

# **BTTP DESERT SURVIVAL DILEMMAS**

## **Background Information**

Review the background information section from the Back to the Past activity.

**Objectives:** Students will

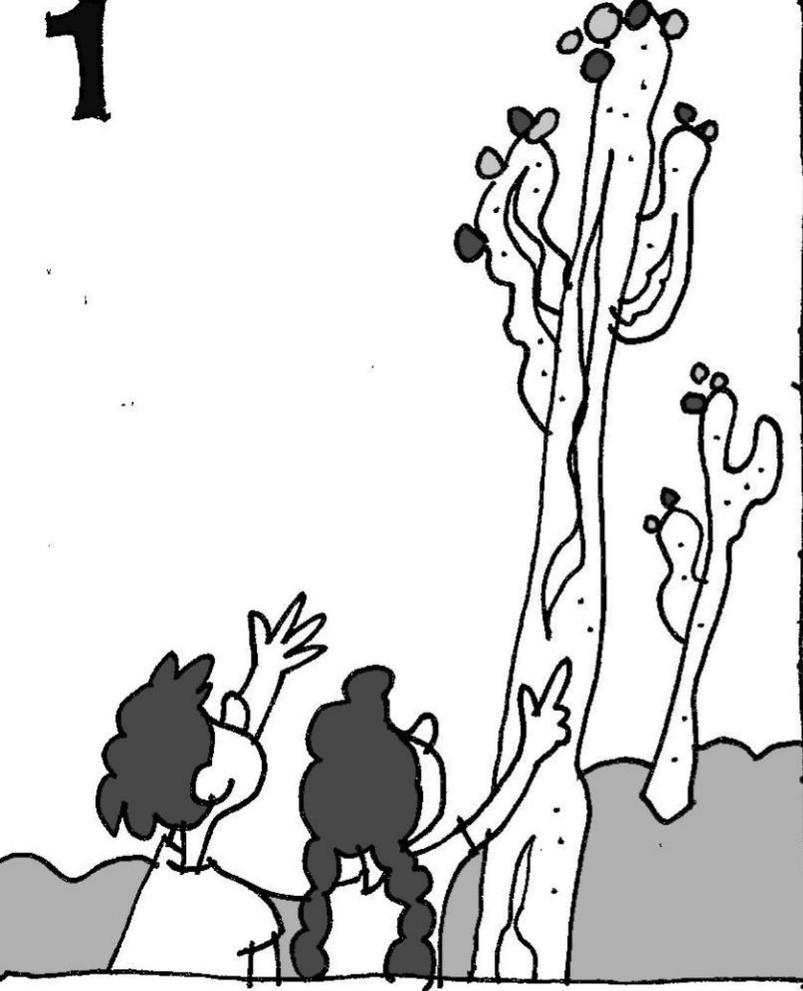
- identify some survival problems the Hohokam had in our desert environment
- describe ways to solve selected desert survival dilemmas with objects from the desert
- increase vocabulary and writing skills

## **Activity Procedure**

1. Begin this activity by reviewing with students some of the following questions about the Hohokam:
  - How might people have survived in the desert thousands of years ago without all of the conveniences of today (e.g., grocery stores, machines, automobiles)?
  - How did the Hohokam get their food? Where did they get their clothes, tools, crafts? How did they water crops? What materials did they use to build their houses?
2. Reinforce the concept that the Hohokam had to create ways to use natural resources to help them survive.
3. Distribute a copy of **Four Desert Survival Dilemmas** to each student or display it on an overhead screen. Ask the students what they think the word "dilemma" means. If needed, explain its meaning. Review the pictures on the handout or overhead as a class asking students what they notice about each scene leading them to explain the dilemma in each picture:
  - How did the Hohokam get ripe fruit from atop the saguaro?
  - How did they make a shelter from the storm?

- How did they get water from the stream to their crops?
  - How did they grind the mesquite beans into flour?
4. Review with students the names of some of the plants and animals in Sabino Canyon and how they were useful for the Hohokam in their efforts for survival in the desert.
5. End this activity by having each student choose one of the **four desert survival dilemmas**. Have each student:
- write a paragraph explaining what the dilemma is and how the Hohokam solved it
  - OR
  - draw a solution to one or all of the four dilemmas
  - OR
  - write about or draw another dilemma that the Hohokam solved using natural resources in Sabino Canyon, such as making pots and baskets to carry things or making tools for hunting, digging, or crafts.

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**FOUR DESERT SURVIVAL DILEMMAS**

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