



# Let's Find Out About It: Desert Gardens

Standard Connection:  
**ELA.RI.PK4.9**  
**ELA.SL.PK4.2**  
**M.G.PK4.2**  
**S.LS.PK4.2**  
**S.ES.PK4.1a**

**Enduring Understanding(s):**

- Living things need food, water, and proper conditions to survive and thrive.

**Essential Question(s):**

- How do living things respond and adapt to their environments?

Materials	Vocabulary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Ugly Vegetables</i></li> <li>• <i>Zinnia's Flower Garden</i></li> <li>• images of desert gardens (see Resource)</li> </ul>	<p><b>cactus:</b> a desert plant that stores water</p> <p><b>climate:</b> the weather in an area over a long time</p> <p><b>desert:</b> a dry, sandy place with very little rain</p> <p><b>garden:</b> a section of ground where herbs, fruit, flowers, or vegetables are grown</p> <p><b>moist:</b> a little wet; damp</p>	<p><b>needle:</b> the sharp, pointy part of a cactus</p> <p><b>plant:</b> a living thing that grows in the ground using the sun for food</p> <p><b>protect:</b> to keep safe</p> <p><b>root:</b> part of the plant that is usually hidden underground</p> <p><b>soil:</b> a mixture of minerals, water, air, and organic matter</p> <p><b>waxy:</b> covered in wax-like material</p>
Books		

Let's Find Out About It:	
Preparation: <i>Set up materials.</i>	
"In <i>Zinnia's Flower Garden</i> and <i>The Ugly Vegetables</i> , Zinnia, the girl, and her mother planted <b>gardens</b> . What do you notice?"	Show illustrations. <b>Children respond.</b>
"The <b>plants</b> in their <b>garden</b> needed water and <b>protection</b> ."	Show images. <b>Children respond.</b>
"Here is an image of a <b>desert garden</b> . What do you notice?"	
"The <b>desert climate</b> - weather - is dry - it doesn't rain often. The <b>cactus plants</b> are not shaded from the hot sun. There is no scarecrow to scare away animals."	
" <b>Cactus needles protect</b> the <b>plant</b> from animals and humans. Its <b>roots</b> are spread out to absorb as much water as possible when it does rain in the <b>desert</b> . Its <b>waxy</b> skin keeps the <b>plant moist</b> ."	Point to 'needles.' Model 'spread out roots,' 'waxy skin.'
"How is the <b>desert garden</b> similar to or different from Zinnia and the girl and her mother's <b>garden</b> ?"	<b>Children respond.</b>
"All of the <b>plants</b> needed water and <b>protection</b> . The flowers and vegetables were watered and <b>protected</b> by <b>gardeners</b> ; the <b>cacti</b> were not."	