



ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

Atlanta Botanical Garden *Desert Discovery (3rd-5th)*

Description: *Learn about the unique properties of medicinal plants that are found in desert habitats. Explore the adaptations needed for plants to thrive in harsh environments. From spikes to succulents, the plants in the Garden's desert house are beautiful demonstrators of diversity.*

Standards: S3L1.a

Pre-Visit:

Guiding Questions: What classifies a habitat as a desert?

What to Read/Watch: [Deserts 101](#), [Why Does the Earth Have Deserts?](#), [Saguaro Cactus and the Sonoran Desert](#)

Post-Visit:

Questions: What adaptations do desert plants have to survive in a desert?

Activities:

Create a Desert Food Chain: Select your favorite desert animals to create a food chain. Make sure to include a producer (plant), a primary consumer (herbivore), a secondary consumer (carnivore), and a decomposer (eats dead organisms). Remember the arrow points to the organism that is doing the eating. Ex: prickly pear → radiated tortoise → snake → Madagascar hissing cockroach. Compare and contrast the food chain of a desert to a food chain you would find in Georgia. Are there any animals you could see in both?

Desert or Georgia? Look at the following photos. Do they belong in the desert or in Georgia or both? If you're unsure, think about what that organism would need to survive and if it could find it in the desert or in Georgia or both.

