Desert Plant Adaptations
3rd grade

Overview
This class program introduces students to five native Chihuahuan Desert plants (barrel cactus, ocotillo, creosote bush, yucca, honey mesquite). By playacting the plant’s adaptations, students gain knowledge of that plant’s characteristics. Students also learn about the life cycle of plants.

Vocabulary
- *Adaptation* - something a plant or animal has or does to help it survive
- *Fruit* - what the flower produces on a plant, where the seeds of a plant are found
- *Photosynthesis* - the process by which green plants make their own food

NM Science Standards Addressed
2-2-1-1 Know that an adaptation in physical structure or behavior can improve an organism’s chance for survival.
2-2-1-2 Observe that plants and animals have structure that serve different functions.
2-2-1-4 Classify plants according to their characteristics.

NM Arts & Theater Standards Addressed
3-3B-2 Develop pantomime for use in simple dramatizations
5-5C-2 Demonstrate responsible audience behaviors and responses to dramatizations.

CCSS Language Arts Standards Addressed
SL.3.2 Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
SL.3.3 Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.

Next Generation Science Standards Addressed
3-LS3-2 Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.
3-LS4-3 Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.