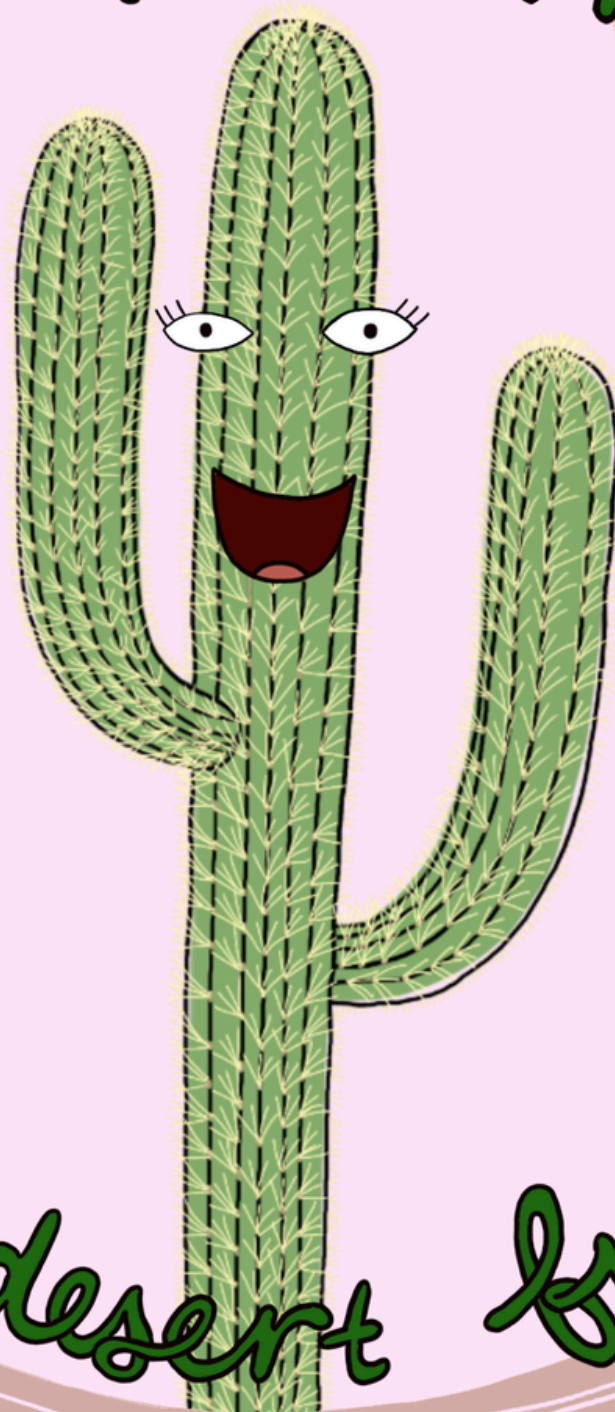


SANDY THE SAGUARO

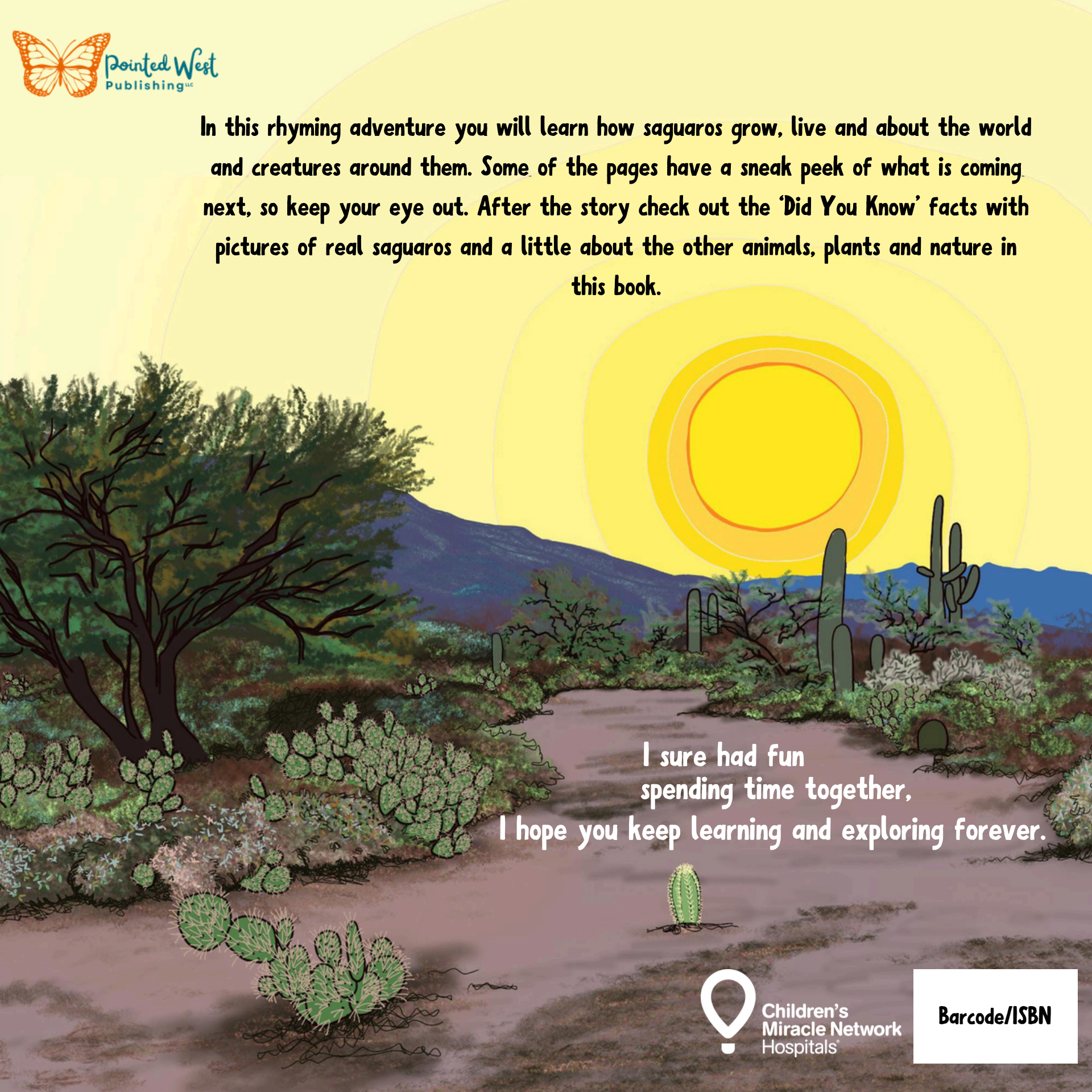


and her desert friends

Written by Nicole Dellerman

Illustrated by Shannon Belock

In this rhyming adventure you will learn how saguaros grow, live and about the world and creatures around them. Some of the pages have a sneak peek of what is coming next, so keep your eye out. After the story check out the 'Did You Know' facts with pictures of real saguaros and a little about the other animals, plants and nature in this book.



I sure had fun
spending time together,
I hope you keep learning and exploring forever.



Children's
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Barcode/ISBN

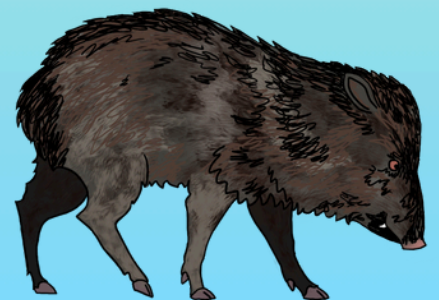
SANDY THE SAGUARO & HER DESERT FRIENDS

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

Words that don't sound how they spell:

Saguaro (suh-waa-row)

Javelina (ha-vuh-lee-nuh)





Be curious about the world. Explore and look closely. It is a wondrous place!

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2023 Written by Nicole Dellerman

2023 Illustrations by Shannon Belock

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**This book is dedicated to my Grandmother Sandy,
who always taught me to be authentically myself
and to go through life with a kind heart.**

Look for these future rhyming books from Pointed West Publishing:

Oliver the Octopus and His Ocean Friends

Molly the *Monkey* and Her Rainforest Friends

Paul the Polar Bear and Her Arctic Friends

Ellie the Elephant and Her Grassland Friends

Titus the Tiger and His Jungle Friends

Brittany the Butterfly and Her Flying Friends

Ben the Bear and His *Mountain* Friends

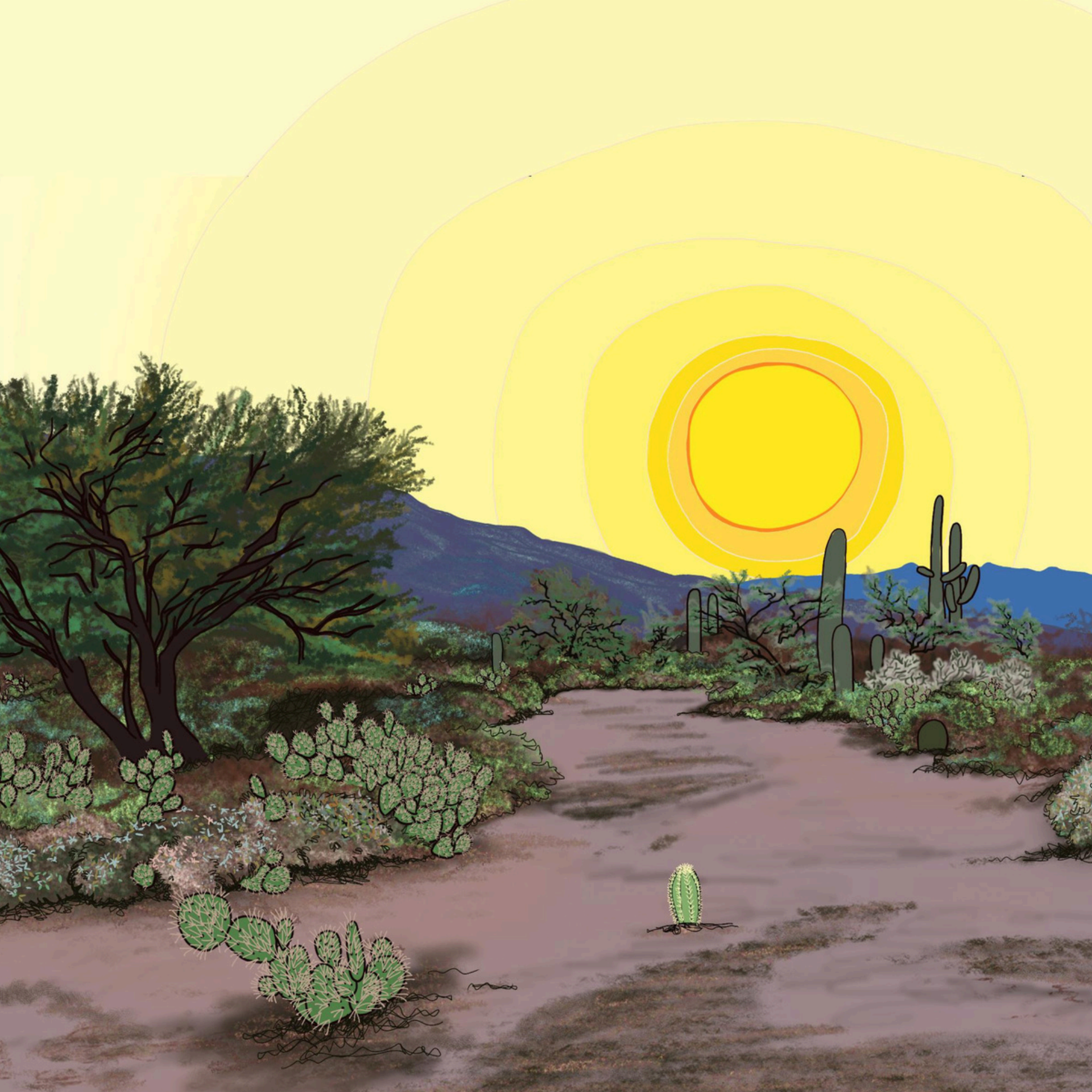
Opal the Otter and His Freshwater Friends

Ken the Kangaroo and His Outback Friends

**A portion of proceeds from every book sold will be donated to Children's Miracle
Network Hospitals® which raises funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals
that provide 38 million patient visits each year for kids across the U.S. and Canada**



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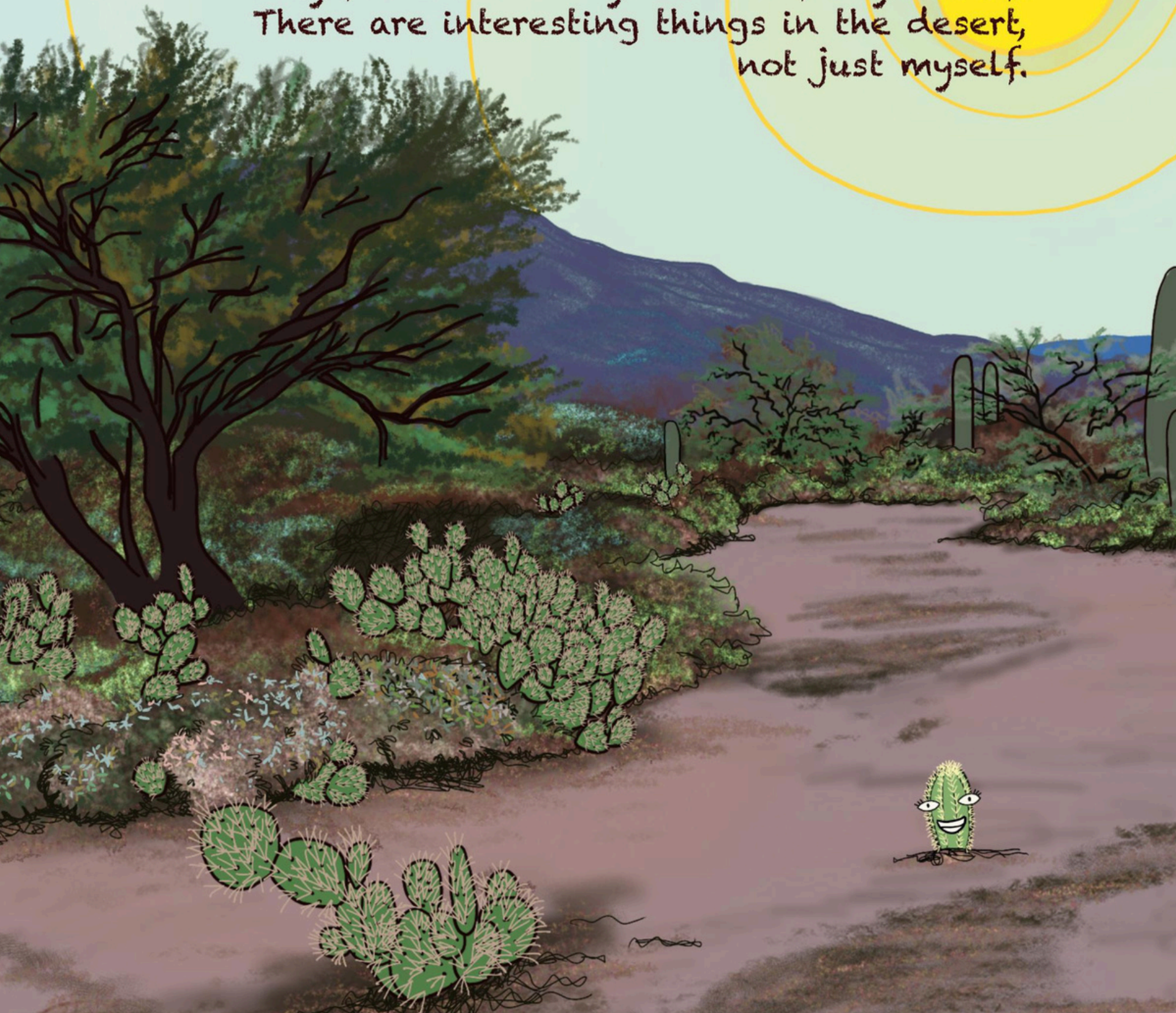
The desert wakes up to a bright sunny day.
What is this popping up from the dry, hot clay?

It's a cactus of some kind,
What a wonderful find.

She's pokey and green
and a sight to be seen.

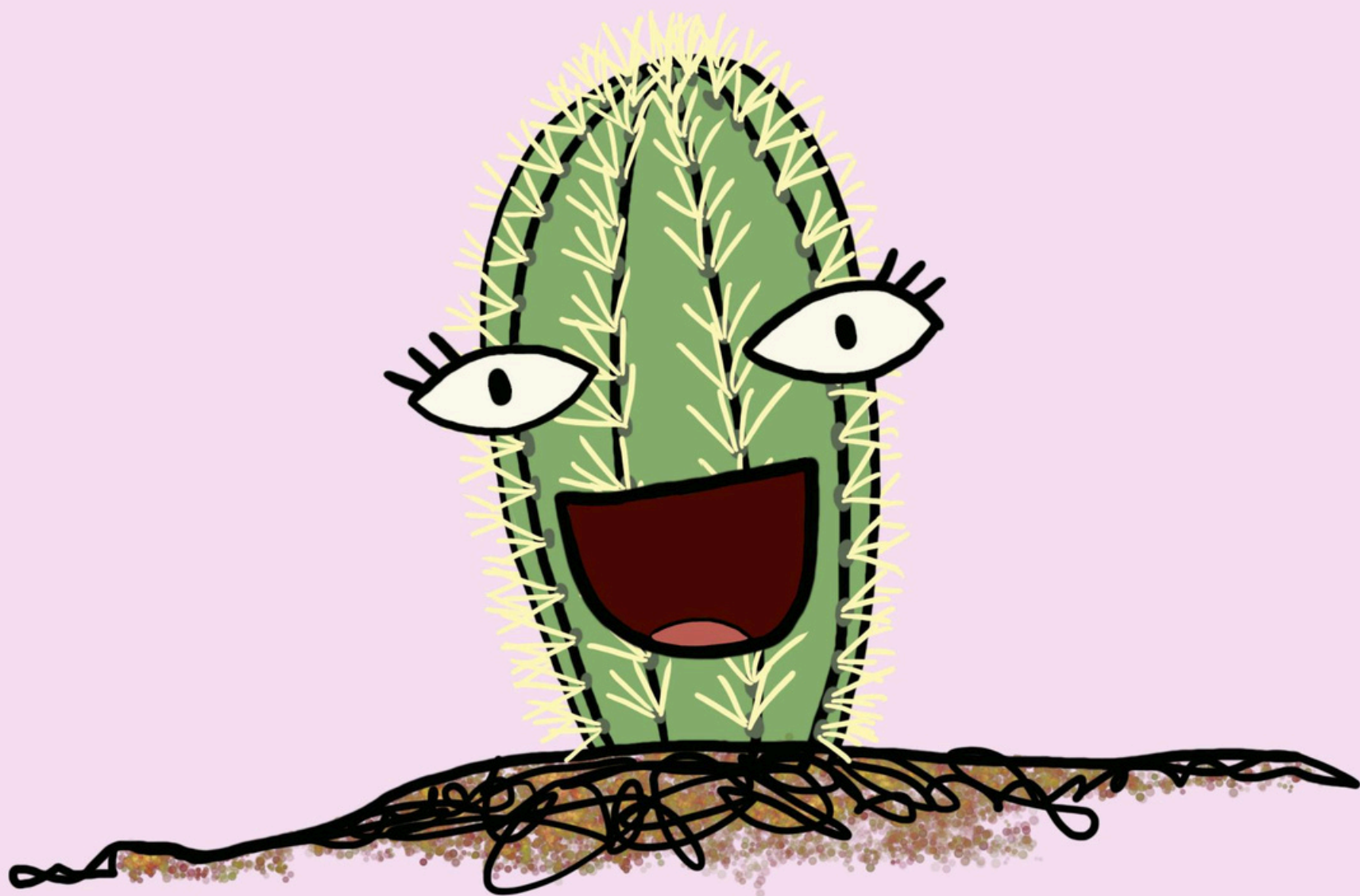
It's time to watch her grow.
She's Sandy the Saguaro.

Stay for a bit and you'll see for yourself.
There are interesting things in the desert,
not just myself.



I grow and I grow in the bright sunshine.
I love the desert, it's the home I call mine.

I get bigger and taller but stay in the same place.
There's lots to see with all the visitors in my space.



Lizards big and small wander by past.
They like to be lazy but can also be fast.

They eat little bugs and things from the ground.
Some make little noises but from most, not a sound.



Lizards lay under bushes or bask in the sun.
They are beautiful and unique, every single one.

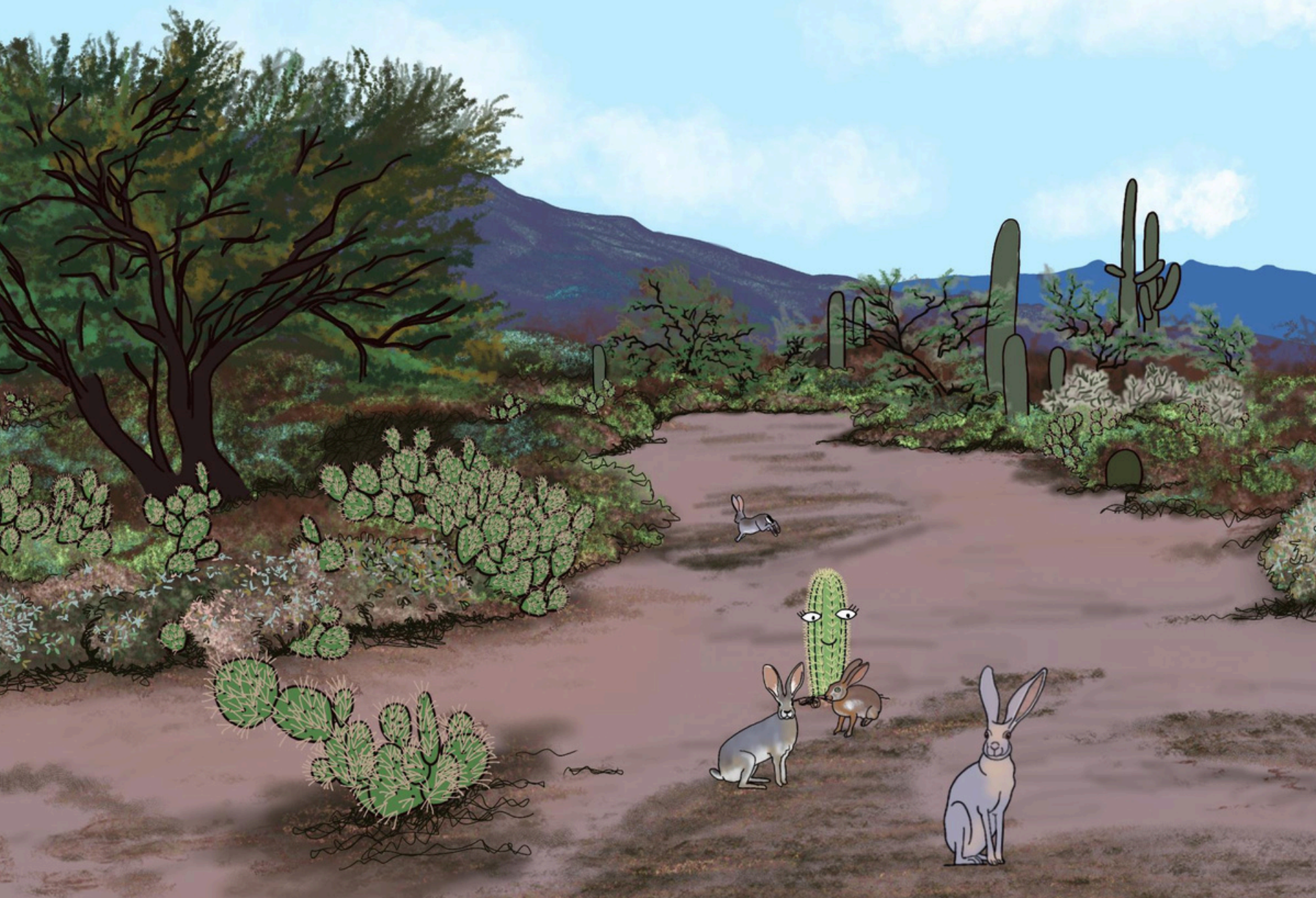


Hopping by is a group of soft rabbits.
Cottontails and hares have similar habits.

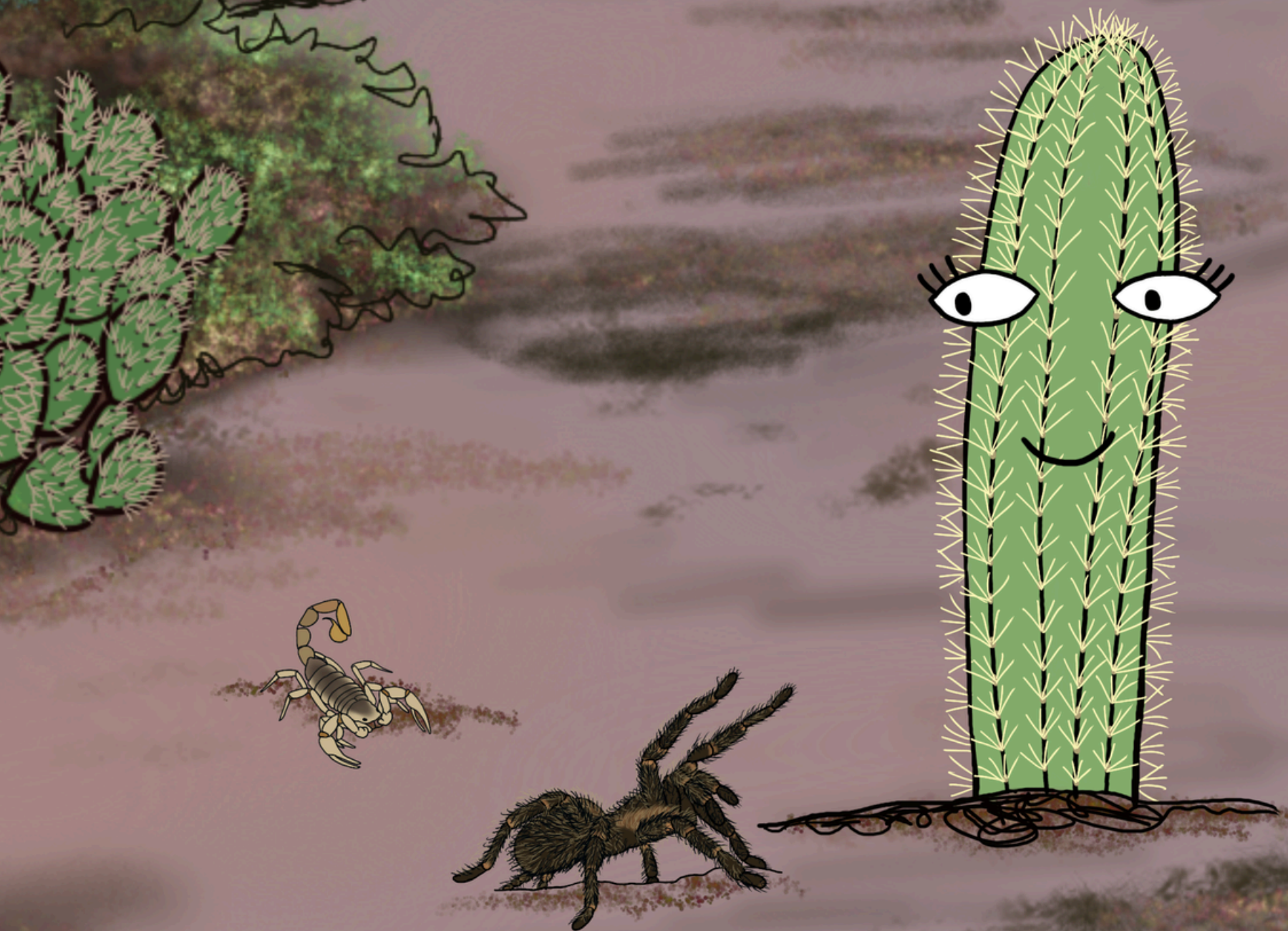
They dig to make burrows and sleep in the ground,
To keep them cool and safe all year around.



Rabbit's big, long ears help them hear
So they know when things are far and near.



Tarantula is creepy since he's a big furry spider.
He blends with the desert and is a good hider.



Here comes scorpion with 8 legs and pointy tail.
When creatures see him coming, they run without fail.



Henry the hawk swoops by to say Hi,
Before flying off again when something catches his eye.

I stretch up tall as the wind starts to blow.
Then I see a cool sight, a dusty cyclone.

It picks up dust and moves it around,
Showing shiny things I can see on the ground.



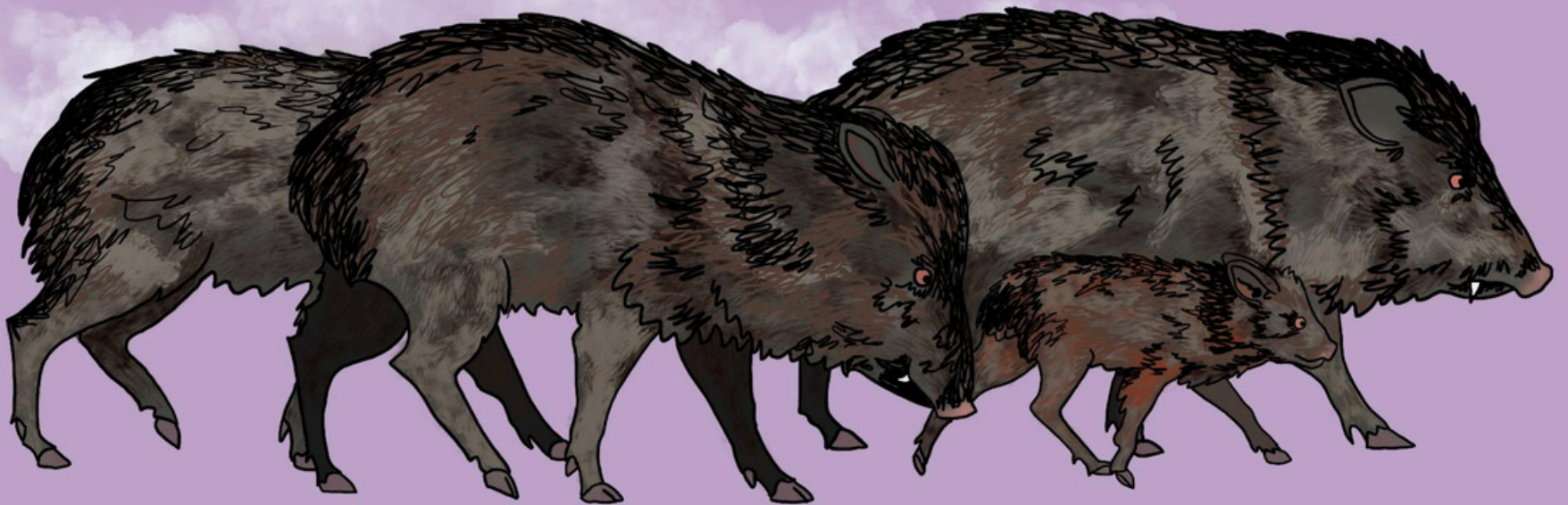
The desert is full of surprises you bet,
Look at those mountains,
how much luckier could I get?

Oh see here, an arm is starting to show.
Wow, look at me. I am growing saguaro!



Here comes the family, a big shorty group.
These furry pigs are wild, far from a coup.

The javelina babies are silly,
The youngest is my favorite. His name is Billy.

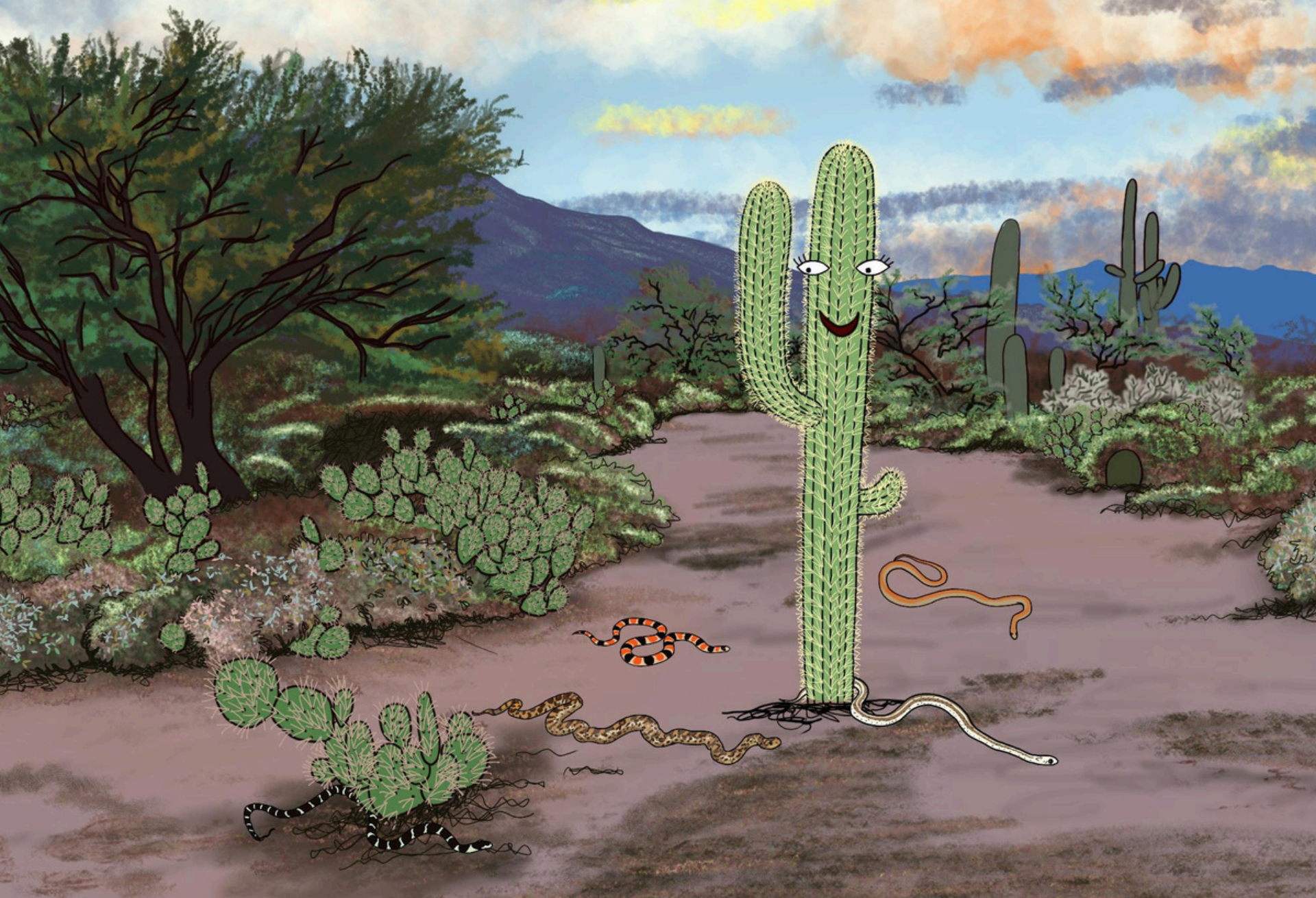


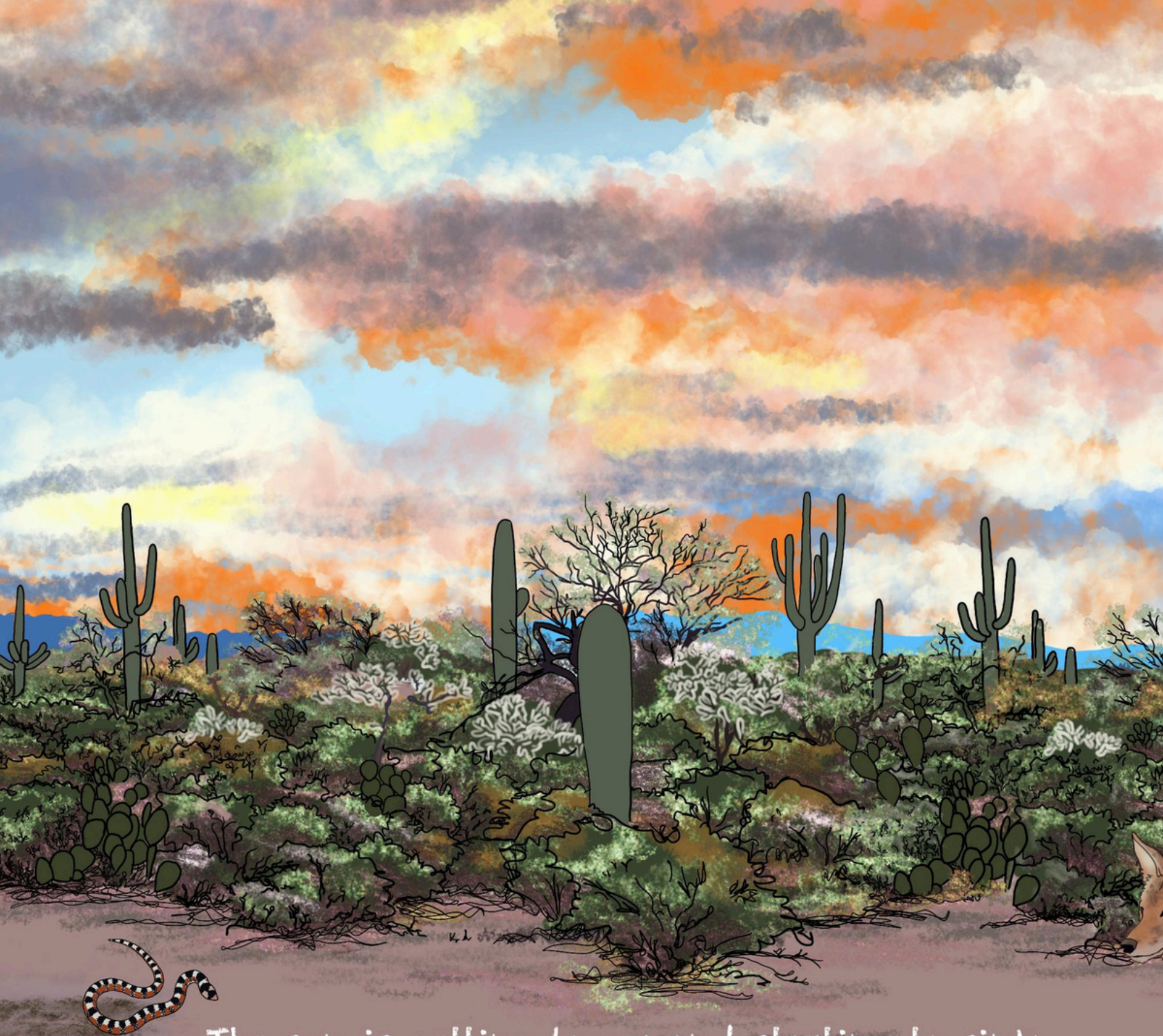
They roll in mud to play and get cool,
Because here in the desert, it's hard to find a pool



Snakes slither by, all colors and sizes.
They sleep in holes and come up with sunrises.

Most are just fine but it's good to steer clear.
The ones with the rattle make a noise you can hear.





The sun is getting lower and starting to sink.
The sky is vibrant with yellow, orange and pink.

Those yips and howls,
That's Carl and his coyote pals.

They like to be together in a pack
And coyotes always share their snack.



When some desert animals get ready to sleep,
Others are just waking up and ready to leap.



I see my owl friends starting to take flight.
They have special eyes and can see great all night.

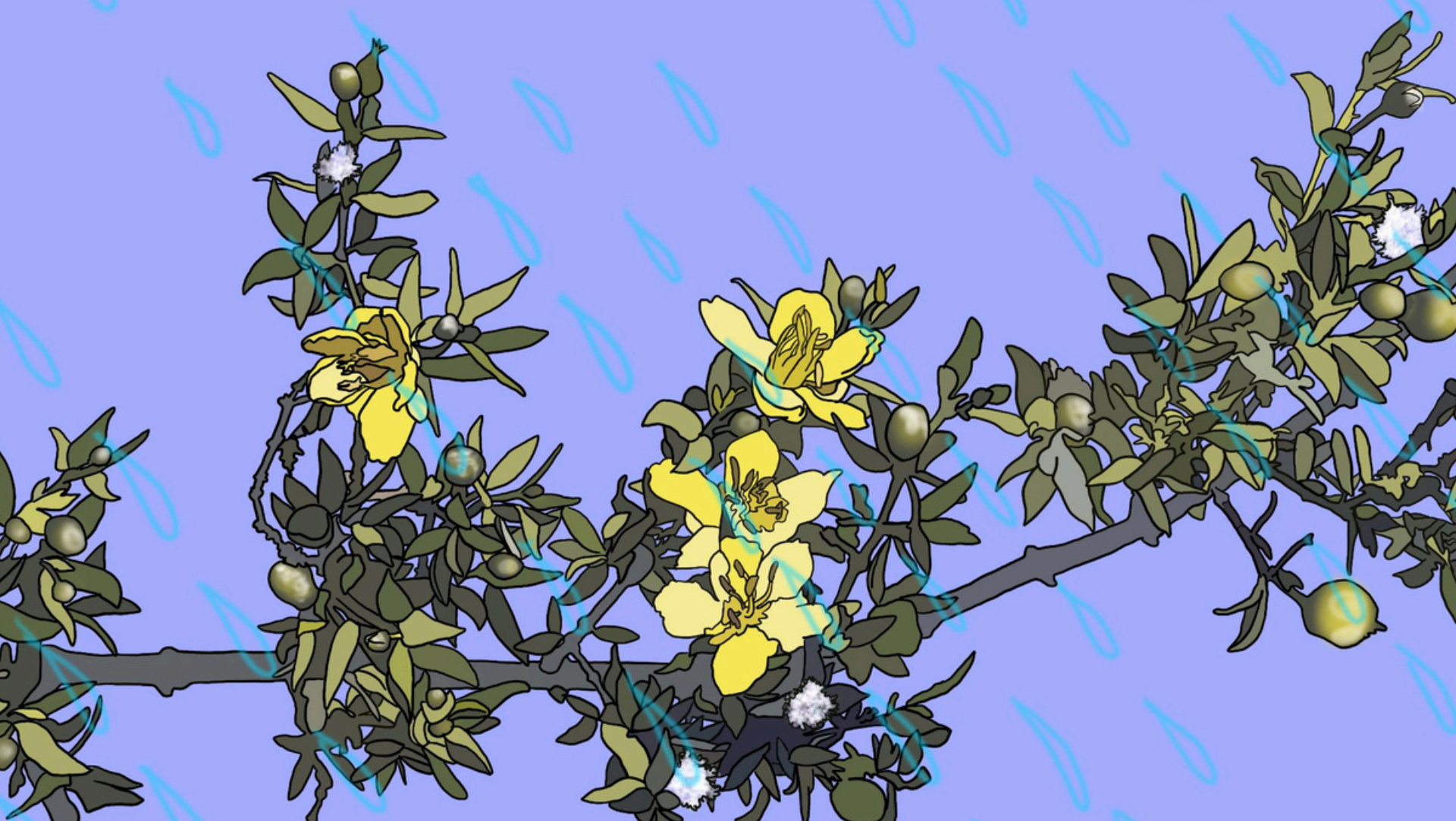


They look all over by turning their heads.
It's not until morning that they'll find their beds.

It was a hot day and I'm getting thirsty out here.
I sure hope the rain and some water is near.



I can smell it, monsoon is on the way.
The lightning puts on a show and it's about to play.



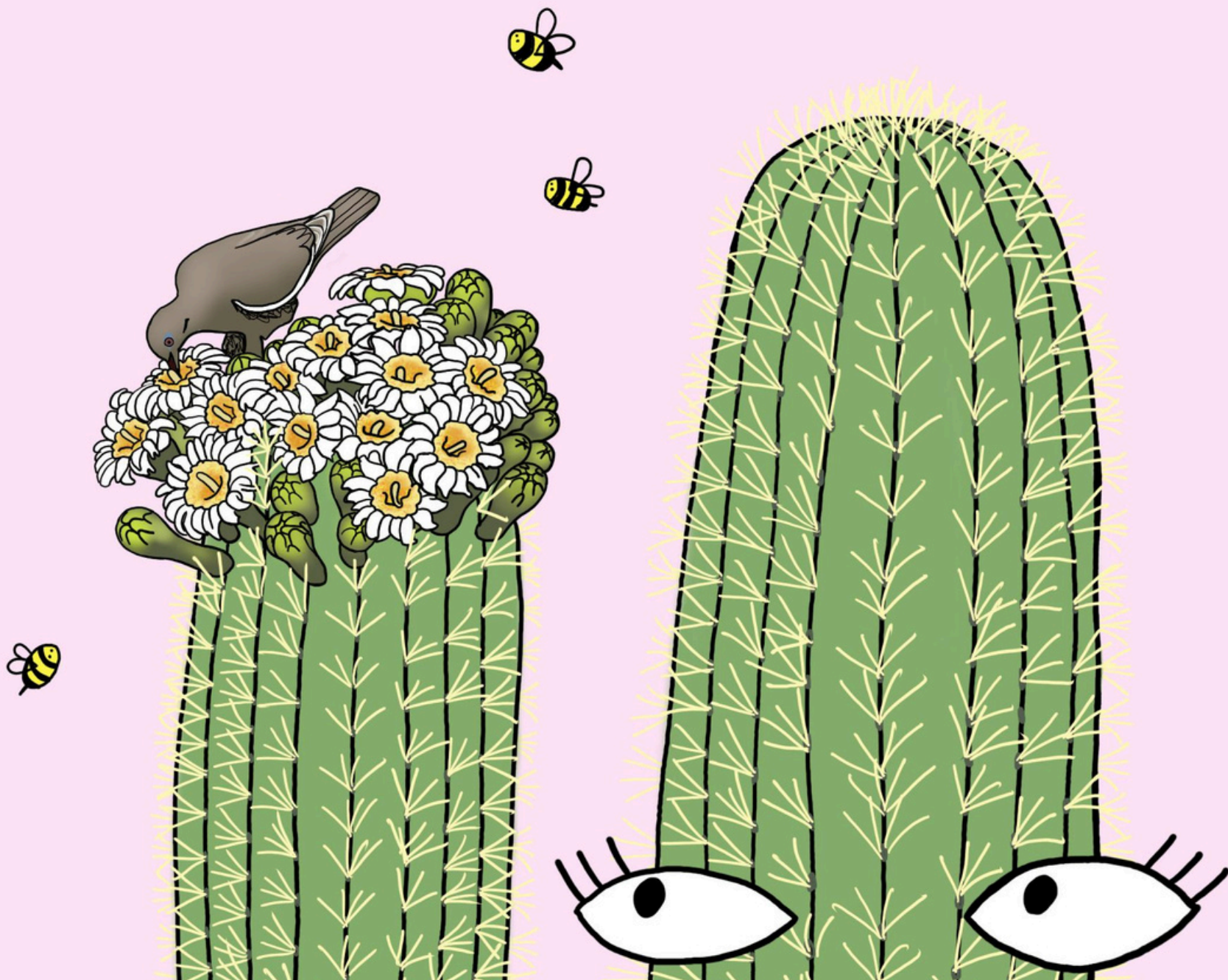
With zig zag flashes, it lights up the sky.
I watch all the actions as the clouds go by.

Thank you monsoon for quenching my thirst.
I am so happy I could almost burst.



I'm making new friends every day around me
And still growing big and strong as you can see.

I even make flowers, just look at my stem.
The birds and bees love it and I share with them.



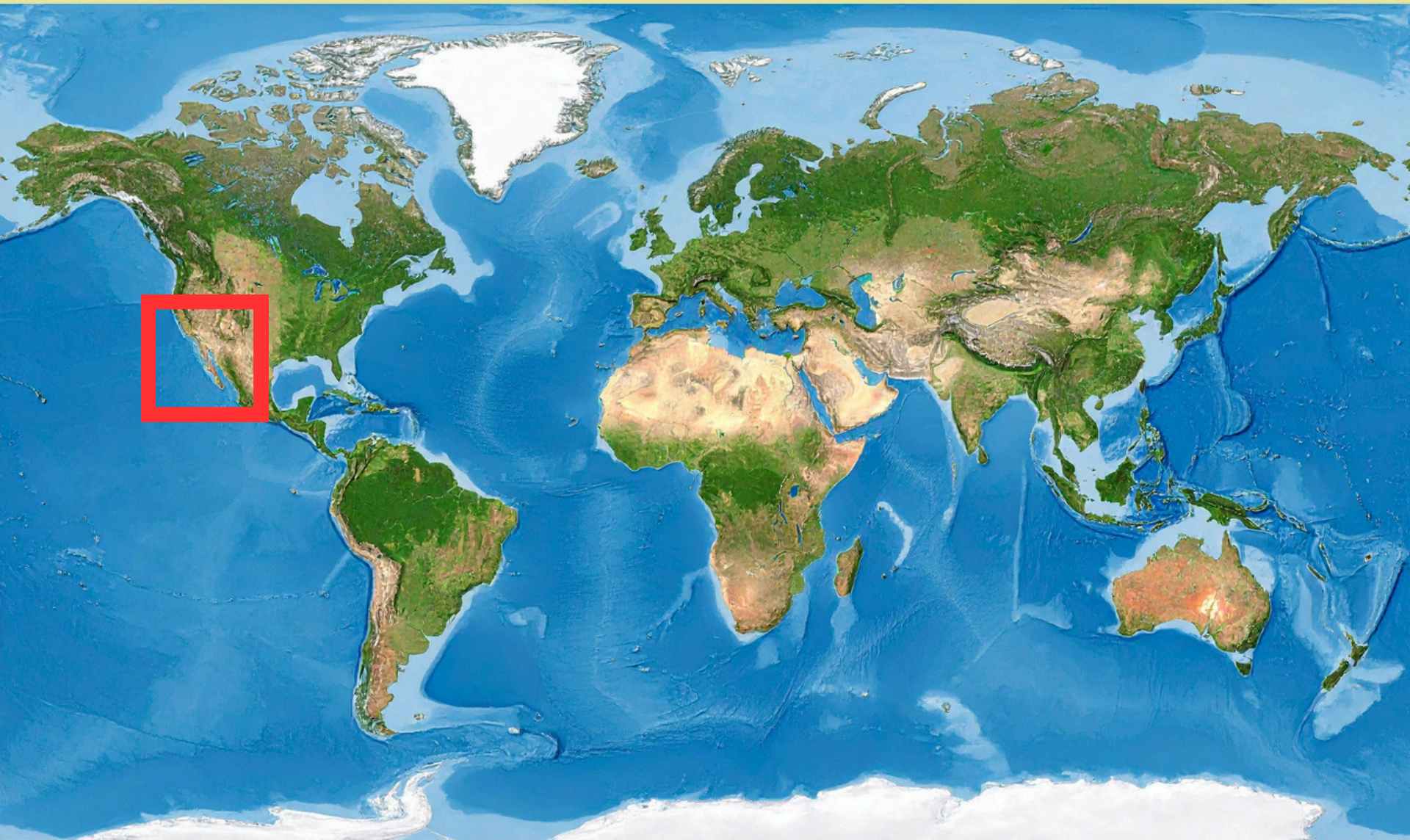


I knew you would like the desert to see
All the beauty and creatures living around me.

I sure had fun spending time together.
I hope you keep learning and exploring forever.



Where Do They Live?



Where Saguaros Grow



Did You Know?



Saguaros live a very long time, usually 150 to 200 years!

It takes 50 to 70 years to grow their first arm.

After that more arms can grow even faster.

Some never grow any arms though they keep getting taller.

Saguaros can grow well over 60 feet tall.

The tallest ever measured was 78 feet tall!

Did You Know?



Saguaros only grow naturally in the Sonoran Desert in Southern Arizona, the Mexican state of Sonora, and a small area in California.

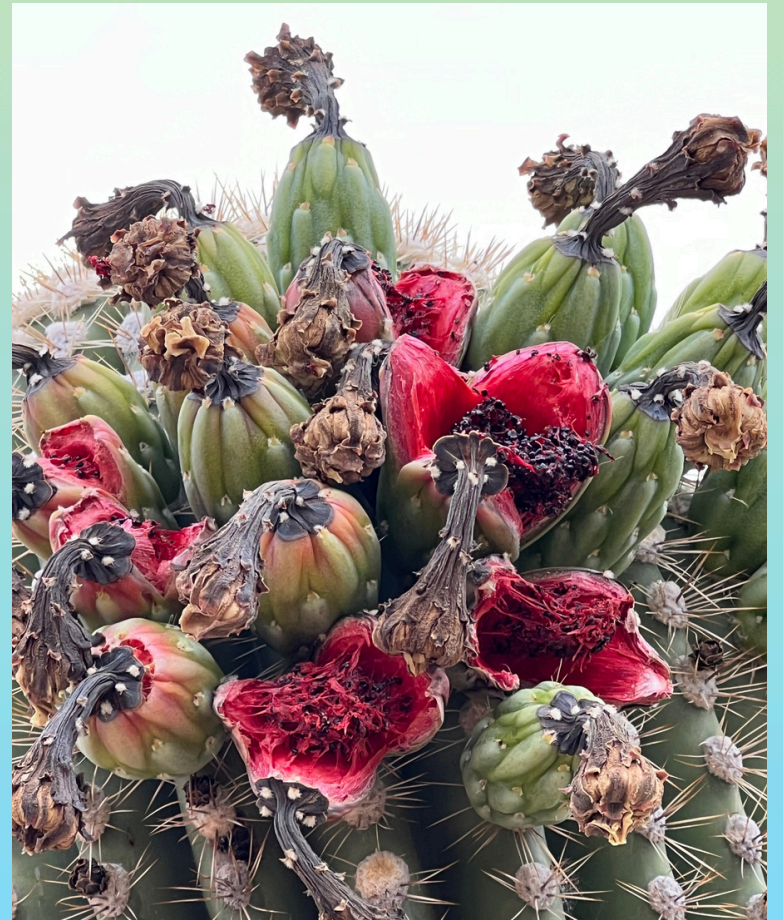
Since it rains rarely in the desert, they soak up lots of water when it does rain and slowly drink it to grow.

Did You Know?



The saguaro blossom is the state wildflower of Arizona. They only bloom for a short time and are white with big yellow centers.

After blooming they turn into red fruit. Many desert animals love the saguaros pollen, nectar, and fruits.

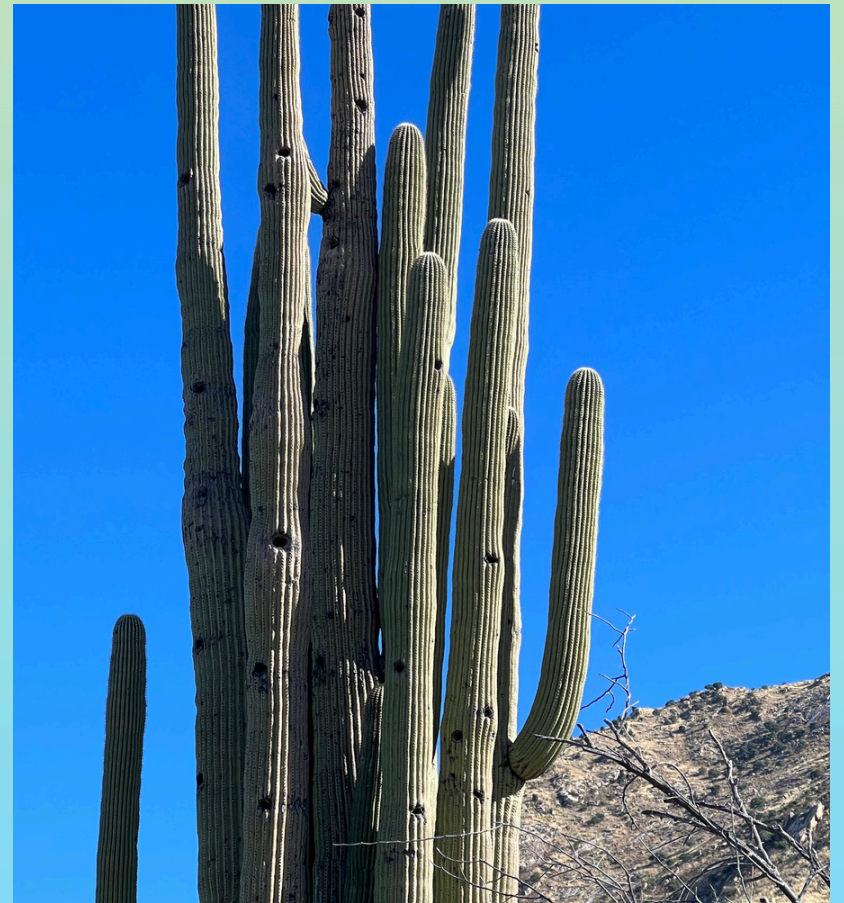


Did You Know?



About 1 in every 10,000 saguaros form a unique growth on top and are called crested saguaros. They are extra special to see because they are so rare.

Many desert birds live in saguaros. Woodpeckers will peck out holes and make homes in them and even after the woodpeckers move out, other birds like owls will move in.



Animals, Plants and Nature Featured in this book:

Lizards - Canyon Spotted Whiptail, Gila Monster, Ornate Tree Lizard, Regal Horned Lizard, Sonoran Spotted Whiptail, Western Banded Gecko and Earless Lizard

Rabbits - Desert Cottontail, Antelope Jackrabbit and Black-Tailed Jackrabbit

Scorpion - Uses its venomous sting to subdue insect prey or as a defense

Tarantula - In the Sonoran Desert, Tarantulas can grow 3 to 4 inches in length

Hawk - Harris's Hawks are 18-24 inches long with a wingspan of 3-4 feet

Dust Devil - Ranging from 18 inches to 30 feet high, these dirt whirlwinds are short lived and usually harmless

Turquoise - A rare and valuable blue to green mineral only found in a limited desert region

Javelina - Not in the pig family, rather a collared peccary, a species of mammal

Snakes - Kingsnake, Western Diamondback Rattlesnake, Arizona Coral Snake, Western Patchnosed Snake, and Western Ground Snake

Coyotes - Weighs between 15 to 25 pounds and are about 2 feet tall and 4 feet long

Owl - Great Horned Owls live 15 to 20 years and are about 2 feet tall with a 4.6 foot wingspan

Creosote - A bushy plant with yellow blossoms and an incredible and unique smell that is vivid during desert rains

White-winged Dove - Sonoran Desert they eat mostly the nectar, pollen, fruit, and seeds of the saguaro cactus.