GRADES
2–3



READ, RESEARCH, AND WRITE

SONORAN DESERT TOAD

ANIMAL RESEARCH

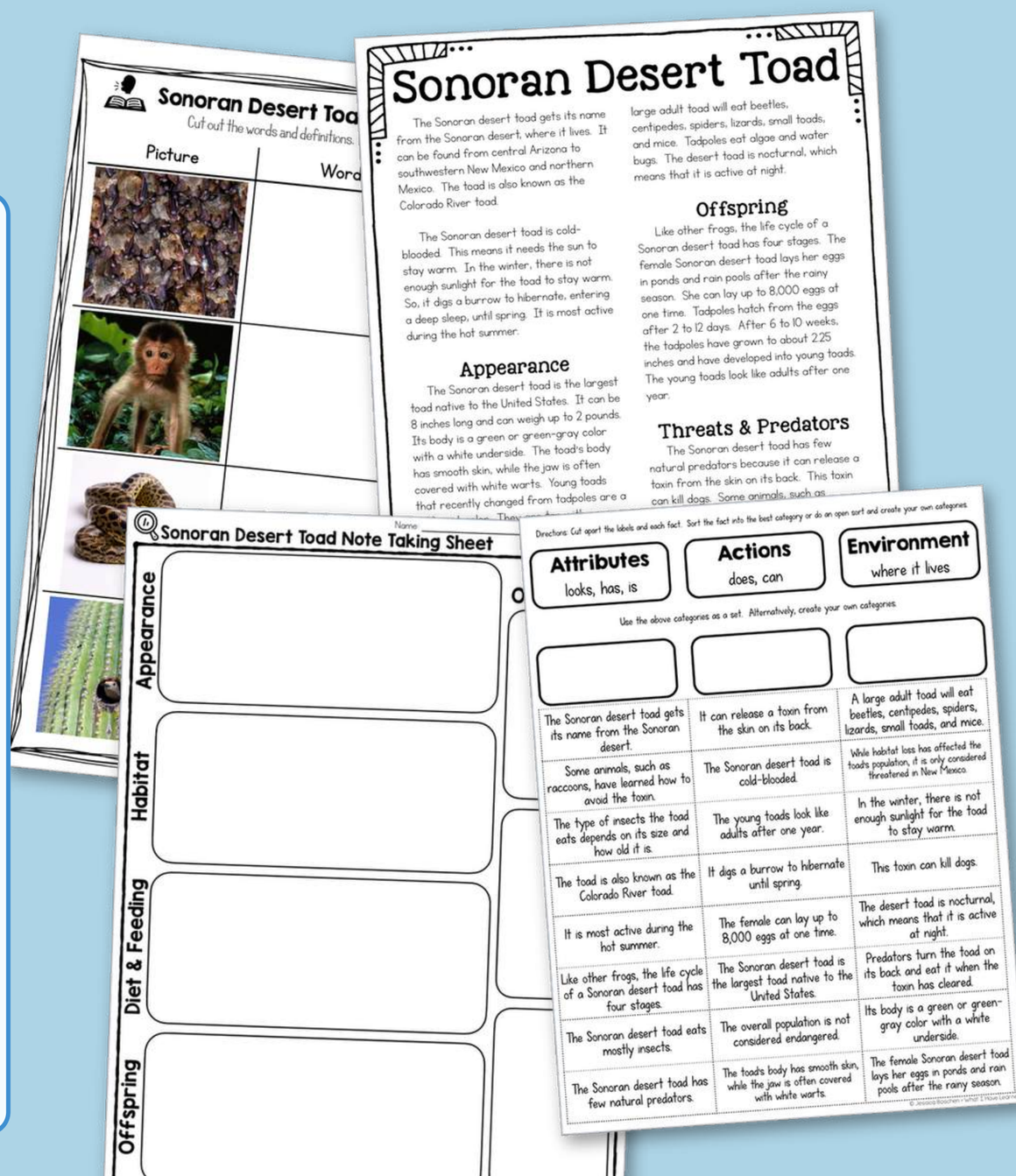
Informational Articles, Activities, and Writing

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

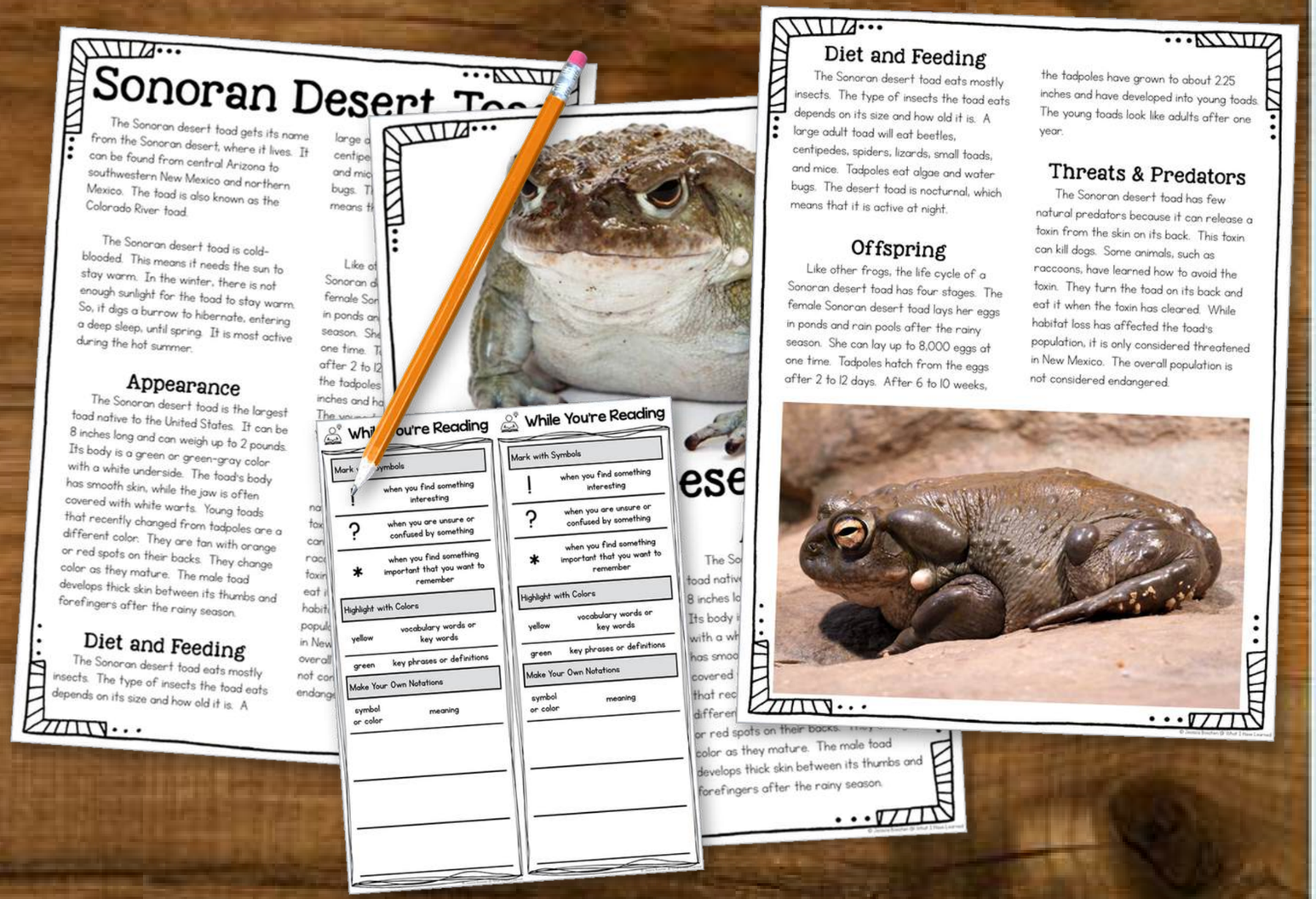
WHAT'S INCLUDED

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 sonoran desert toad.

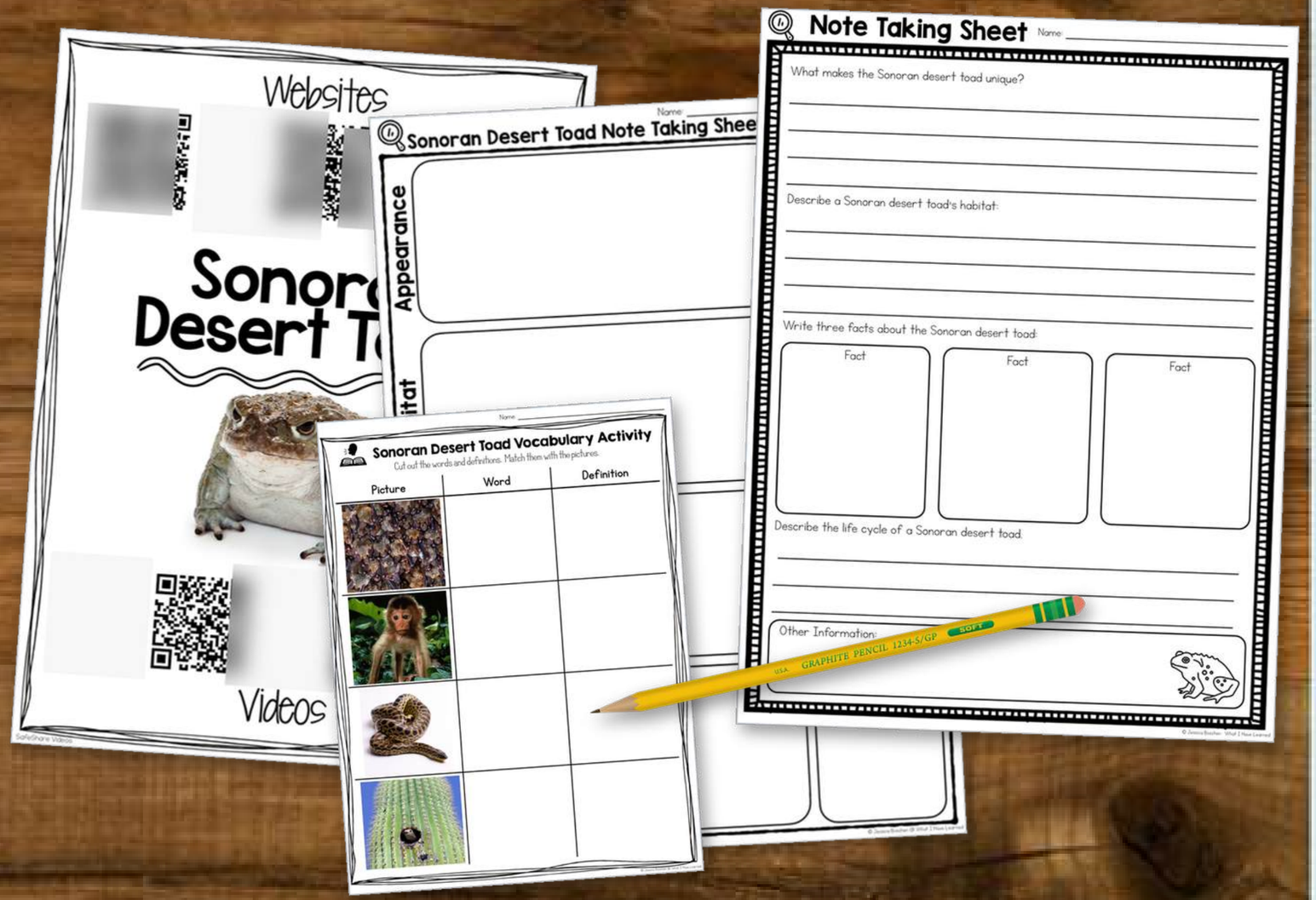
2 NOTICE DETAILS

Students look for facts about the sonoran desert toad'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 sonoran desert toad

1 WATCH AND RESEARCH

Students use one QR-code page to find a safe video source for research about sonoran desert toad.

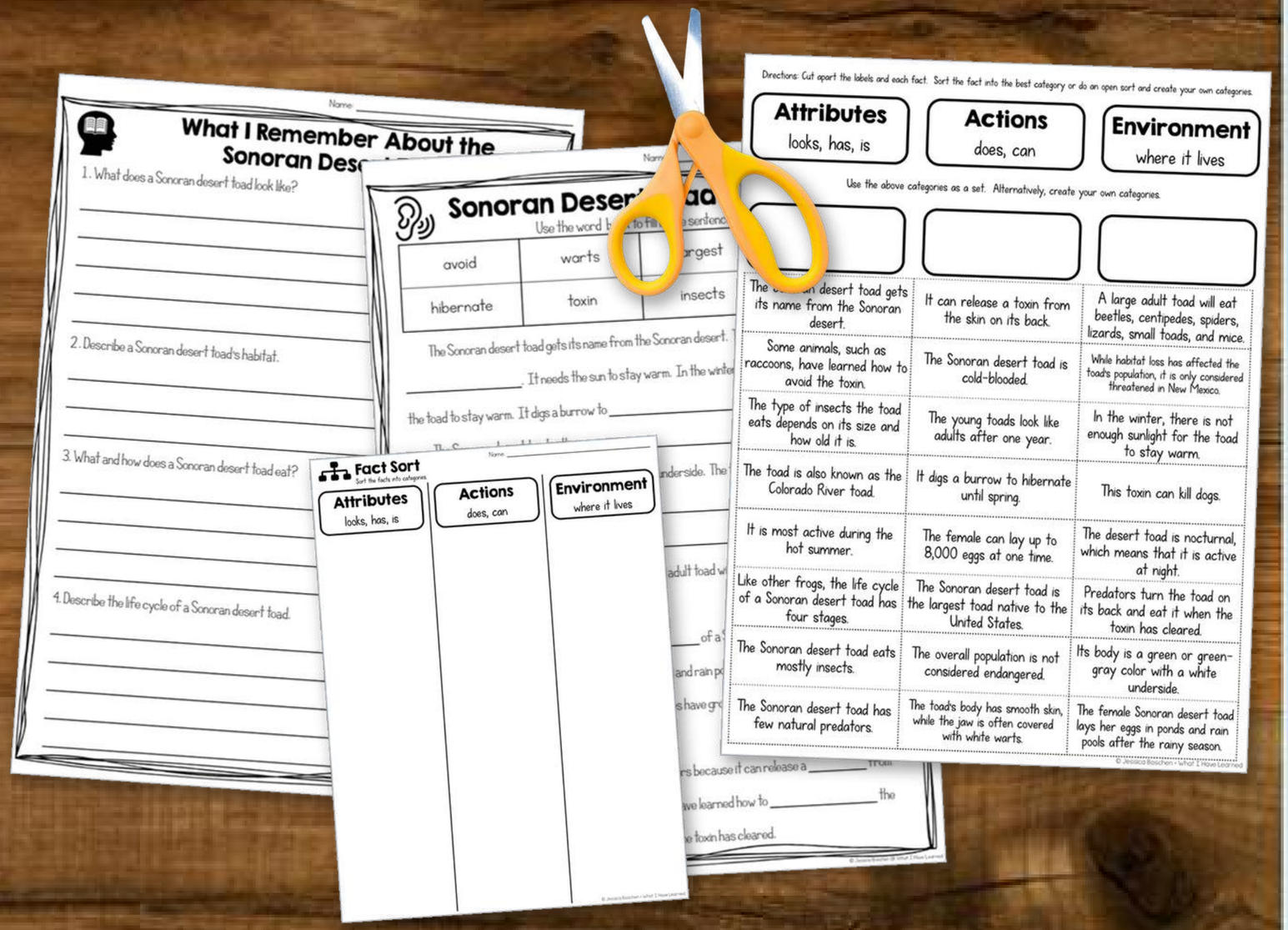
2 TAKE NOTES

Students record facts about the sonoran desert toad'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 sonoran desert toad

1 REMEMBER

Students recall important facts after reading about sonoran desert toad.

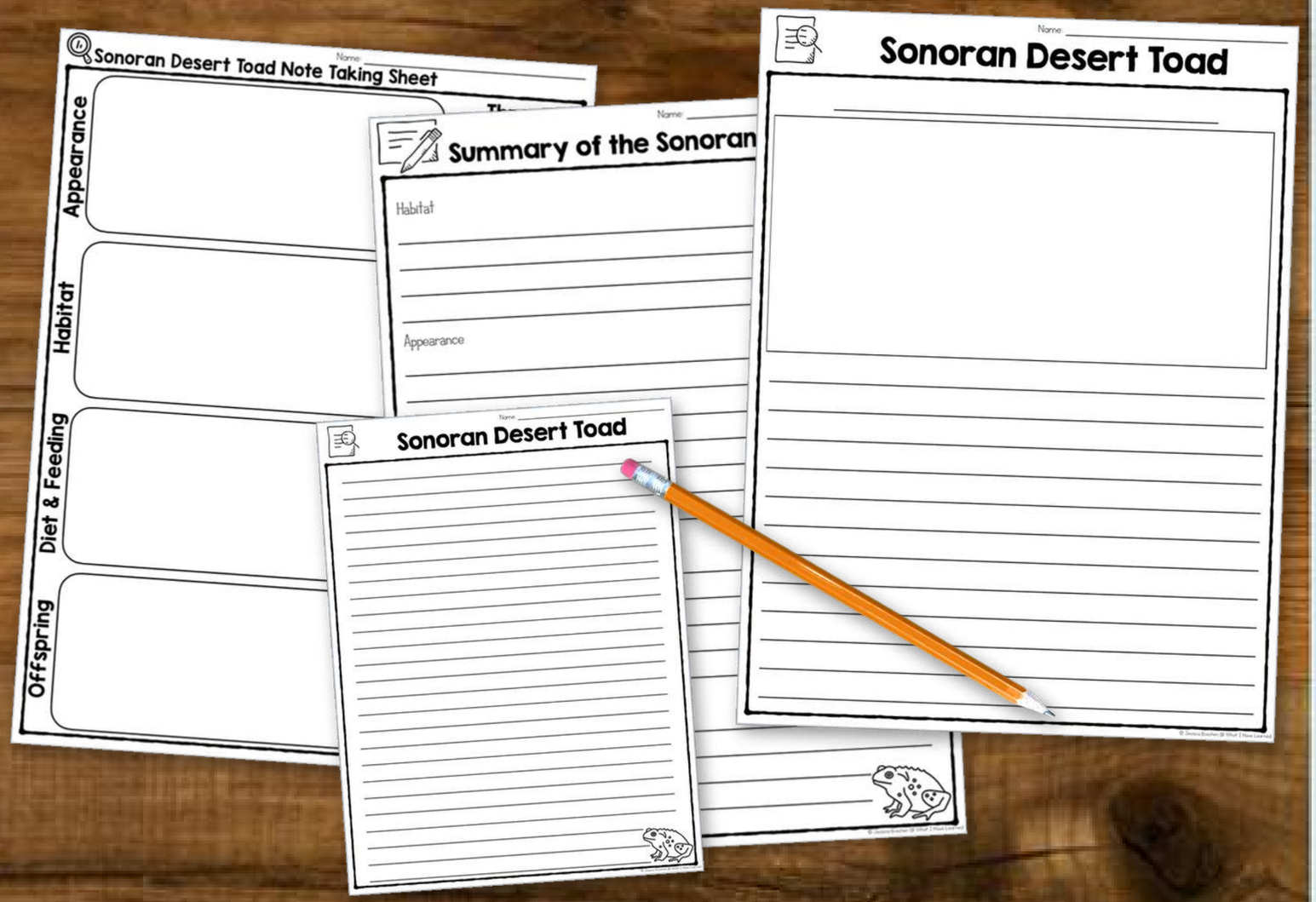
2 CHECK UNDERSTANDING

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 sonoran desert toad report

1 PLAN

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

2 SUMMARIZE

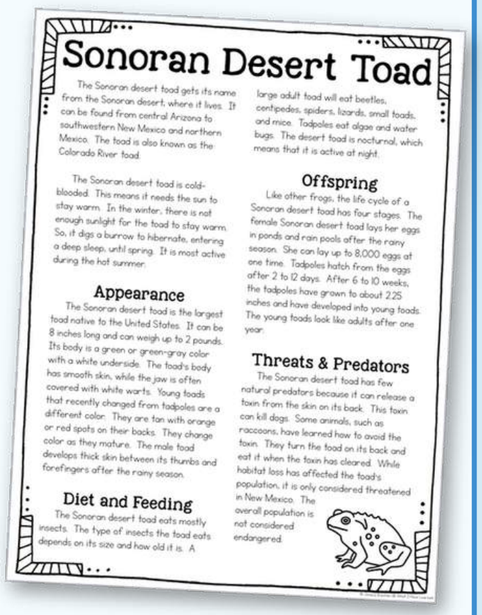
Students turn facts into a focused summary about sonoran desert toad.

3 WRITE

Students use report pages to explain what they learned.

FROM READING TO ANIMAL RESEARCH WRITING

READ


Sonoran Desert Toad

The Sonoran desert toad gets its name from the Sonoran desert, where it lives. It can be found from central Arizona to southwestern New Mexico and northern Mexico. The toad is also known as the Colorado River toad.

The Sonoran desert toad is cold-blooded. This means it needs the sun to stay warm. In the winter, there is not enough sunlight for the toad to stay warm. So, it digs a burrow to hibernate, entering a deep sleep, until spring. It is most active during the hot summer.

Appearance

The Sonoran desert toad is the largest toad native to the United States. It can be 8 inches long and can weigh up to 2 pounds. Its body is a green or green-gray color with a white underside. The toad's body has smooth skin, while the jaw is often covered with white warts. Young toads that recently changed from tadpoles are a different color. They are tan with orange or red spots on their backs. They change color as they mature. The male toad develops thick skin between its thumbs and forefingers after the rainy season.

Diet and Feeding

The Sonoran desert toad eats mostly insects. The type of insects the toad eats depends on its size and how old it is. A large adult toad will eat beetles, centipedes, spiders, lizards, small toads, and mice. Tadpoles eat algae and water bugs. The desert toad is nocturnal, which means that it is active at night.

Offspring

Like other frogs, the life cycle of a Sonoran desert toad has four stages. The female Sonoran desert toad lays her eggs in ponds and rain pools after the rainy season. She can lay up to 8,000 eggs at one time. Tadpoles hatch from the eggs after 2 to 12 days. After 6 to 10 weeks, the tadpoles have grown to about 2.25 inches and have developed into young toads. The young toads look like adults after one year.

Threats & Predators

The Sonoran desert toad has few natural predators because it can release a toxin from the skin on its back. This toxin can kill dogs. Some animals, such as raccoons, have learned how to avoid the toxin. They turn the toad on its back and eat it when the toxin has cleared. While habitat loss has affected the toad's population, it is only considered threatened in New Mexico. The overall population is not considered endangered.

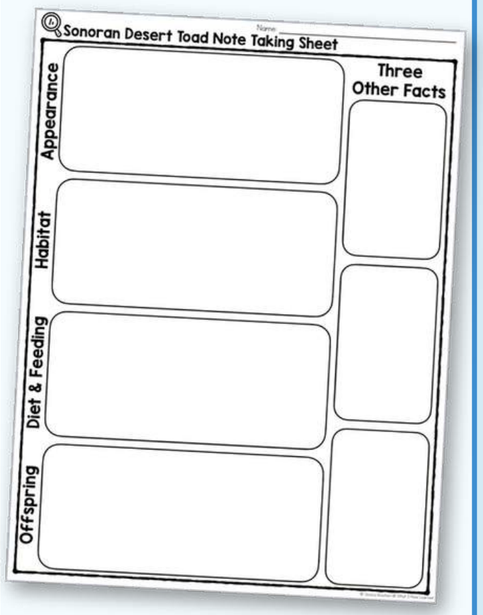
Read an informational article about sonoran desert toad in a format that fits your students.

LEARN



Build vocabulary with picture cards and activities about sonoran desert toad features and habitats.

RESEARCH


Sonoran Desert Toad Note Taking Sheet

Name:

Appearance

Habitat

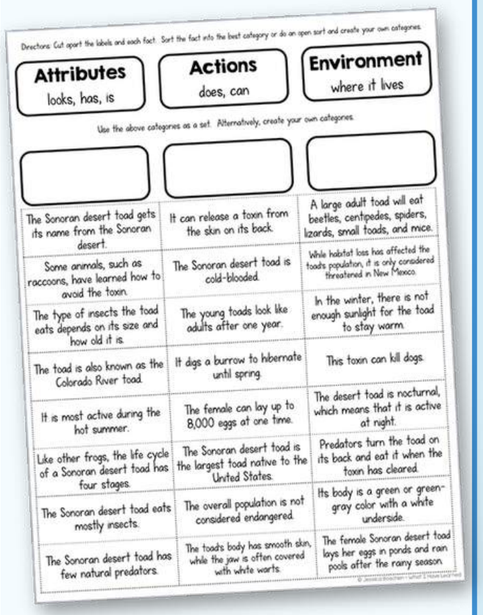
Diet & Feeding

Offspring

Three Other Facts

Gather facts about the sonoran desert toad's appearance, habitat, diet, and behavior.

ORGANIZE


Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives

Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.

The Sonoran desert toad gets its name from the Sonoran desert.	It can release a toxin from the skin on its back.	A large adult toad will eat beetles, centipedes, spiders, lizards, small toads, and mice.
Some animals, such as raccoons, have learned how to avoid the toxin.	The Sonoran desert toad is cold-blooded.	While habitat loss has affected the toads population, it is only considered threatened in New Mexico.
The type of insects the toad eats depends on its size and how old it is.	The young toads look like adults after one year.	In the winter, there is not enough sunlight for the toad to stay warm.
The toad is also known as the Colorado River toad.	It digs a burrow to hibernate until spring.	This toxin can kill dogs.
It is most active during the hot summer.	The female can lay up to 8,000 eggs at one time.	The desert toad is nocturnal, which means that it is active at night.
Like other frogs, the life cycle of a Sonoran desert toad has four stages.	The Sonoran desert toad is the largest toad native to the United States.	Predators turn the toad on its back and eat it when the toxin has cleared.
The Sonoran desert toad eats mostly insects.	The overall population is not considered endangered.	Its body is a green or green-gray color with a white underside.
The Sonoran desert toad has few natural predators.	The toad's body has smooth skin, while the jaw is often covered with white warts.	The female Sonoran desert toad lays her eggs in ponds and rain pools after the rainy season.

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

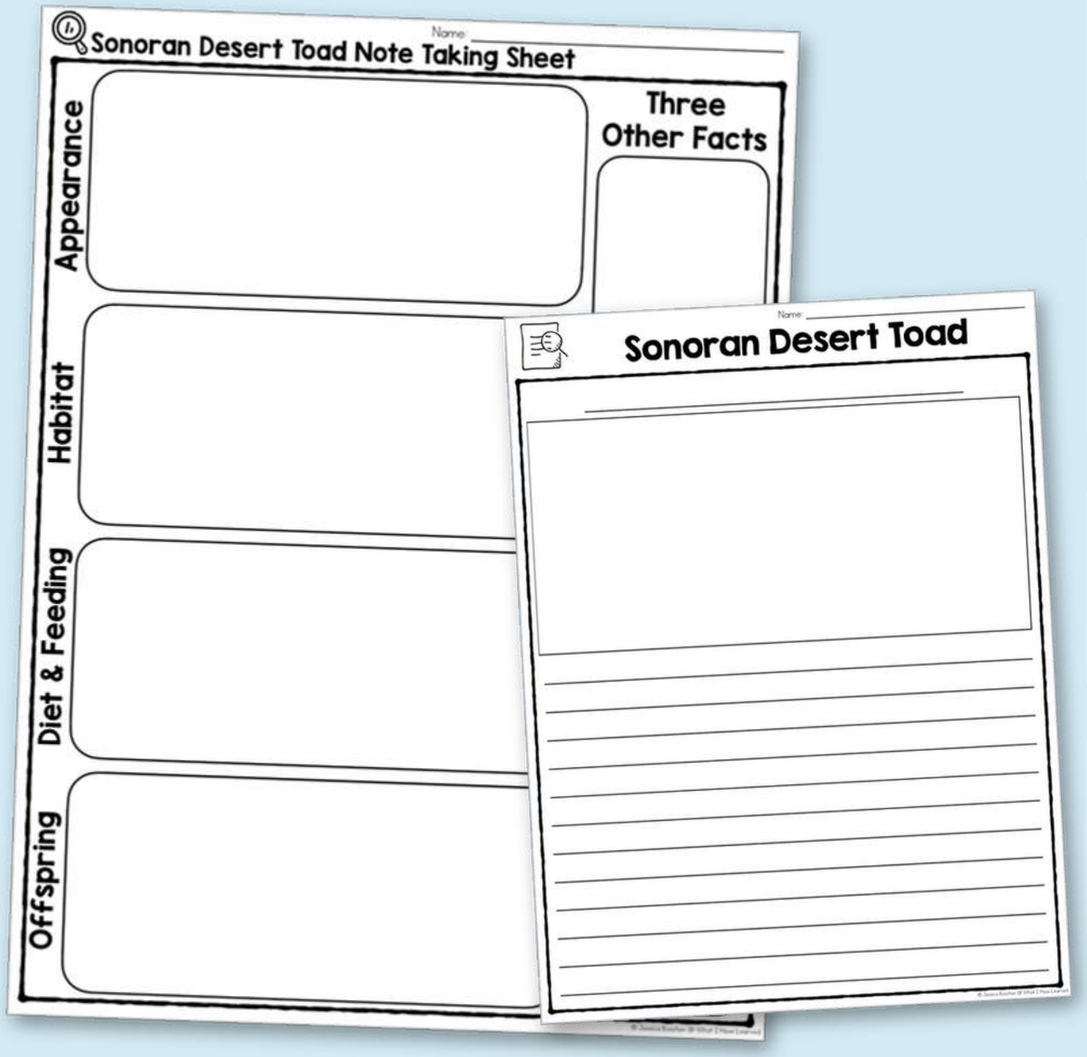
WRITE


Name:

Sonoran Desert Toad

Use the writing pages to turn notes into an animal research report about sonoran desert toad.

WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE



1

ANIMAL STUDY

Use the articles and vocabulary pages during a science or nonfiction unit about sonoran desert toad.

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

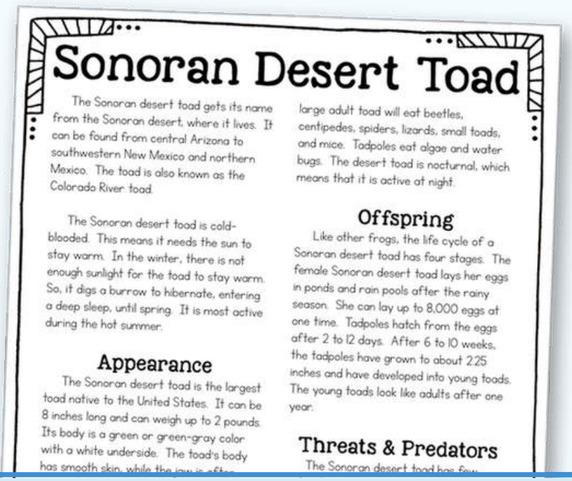
INFORMATIONAL WRITING

Move from organized notes to a clear report about sonoran desert toad.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE

PERFECT FOR SCIENCE AND ELA

Students read, write, sort, and research while learning about sonoran desert toad adaptations and habitats.


Sonoran Desert Toad

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Offspring

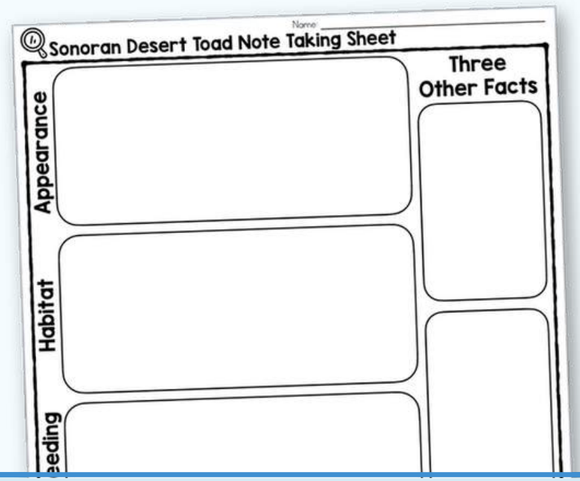
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Threats & Predators

The Sonoran desert toad has few

SAVES TIME WITH CONSISTENT LAYOUTS

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


Name:

Sonoran Desert Toad Note Taking Sheet

Three Other Facts

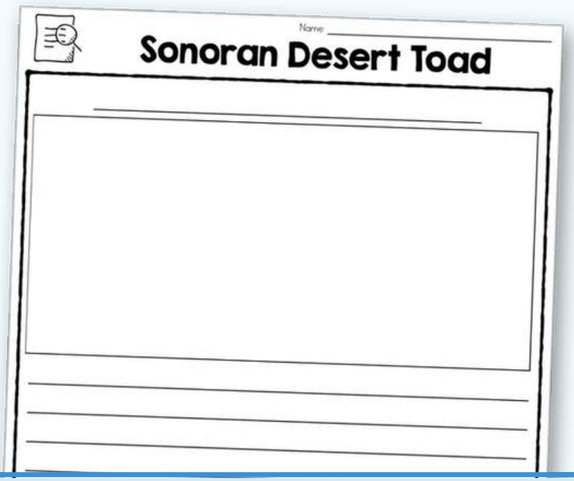
Appearance

Habitat

eeding

SUPPORTS ANIMAL RESEARCH

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


Name:

Sonoran Desert Toad

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

★★★★★

Thank you!

Fall in Love with Learning

★★★★★

Thanks for the great information. Where we live, my students know that this toad is poisonous to their pets, so it is important to learn about it for when the monsoons come.

Carol R.

★★★★★

Thank you!

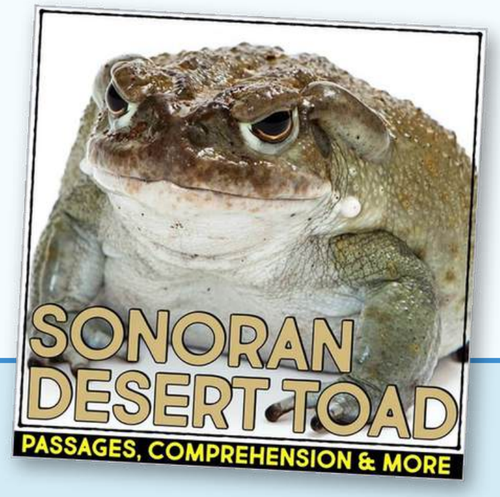
Katherine E.





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.





What I have LEARNED