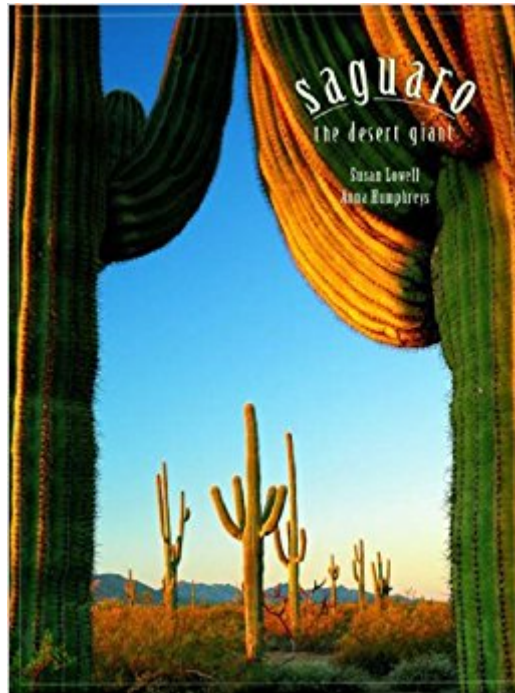




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Saguaro: The Desert Giant



Synopsis

Ask a child to draw a picture of a cactus, and the result will probably look like a saguaro. Indeed, mass media have made this denizen of the Sonoran Desert universally recognizable, and perhaps just as misunderstood. In *Saguaro: The Desert Giant*, Anna Humphreys and Susan Lowell share true stories about this amazing, anthropomorphic cactus that are at least as intriguing as the folklore. A saguaro can grow to be a towering fifty feet or more and live for as long as two centuries. During rainy seasons, a large saguaro can soak up literally hundreds of gallons of water in its expandable, accordion-folded trunk and arms. For uncounted generations, the Tohono Oodham people in Arizona have harvested the sweet saguaro fruits to make syrup and wine. Profusely illustrated with contemporary and historic photographs and other artwork, *Saguaro: The Desert Giant* celebrates these iconic cacti while arguing that the need to preserve their critical Sonoran Desert habitat is more pressing now than ever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Susan Lowell lives in Tucson, Arizona. She is the author of many books, including "The Three Little Javelinas" and "The Tortoise and the Jackrabbit," Randy Cecil illustrated "The Singing Chick" and "Dear Dr. Silly Bear," He lives in Houston, Texas.

Useful and very well written

This is another wonderful book that I had to have for our library collection. The illustrations are

wonderful and the information in this book is very important, I think. Scientific minded students or ones who love nature will relate really well to this book. The saguaro is explained in an understandable way that is relevant to all of us. The book can be used when studying deserts and desert life and it is a great addition. Most of my children at school found this book to be quite interesting and easily understood. It is a very nicely done book. Five stars.

It's hard to say what the appeal of the saguaro cactus is exactly, but perhaps it is the way people relate to them. Their branches are referred to as arms; the young plants are called babies; and they live under nurse plants as seedlings. More than just being anthropomorphic, these giant cactuses are the true emblem of the spectacular Sonoran Desert. Across the country (far from their tiny growth region), the saguaro is a powerful symbol of the American Southwest. This book is a perfect blend of accurate scientific information and entertaining cultural anecdotes from the mother and daughter author team. It is jam-packed with useful facts, and all are attractively displayed in this beautiful book. The art is as precise and engaging as the well-written text. Definitely a worthy investment!

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