



Arguing on the Structure and Function of Plants
4th Grade

Overview

Students will learn about the structures and functions of plants found in the Chihuahuan Desert. They will investigate the external structures of multiple plant species and discuss their functions in supporting the plants’ survival. Students will develop arguments about a structure of the creosote bush. Then, the class will discuss how the structures function together in a system to support the survival of the creosote bush.

Phenomenon

Creosote bush’s structures have specific functions that help it survive.

Next Generation Science Standard

4-LS1-1 Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

Science & Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Cross Cutting Concepts
Engaging in argument from evidence	LS1.A Structure and function	Systems and system models Structure and function

Common Core State Standards

ELA-Literacy

W.4.1.B Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

SL.4.1.C Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

L.4.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

L.4.6 Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., *wildlife*, *conservation*, and *endangered* when discussing animal preservation).

L.4.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.