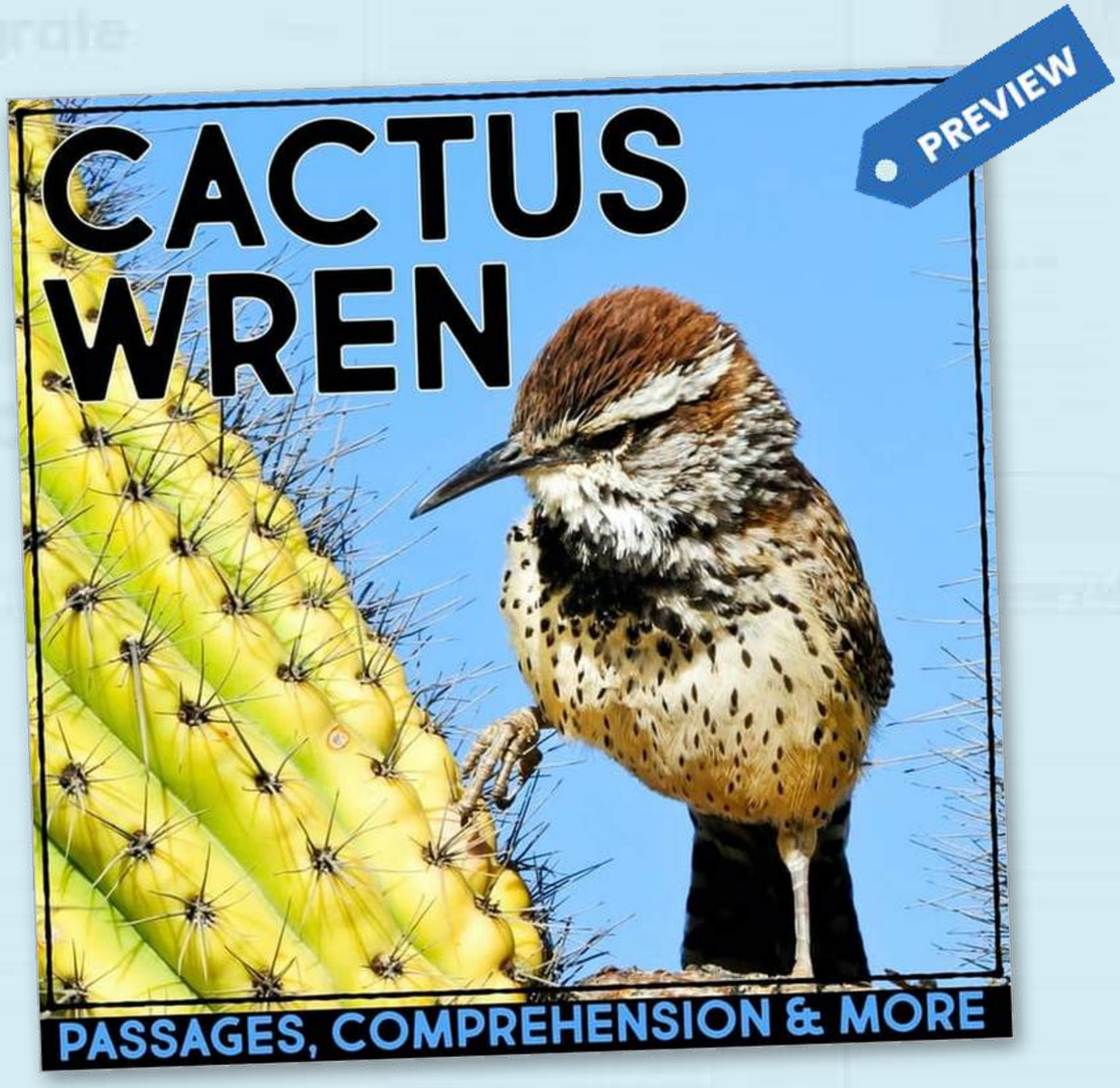


GRADES 2–3

READ, RESEARCH, AND WRITE

CACTUS WREN

ANIMAL RESEARCH

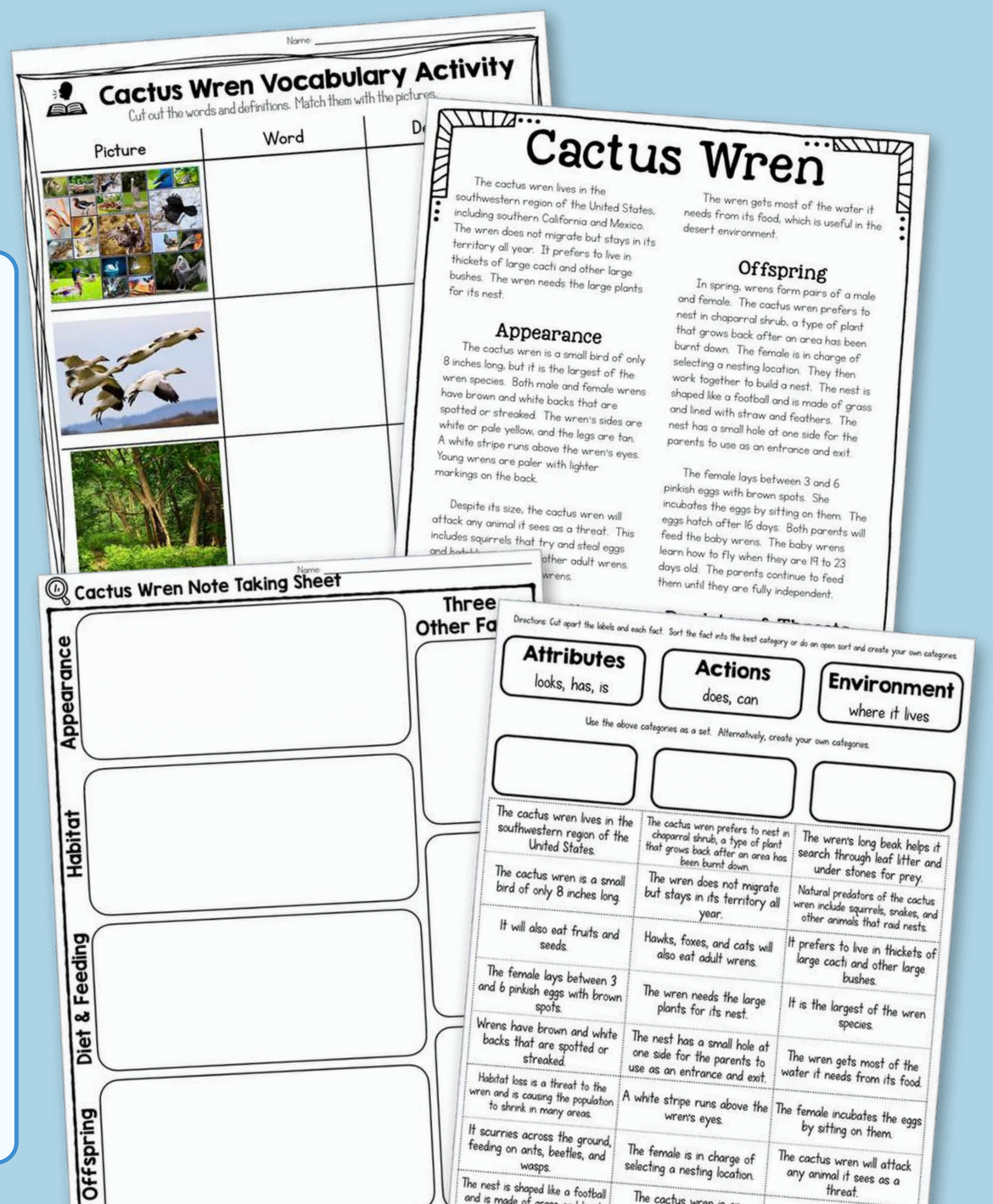
Informational Articles, Activities, and Writing

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

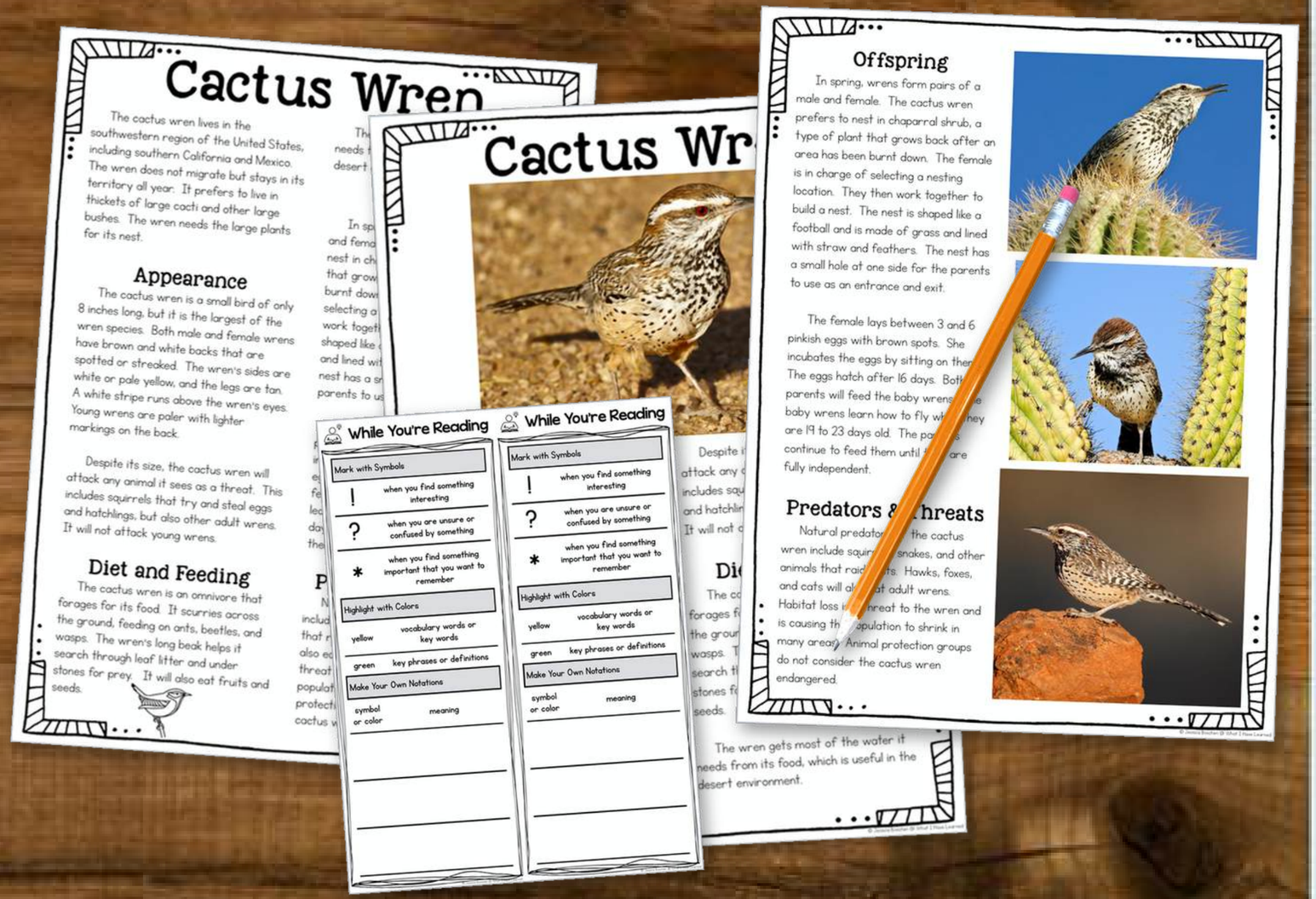
WHAT'S INCLUDED

Read, research, and write

- 1-page and 2-page informational articles
- Vocabulary cards and cut-and-paste activities
- Note-taking organizers and comprehension questions
- Fact sort activities
- Informational writing pages
- Answer keys included
- QR codes for safe video research



READ



Article comes in two formats.

Meet an animal in its habitat

1 ARTICLE

Students read a clear informational article about cactus wren.

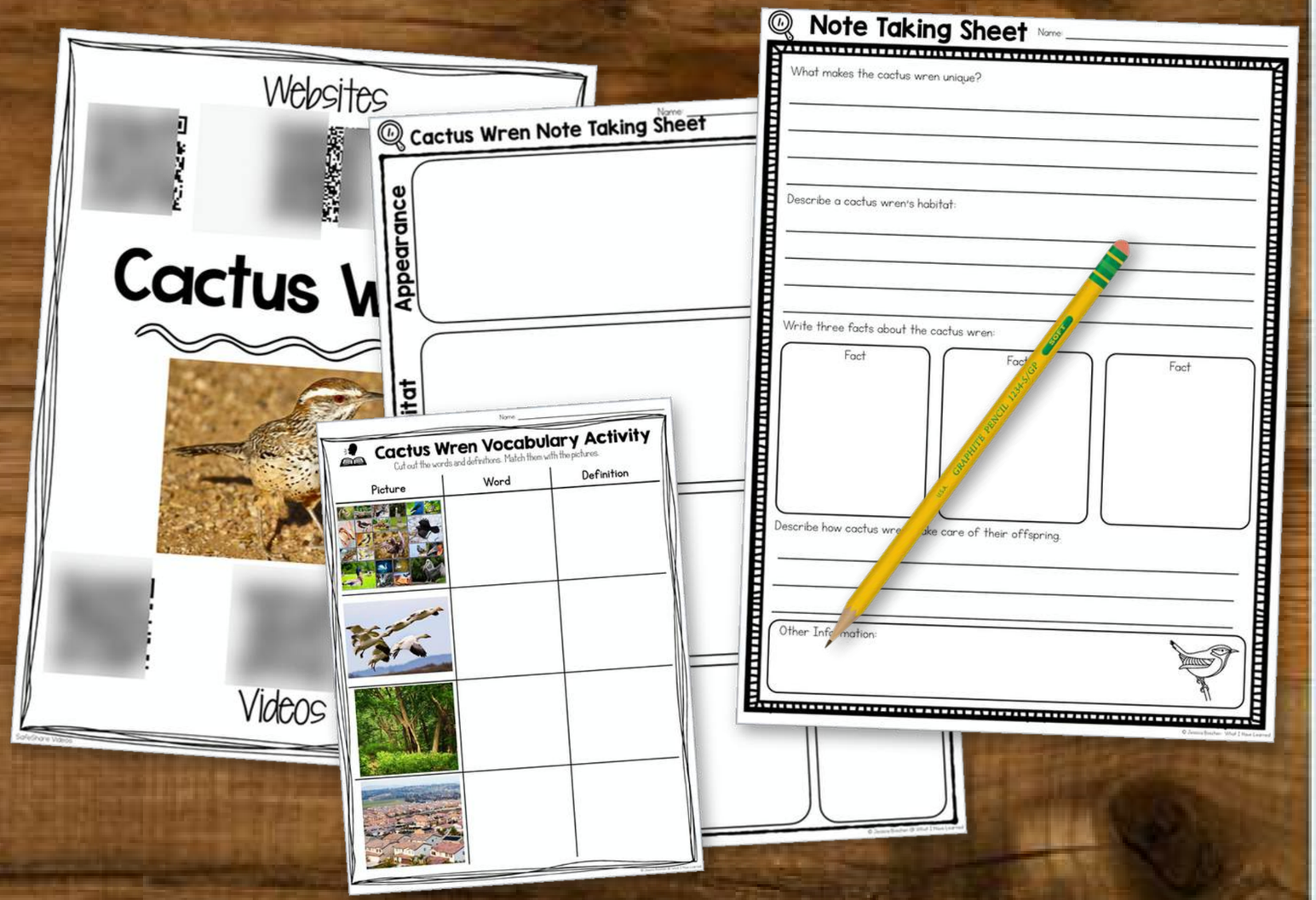
2 NOTICE DETAILS

Students look for facts about the cactus wren's appearance, habitat, diet, and behavior.

3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

Teachers choose the article format that fits students' reading needs.

RESEARCH



Research pages make independent fact gathering manageable

Gather facts about cactus wren

1 WATCH AND RESEARCH

Students use one QR-code page to find a safe video source for research about cactus wren.

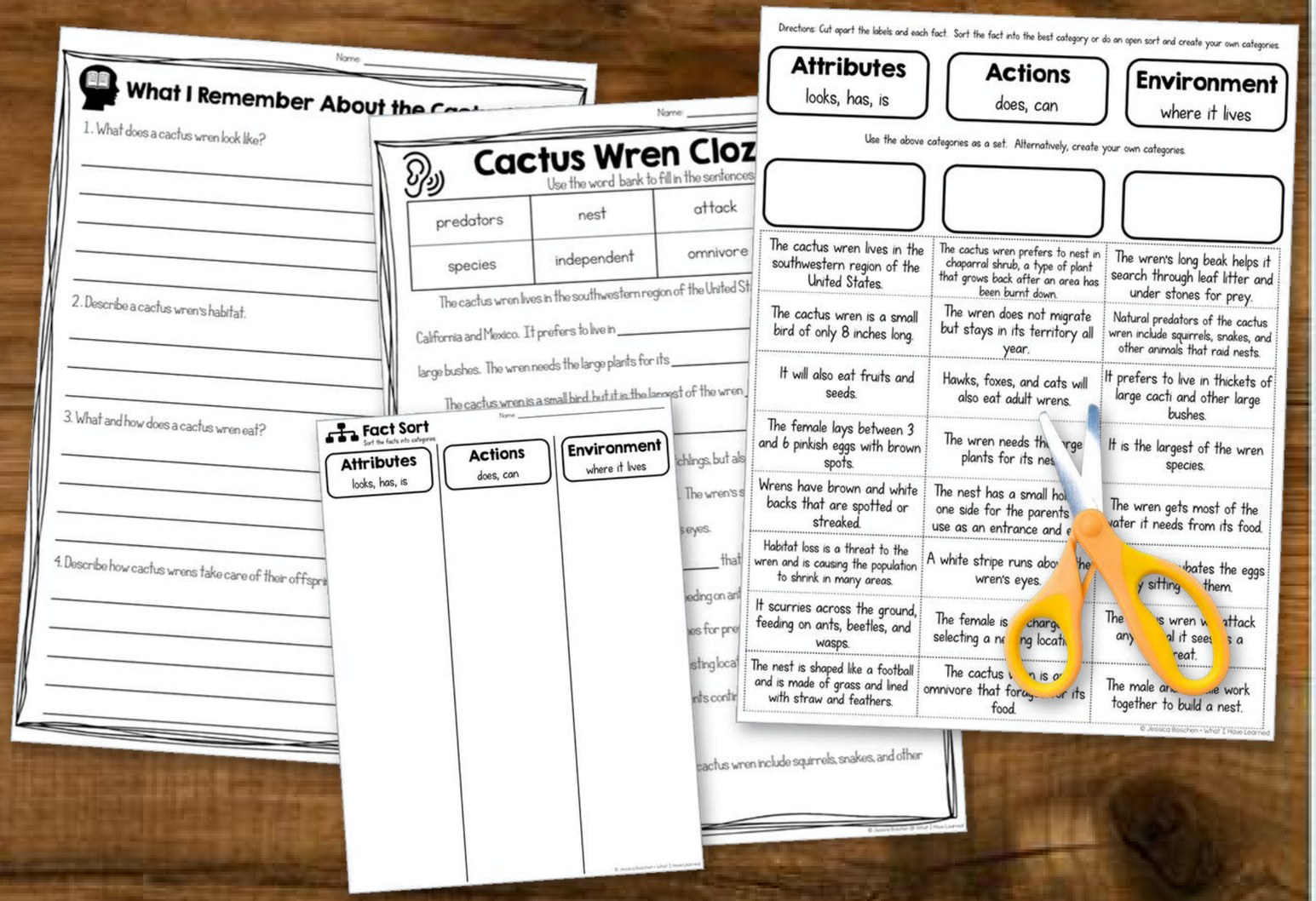
2 TAKE NOTES

Students record facts about the cactus wren's body, habitat, behavior, and life cycle.

3 BUILD VOCABULARY

Students use picture cards and activities to practice important animal words.

ORGANIZE



Comprehension and sorting pages prepare students to write

Sort facts about cactus wren

1 REMEMBER

Students recall important facts after reading about cactus wren.

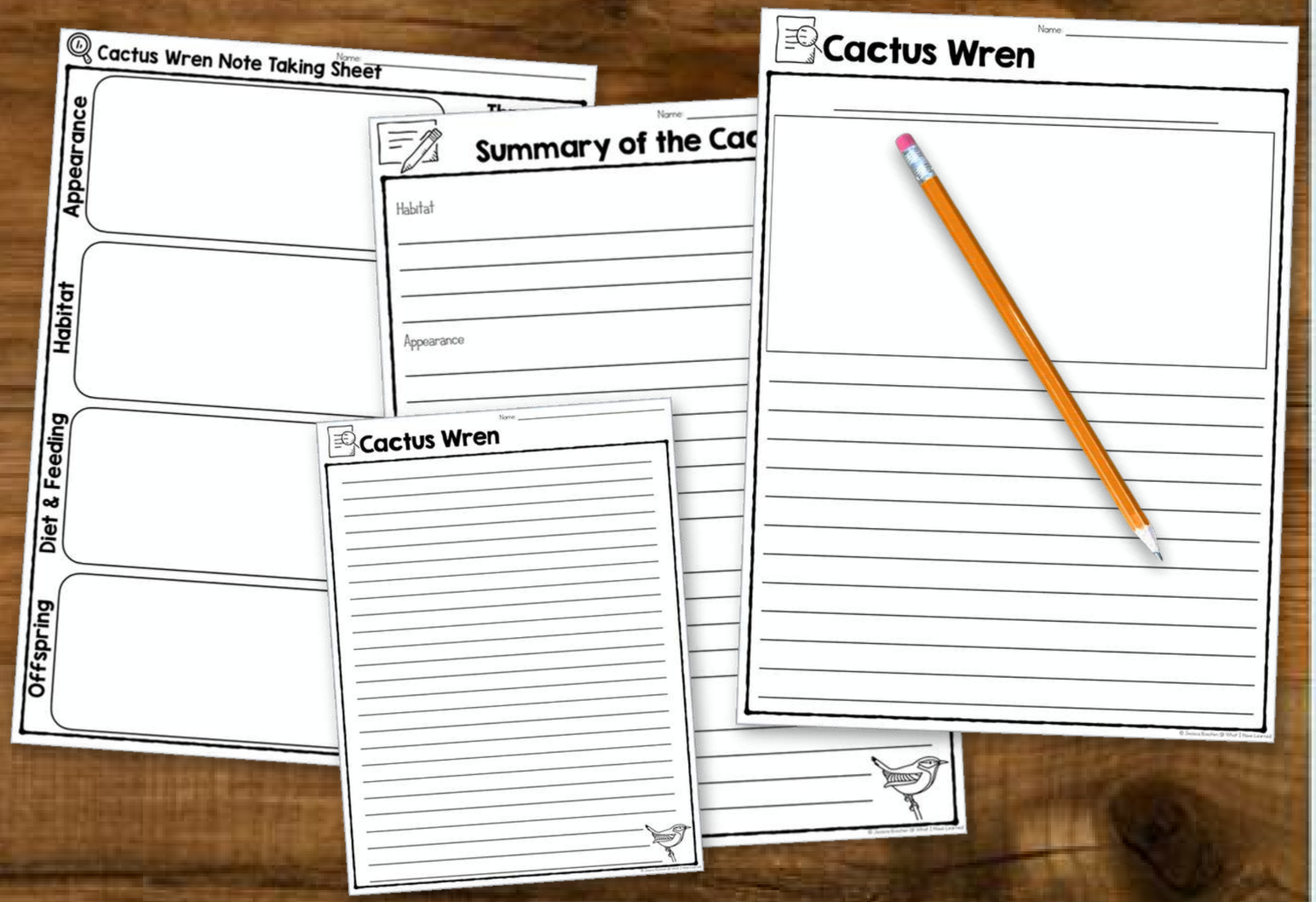
2 CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Students complete a cloze activity using key vocabulary and facts.

3 SORT FACTS

Students organize information into clear categories before writing.

WRITE



From organized notes to a finished informational report

Turn notes into an cactus wren report

1 PLAN

Students use note-taking pages to collect and organize research.

2 SUMMARIZE

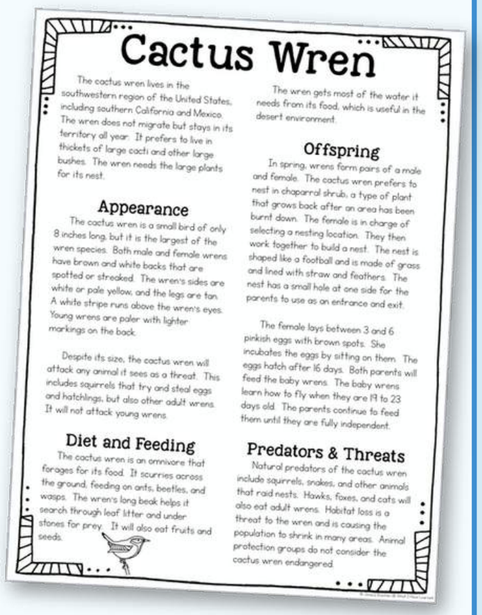
Students turn facts into a focused summary about cactus wren.

3 WRITE

Students use report pages to explain what they learned.

FROM READING TO ANIMAL RESEARCH WRITING

READ



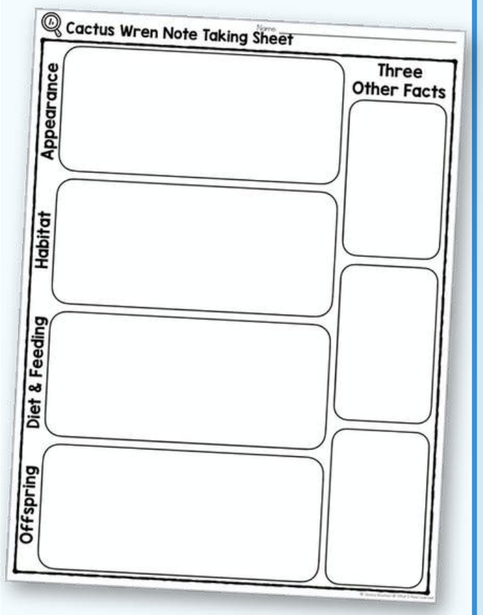
Read an informational article about cactus wren in a format that fits your students.

LEARN



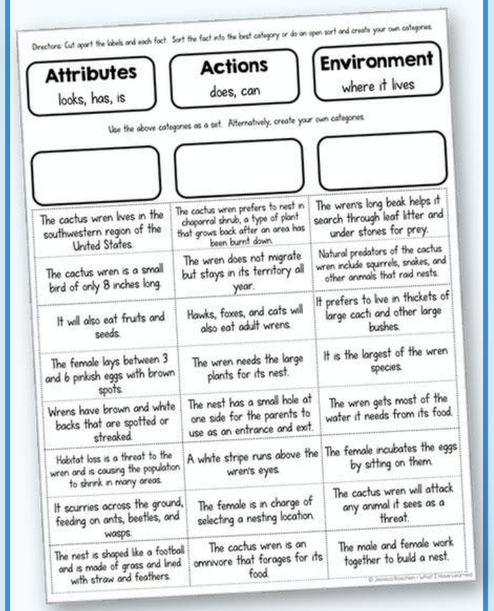
Build vocabulary with picture cards and activities about cactus wren features and habitats.

RESEARCH



Gather facts about the cactus wren's appearance, habitat, diet, and behavior.

ORGANIZE



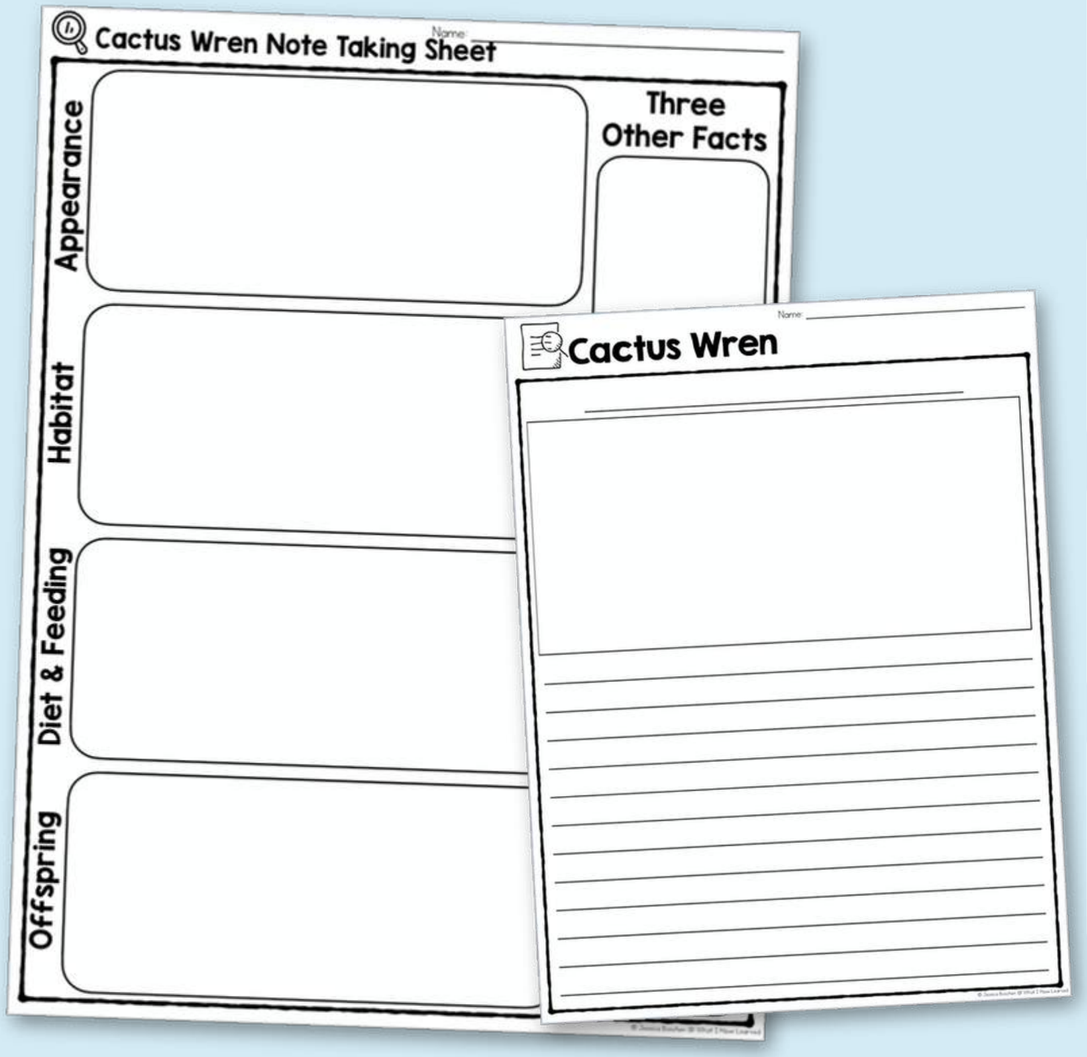
Sort facts into appearance, habitat, behavior, and life cycle categories.

WRITE



Use the writing pages to turn notes into an animal research report about cactus wren.

WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE



1

ANIMAL STUDY

Use the articles and vocabulary pages during a science or nonfiction unit about cactus wren.

2

GUIDED READING

Choose the article format and comprehension pages that fit your readers.

3

ANIMAL RESEARCH

Use QR-code research and note-taking sheets to collect facts from multiple sources.

4

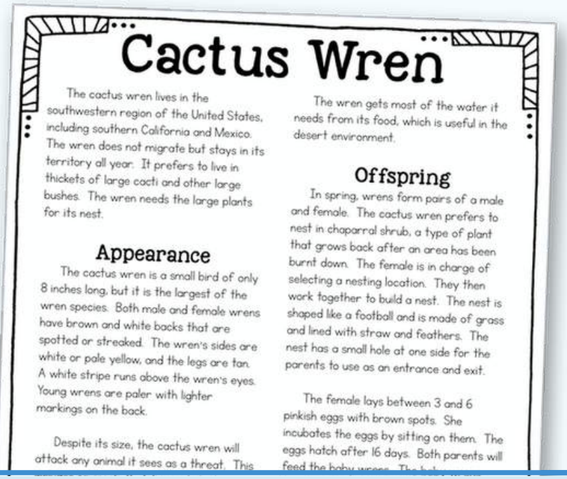
INFORMATIONAL WRITING

Move from organized notes to a clear report about cactus wren.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE

PERFECT FOR SCIENCE AND ELA

Students read, write, sort, and research while learning about cactus wren adaptations and habitats.


Cactus Wren

The cactus wren lives in the southwestern region of the United States, including southern California and Mexico. The wren does not migrate but stays in its territory all year. It prefers to live in thickets of large cacti and other large bushes. The wren needs the large plants for its nest.

Appearance

The cactus wren is a small bird of only 8 inches long, but it is the largest of the wren species. Both male and female wrens have brown and white backs that are spotted or streaked. The wren's sides are white or pale yellow, and the legs are tan. A white stripe runs above the wren's eyes. Young wrens are paler with lighter markings on the back.

Despite its size, the cactus wren will attack any animal it sees as a threat. This

The wren gets most of the water it needs from its food, which is useful in the desert environment.

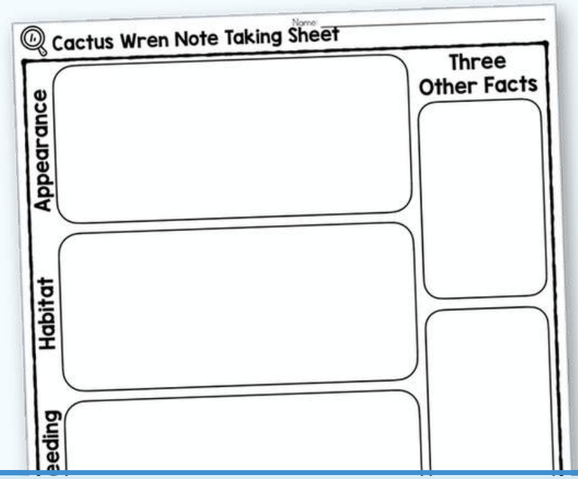
Offspring

In spring, wrens form pairs of a male and female. The cactus wren prefers to nest in chaparral shrub, a type of plant that grows back after an area has been burnt down. The female is in charge of selecting a nesting location. They then work together to build a nest. The nest is shaped like a football and is made of grass and lined with straw and feathers. The nest has a small hole at one side for the parents to use as an entrance and exit.

The female lays between 3 and 6 pinkish eggs with brown spots. She incubates the eggs by sitting on them. The eggs hatch after 16 days. Both parents will feed the baby wrens. The

SAVES TIME WITH CONSISTENT LAYOUTS

Clear article, activity, and writing pages make planning simple and support independent work.


Name:

Cactus Wren Note Taking Sheet

Three Other Facts

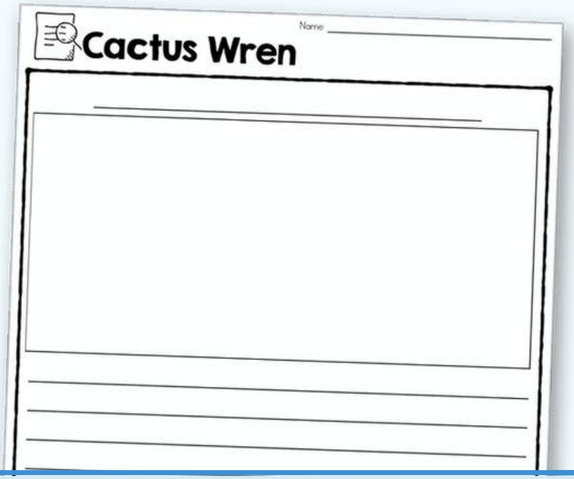
Appearance

Habitat

eeding

SUPPORTS ANIMAL RESEARCH

Vocabulary cards, fact sorts, and note-taking organizers help students prepare an informational report.


Name:

Cactus Wren

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

★★★★★

This was a great resource for my students and their animal research project! It paired so well with our Wonders Unit!

Casey S.

★★★★★

Great

Krisitn Breinlinger

★★★★★

Great resource

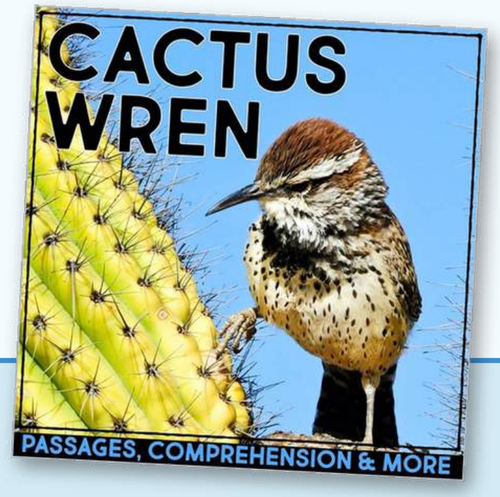
Sharon T.





READY FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

- **Informational articles in two formats**
- **Vocabulary, comprehension, and research activities**
- **Note-taking and informational writing pages**



My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



teach MATH | teach SCIENCE | teach READING | teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED