IFE NGFI FLOMER

LARA HAWTHORNE



T U R E P R E S S

THE NIGHT FLOWER





For Sonja, William and Jack

With special thanks to Debbie Colodner, Robin Kropp and Catherine Bartlett at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.



B P P

BIG PICTURE PRESS

This edition published in the UK in 2021 by Big Picture Press.
First published in the UK in 2018 by Big Picture Press,
an imprinct of Bonnier Books UK.
The Piaza, 535 King's Road, London, SWI 0 0SZ
Owned by Bonnier Books
Sveavägen 56, Stockholm, Sweden
www.templarco.co.uk/big-picture-press
www.bonnierbooks.co.uk

Text and illustration copyright @ 2018 by Lara Hawthorne

13579108642

All rights reserved

ISBN 978-1-78741-831-8

This book was typeset in PiS Creatinin Pro
The illustrations were created with watercolour
and gouache and amended digitally

Designed by Olivia Cook Edited by Joanna McInerney

Printed in China



THE NIGHT FLOWER

LARA HAWTHORNE

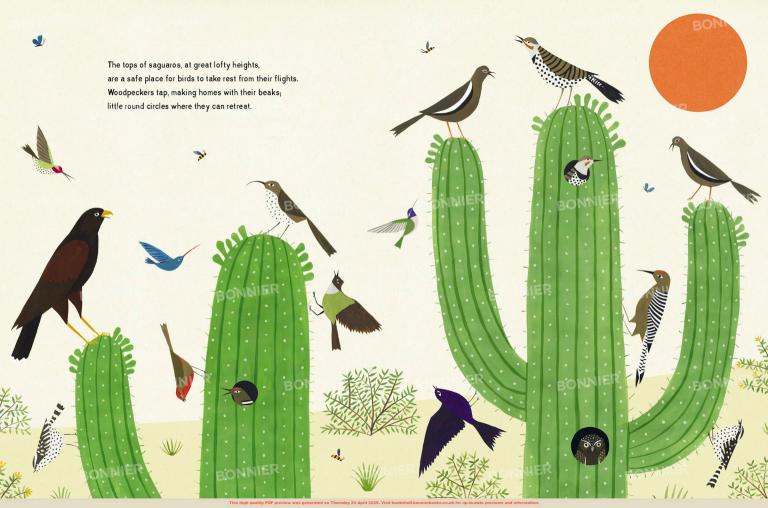


SAGUARO (SA-WAH-RO)

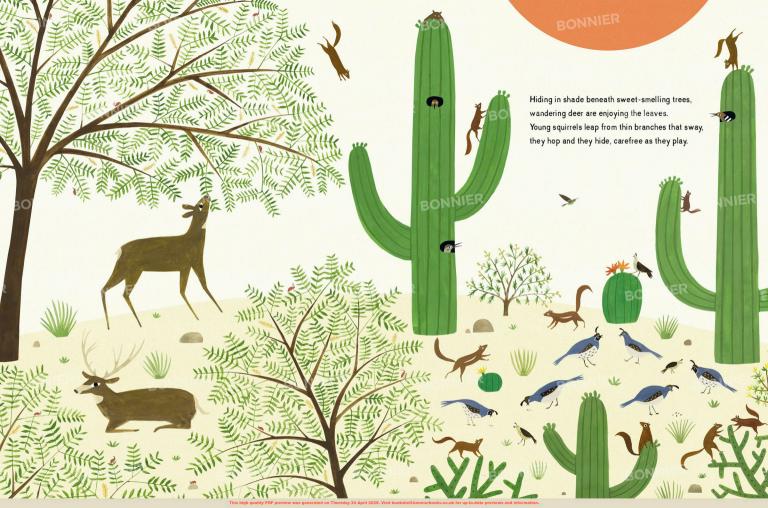
Carnegiea gigantea

The saguaro cactus is found in the Sonoran desert, which stretches approximately 260,000 square kilometres from the southwestern states in the United States to northwestern Mexico. The saguaro's flowers are special because they bloom for a single night once a year. Their strong scent and brilliant white petals attract rare pollinators during this short period, including bats, moths and doves.

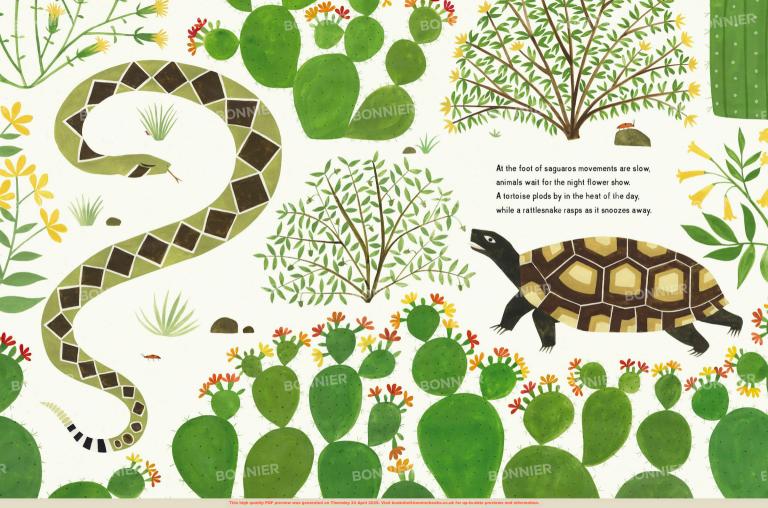


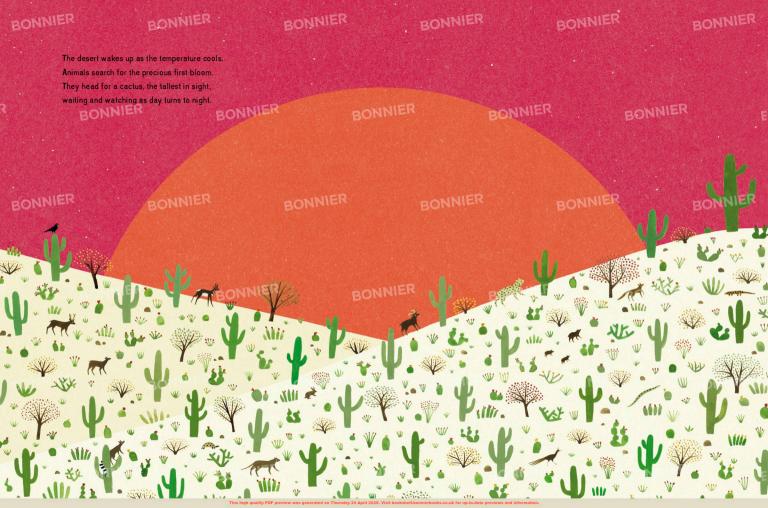
















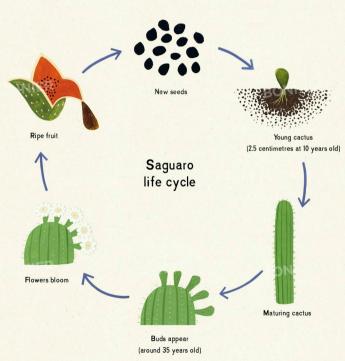


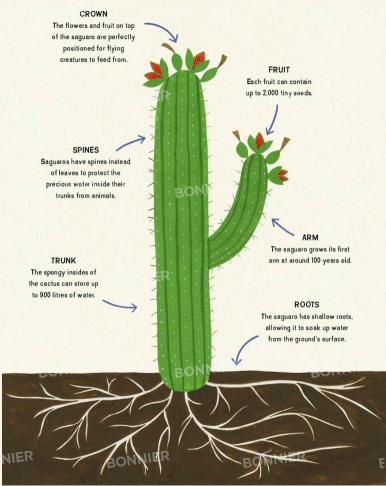




The Saguaro

Although saguaros can reach mighty heights of up to 15 metres, they grow very slowly. In fact, it may take up to 200 years before they fully mature. Saguaros need very particular conditions, so it can be a struggle for them to grow at all. Only one in many millions of seeds will manage to grow to the same size as their parent.





Did you spot ...?

Go back through the book and see if you can spot the saguaro's desert friends.



RAINBOW GRASSHOPPER

(Dactylotum bicolor)

This beautiful insect is often called a 'painted grasshopper' because of its bright colours. In fact, these colours are important as they help to warn potential predators away.



RINGTAIL

(Bassariscus astutus)

A member of the raccoon family, these nocturnal mammals use their huge eyes and ears to track down prey. Their Latin name means 'clever little fox'.



GRASSHOPPER MOUSE

(Onychomys torridus)

This fierce rodent is much like a miniature wolf - before eating its prey it stands on its feet and howls at the moon! Grasshopper mice eat all sorts of things including poisonous scorpions. They are known to stalk their prey like a cat.



LESSER LONG-NOSED BAT

(Leptonycteris yerbabuenae)

The night flower's nectar provides vital

fuel for these bats as they cross the Sonoran desert on their annual migration.

Several thousand will descend on the

desert, dispersing the flower's pollen and seeds as they feed.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL (Callipepla gambelii)

These small birds need to consume water every day. One way is through eating food such as cactus fruits. It is rare to see them fly - they prefer to run.



BORCAT

(Lynx rufus)

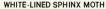
Despite being the most common cat in the Sonoran desert, the bobcat is rarely seen. They rest in caves or under low-lying trees and hunt rabbits, lizards and even small deer for food.



SONORAN DESERT TORTOISE

(Gopherus morafkai)

These slow and sturdy creatures are well-suited to the dry, hot desert. They keep cool by hiding under plants or in underground burrows and can also survive for a long time without water or food.



(Hyles lineata)

The Sonoran desert is thriving with moth species. Most only appear at night and feed on the variety of sweet-smelling flowers. One of these is the white-lined sphinx moth. It is often compared to a hummingbird, because of its hovering style whilst it feeds.



GILA MONSTER

(Heloderma suspectum)

These slow-moving reptiles are one of only two venomous lizards known in the world. They spend much of their time in underground burrows and shelters, and can eat as much as half their body weight in one feeding!



Distinctly coloured with zebra-like markings, these birds are permanent Sonoran dwellers. With their long pointy beaks they often peck holes in saguaros

where they can raise their chicks safely.

This high quality PDF preview was generated on Thursday 24 April 2025. Visit bookshelf.bonnierbooks.co.uk for up-to-date previews and inform

Glossary





BUD

A growth on a plant that will develop into a leaf, flower or shoot.

POLLEN

Tiny, soft yellow grains from a flower that can help other plants to grow.

DISPERSE

To spread seeds from a plant.

POLLINATE

To take pollen from one flower to another.



HABITAT

The natural home of an animal or plant.

POLLINATOR

An animal that takes pollen from one flower and passes it to another.

MATURE

To develop fully into adulthood.

PREDATOR

An animal that eats other animals for food.



A seasonal journey an animal makes, usually in search of food, shelter or a mate.

RIPE

When a fruit is ready to eat.



NECTAR

The sugary sweet liquid produced by plants to encourage pollination.

SCENT

A particular smell produced by a plant.

NOCTURNAL

To be active at night.

VENOMOUS

An animal that makes venom – a type of poison.



