this part.
3. Now comes the fun part! Talk your piece! Use your graphic organizer. **Point** to each row of the chart and **tell** your partner what you will write. Say the sentences out loud as if you were writing them. Then listen as your partner tells you what he/she will write.

*On your own...*

1. **Look** at your Writing Draft Sheet. **Re-read** what you have written so far. Then, **write** about each piece of evidence. **Check off** each piece of evidence on the graphic organizer as you write.
2. A Concluding Statement restates the focus of the piece. **Look** at your Focus Statement. How could you **restate** it? Use the same idea, but different words. **Write** your Concluding Statement at the end of your piece.
3. Now, **think** about this question: *What would the desert be like without the saguaro cactus?* Your teacher will lead a **discussion** to help you improve and expand your conclusion. When you are ready, **add a few sentences** to your conclusion that show your thinking about this.
4. With a pencil in your hand, **read** your piece aloud to a partner. **Revise and edit** as you read.

Name: Date:

Title of story: “**Saguaro Cactus”**

*Writing Draft*

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***Teacher Pages***

***FOCUSING QUESTION:*****How is the Saguaro Cactus the center of life in the desert?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Evidence*  **How the saguaro cacti and animals**  **depend on each other** | *Page* | *Elaboration / explanation*  **How this helps the animal**  **or the cactus survive** | *Used in your piece?* |
| elf owl lives in hole | 548 | protection from predators, raise family |  |
| insects and birds eat fruit | 549 | not much food in desert |  |
| Mice and rabbits eat seeds | 549 | not much food in desert |  |
| Birds, bats, insects-drink nectar,  spread pollen | 550 | food and liquid  new cactus |  |
| gila woodpecker, starling—live in hole,  cactus grows hard wall | 555 | protection from predators, raise family, hard wall –dry home |  |
| red tailed hawks, horned owls, doves—live in branches | 555 | protection, raise family |  |
| lizards, insects, spiders—live in branches | 556 | protection, raise family |  |
| mice and rabbits carry seeds |  | grow new cactus |  |
| cactus grows hard wall around hole | 553 | keeps it from drying out |  |
| woodpecker eats insects | 553 | protects cactus |  |
| mule deer—eat plants in shade | 556 | safe place to find food |  |
| coyotes and bobcats—hunt in brush | 556 | safe place to find food |  |
| Scorpions, rattlesnakes, horned lizard, javelina | 558 | dead cactus—safety and food |  |

**POSSIBLE FOCUS STATEMENTS:** *The saguaro cactus is the center of life in the desert because many animals depend on the cactus for survival.*(Note: this is the Focus Statement used in the teacher-written sample.)

OR

*The saguaro cactus is the center of life in the desert because animals and the cactus depend on each other for survival*.

Additional notes to the teacher about this piece:

* The details from the article might focus only on animals being dependent on the cactus. The details could also include ways in which animals help the cactus survive. If you use both points, students could color code or code the details to help organize their thinking.
* It is not necessary that all pieces of evidence be included for an effective response. 3-4 pieces of evidence are usually sufficient.
* Model the use of some quotes: “teeming with life” “It is more like a crowded village than a plant.” Quotes could also be related to specific details.
* Illustrating the crowded village with a quick sketch of a cactus teeming with life might help reinforce the focus.

*Writing Sample*

*NOTE: This is for the teacher’s use only, not for students. The purpose is to show the teacher what the final piece might look like when students have completed their work.*

The saguaro cactus lives as long as 200 years in the Sonoran Desert. It is difficult for animals and plants to grow in the desert. The saguaro cactus is the center of life because many animals and the cactus depend on each other for survival.

The gila woodpecker drills a hole in the cactus for a nest. The elf owl and starling also live in holes in the cactus that protects them from predators and gives the animals a safe place to raise their families. Lizards, insects and spiders also depend on the cactus for safe homes. Red tailed hawks, horned owls and doves live in the branches of the saguaro cactus. The branches give them a safe place to build nests that are protected from predators.

Insects and birds eat its fruit. Mice eat its seeds. Birds, bats and insects drink its nectar. It’s hard to find food and liquid in the desert and many animals need the cactus for food and liquid. Some animals use the habitat around the saguaro cactus as a safe place to look for food. Coyotes and bobcats hunt in its brush. Scorpions, rattlesnakes, horned lizards and javelinas eat the dead cactus or find a safe home around the cactus.

The saguaro cactus also depends on animals for its survival. Mice and rabbits carry seeds and insects carry pollen to other places where new cacti might grow. Woodpeckers eat insects that help protect the cactus from small predators.

The saguaro cactus is “teeming with life” because animals and plants need each other for survival because they live in a habitat where it is difficult to find food, water and safety. Without the saguaro cactus, many animals would not be able to survive in the Sonoran Desert.

Supports for English Language Learners (ELLs)

to use with Basal Alignment Project Lessons

When teaching any lesson, it is important to make sure you are including supports to help all students. We have prepared some examples of different types of supports that you can use in conjunction with our Basal Alignment Project Lessons to help support your ELLs. They are grouped by when they would best fit in a lesson. While these supports reflect research in how to support ELLs, these activities can help ALL students engage more deeply with these lessons. Note that some strategies should be used at multiple points within a lesson; we’ll point these out. It is also important to understand that these scaffolds represent options for teachers to select based on students’ needs; it is not the intention that teachers should do *all* of these things at every lesson.

**Before the reading:**

* Read passages, sing songs, watch videos, view photographs, discuss topics (e.g., using the [four corners strategy](http://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/four-corners)), or research topics that help provide context for what your students will be reading. This is especially true if the setting (e.g., 18th Century England) or topic (e.g., boats) is one that is unfamiliar to the students.
* Provide instruction, using multiple modalities, on selected vocabulary words that are *central to understanding the text*. When looking at the lesson plan, you should note the Tier 2 words, particularly those words with high conceptual complexity (i.e., they are difficult to visualize, learn from context clues, or are abstract), and consider introducing them ahead of reading. For more information on selecting such words, go [here](https://achievethecore.org/page/3167/selecting-and-using-academic-vocabulary-in-instruction). **You should plan to continue to reinforce these words, and additional vocabulary, in the context of reading and working with the text. (See additional activities in the During Reading and After Reading sections.)**

**Examples of Activities:**

* Provide students with the definition of the words and then have students work together to create [Frayer models](http://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/frayer-model) or other kinds of word maps for the words.
* When a word contains a prefix or suffix that has been introduced before, highlight how the word part can be used to help determine word meaning.
* Keep a word wall or word bank where these new words can be added and that students can access later.
* Have students create visual glossaries for whenever they encounter new words. Then have your students add these words to their visual glossaries.
* Create pictures using the word. These can even be added to your word wall!
* Create lists of synonyms and antonyms for the word.
* Have students practice using the words in conversation. For newcomers, consider providing them with [sentence frames](https://achievethecore.org/page/3159/ell-supports-for-writing-and-discussion) to ensure they can participate in the conversation.
  + Practice spelling the words using different spelling practice strategies and decoding strategies. Students could take turns spelling with a partner.
* Use graphic organizers to help introduce content.

**Examples of Activities:**

* Have students fill in a [KWL chart](http://www.nea.org/tools/k-w-l-know-want-to-know-learned.html) about what they will be reading about.
* Have students research setting or topic using a pre-approved website and fill in a chart about it. You could even have students work in groups where each group is assigned part of the topic.
* Have students fill in a bubble map where they write down anything that they find interesting about the topic while watching a video or reading a short passage about the topic. Then students can discuss why they picked the information.

**During reading:**

* Read the text aloud first so that ELLs can hear the passage read by a fluent reader before working with the text themselves.
* Allow ELLs to collaborate in their home languages to process content before participating in whole class discussions in English. Consider giving them the discussion questions to look over in advance (perhaps during the first read) and having them work with a partner to prepare.
* Encourage students to create sketch-notes or to storyboard the passage when they are reading it individually or with a partner. This will help show if they understand what they are reading as they are reading it.
* Ask questions related to the who, what, when, why, and how of the passage. For students that may need a little more help, provide them with [sentence stems](https://achievethecore.org/page/3159/ell-supports-for-writing-and-discussion).
* Continue to draw attention to and discuss the words that you introduced before the reading.

**Examples of Activities:**

* Have students include the example from the text in their glossary that they created.
* Create or find pictures that represent how the word was used in the passage.
* Practice creating sentences using the word in the way it was using in the passage.
* Have students discuss the author’s word choice.
* Use graphic organizers to help organize content and thinking.

**Examples of Activities:**

* Have students fill in a chart to keep track of their 5ws while they read to help them summarize later and figure out the central idea of a passage.
* It may again be beneficial to have somewhere for students to store new words that they encounter while reading the text. Students could use a chart to keep track of these new words and their meanings as they read.
* If you had students fill in a KWL, have them fill in the “L” section as they read the passage.
* Utilize any illustrations or text features that come with the story or passage to better understand the reading.
* Compare/contrast the passage with what the illustrations convey about the passage. Have students consider if the illustrations look the way they visualized the passage in their own minds or if the passage matches their predictions based on the illustrations.
* Identify any text features such as captions and discuss how they contribute to meaning.

**After reading:**

* Present directions for any post-reading assignments orally and visually; repeat often; and ask English Language Learners to rephrase.
* Allow ELLs to use English language that is still under development. Students should not be scored lower because of incorrect spelling or grammar (unless the goal of the assignment is to assess spelling or grammar skills specifically). When grading, be sure to focus on scoring your students only for the objective(s) that were shared with students.
* Scaffold questions for discussions so that questioning sequences include a mix of factual and inferential questions and a mix of shorter and more extended responses. Questions should build on each other and toward inferential and higher-order-thinking questions. There are not many factual questions already listed in the lesson instructions, so you will need to build some in as you see fit. More information on this strategy can be found [here](https://achievethecore.org/aligned/creating-sequencing-text-dependent-questions-support-english-language-learners/).
* Reinforce new vocabulary using multiple modalities

**Examples of activities:**

* Using the words that you had students work with before reading, have students write sentences in reference to the passage that you just finished reading.
* Require students to include the words introduced before reading in the culminating writing task.
* For newcomers, print out pictures that represent the words that you focused on and have students match the words to the pictures.
* Based on different features of the words, have the students sort them into different categories and explain their choices. For example, the students could sort the words by prefixes, suffixes, connotation, etc.
* After reading the passage, continue to examine important sentences (1–2) in the text that contribute to the overall meaning of the text. Guide students to break apart these sentences, analyze different elements, and determine meaning. More information on how to do this, including models of sentence deconstruction, can be found [here](https://achievethecore.org/page/3160/juicy-sentence-protocol).
* Provide differentiated scaffolds for writing assignments based on students’ English language proficiency levels.

**Examples of Activities:**

* For all students, go over the prompt in detail, making sure to break down what the prompt means before having the students get to work. Then have the students explain the directions back to you.
* Have students create an evidence tracking chart during reading, then direct them to look back over their evidence chart and work with a group to see if their evidence matches what the rest of the class wrote down. If some of the chart does not match, students should have a discussion about why.
* For students who need more support, model the proper writing format for your students and provide them with a properly formatted example for reference.
* For newcomers, you may consider creating sentence or paragraph frames to help them to write out their ideas.
* To further discussion about the passage, have students create their own who, what, when, where, why, and how questions related to the passage to ask each other and have students pair up and practice asking each other the questions. If available, pair students of the same home language to support the use of language still under development.