

## **Desert Stories 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Remote Lesson English Vocabulary**

Chihuahuan Desert: the largest desert in North America. The Chihuahuan Desert is in southern New Mexico and west Texas and stretches into northern Mexico.

Cocoon: a hard casing the moth builds around its body during the pupa life stage.

Flower: the part of a plant used for reproduction, generally surrounded by colorful petals.

Fruit: the fruit of a plant is where the seeds of the plant are found. The fruit grows from the pollinated flower.

Insect: a six-legged animal with a hard exoskeleton. The yucca moth is an insect.

Insect Hole: a hole made by an insect. Yucca moths make holes in seed pods after they hatch into larvae to get out.

Larva: yucca moth life stage. The larva hatches from the egg and looks worm-like.

Life Cycle: describes the changes in a living thing during its life. Stages include birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

Mutualism: a type of relationship between two organisms that benefits both organisms. The relationship between the yucca and yucca moth is an example of two organisms benefiting the other; the yucca moth pollinates the yucca, while the yucca provides food for the yucca moth larvae.

Pollen: dust-like grains carried to other parts of the same flower and other flowers to help plants reproduce.

Pollination: the moving of pollen from one flower to another. When a flower is pollinated, it receives pollen and is then able to grow into a fruit.

Reproduction: the process by which plants and animals produce young offspring.

Roots: part of the plant growing under the soil that absorbs water and nutrients the plant needs to live.

Seed Pod: the part of a plant that contains a seed.

Symbiosis: when two living things live in a close relationship with each other. Yucca and yucca moths live in symbiosis.

Stigma: the tip of the long tube in the center of the flower. The stigma is the part of the flower that receives the pollen and eggs from the moth.

Yucca: a plant with long spiny leaves arranged in a funnel pattern. It has a long stalk that grows from the center with flowers and fruit. Many different species of yucca grow in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Yucca Moth: a white-winged insect that lays its eggs inside the yucca flower and pollinates the flowers. The moth's eggs hatch in the yucca fruit, and the young larvae eat the yucca seeds. The yucca moth lives in symbiosis with the yucca plant.