

## The Desert is Alive Scavenger Hunt

### THINGS YOU'LL NEED:

- Scavenger Hunt Info Cards
- The Desert is Alive Scavenger Hunt Worksheet
- Pencil
- Tape

### STEP #1:

Cut out Scavenger Hunt Info Cards, and tape them around your classroom or home for students to find.

### Step #2:

Students will use a pencil to fill out, The Desert is Alive Scavenger Hunt Worksheet, based on the facts from the, Scavenger Hunt Info Cards, placed around the classroom or student's home.



# Scavenger Hunt Info Cards:

## Ocotillo *Fouquieria splendens*

Ocotillos prefer a habitat that is open and very rocky, and where the soil is well drained. Areas such as rocky slopes, mesas, washes and desert grasslands.

Can reach heights of up to 20 feet.

Often used as "fencing" because its spines stop people and animals from passing through.

Blooming season for the ocotillo happens between mid-February to mid-April.

The capsules and flowers can be eaten raw or cooked and have a tangy flavour.



## Brittlebush *Encelia farinose*

Wide with grey-green to silver velvety leaves

Flowers bloom from March to June, turning the desert bright yellow.

A member of the Sunflower family, and are believed to have a lifespan of around 20 years.

The stems of the brittlebush secrete a clear resin which was used as a glue and also as a gum.

It likes to grow on dry slopes and washes.



## *Creosote Bush* *Creosote Larrea tridentata*

*The flowers are yellow and have five petals.*

*During dry periods, creosote leaves fold in half to cut their exposure to the sun.*

*Creates the signature smell after a desert rain.*



## *Agave* *Agave deserti*

*Agave are a type of succulent plant from Mexico and the southwestern parts of the United States*

*They have thick, sharp leaves*

*Agave plants flower only once, produce seeds, and then die*

*Life Span: 10-25 years*





## Teddy Bear Cholla *Cylindropuntia bigelovii*

*Since this species usually makes no viable seed, it relies on detached segments to form new plants by rooting and growing.*

*The teddy bear cholla is named for its furry "cuddly" appearance but is actually a densely spined plant.*



## Barrel Cactus *Ferocactus*

*Ferocactus means "fierce or wild cactus".*

*Barrel cactus flowers always grow at the top of the plant.*

*The spines were used as fishhooks by the Kumeyaay.*

*Bighorn sheep eat barrel cactus from the inside out!*

