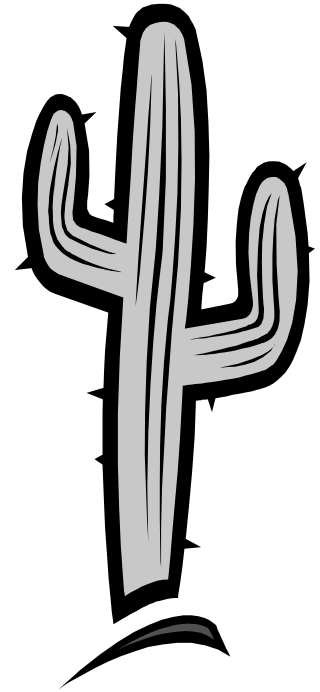
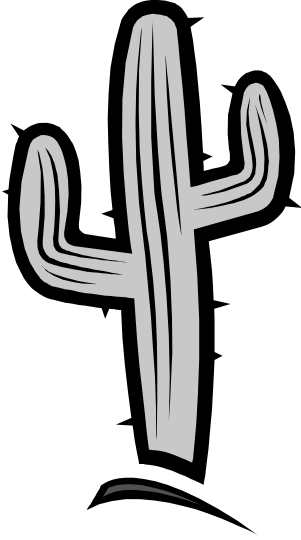


ARIZONA EDVENTURES

The Giant Saguaro

These are saguaro cacti. Draw and color one or more of them.



The saguaro (sah-WAR-o) is the largest cactus in the United States, and it is only found in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. Saguaros are very slow-growing and long-lived. A saguaro may grow only an inch per year, but can reach a height of 50 feet. A saguaro's arms begin to form after it is about 15 feet tall and around 75 years old. The arms sometimes grow at odd angles, giving the cactus a misshapen appearance. An average old saguaro has five arms and is 30 feet tall. The average lifespan of a saguaro is approximately 150 years of age. The largest saguaros, with more than five arms, are estimated to be 200 years old. These plants often grow in dense saguaro "forests." Saguaros are unique living antiques; it is illegal to harm or remove those growing in the wild, and landowners must obtain a permit to relocate or destroy a saguaro plant on their property.