



Name _____

Saguaros in the Sonoran Desert

The saguaro cactus grows only in the Sonoran Desert. This desert covers large parts of the southwestern United States. The desert's soil is rocky. Its temperatures are mild. This makes the Sonoran Desert a perfect place for the saguaro cactus to grow.

The saguaro cactus has special ways of surviving in the desert. One way is for the saguaros to grow beneath "nurse" trees. Nurse trees are larger plants that shade the small saguaro from the desert sun. However, saguaros need protection from more than the sun. Saguaros also grow long spines to stop hungry predators from eating them.

Saguaros can become very old and grow very tall. They have giant trunks with long arms that reach upward. A fully grown cactus can stand up to 80 feet tall. It can take hundreds of years for a saguaro to reach its full size.

Instructions: Complete the chart by identifying a main idea for each paragraph in the passage. Write the details from the passage that support the main ideas you chose. Then, write a paragraph on the back of this paper about the entire passage's main idea. Use evidence from the text to support your conclusion.

Main Idea	Details
Main Idea	Details
Main Idea	Details