



Mojave Desert Children's Picture Book

Kaesee Bourne

Inspiration

Why am I doing this?





By Ian M. Jones via Unsplash

Factors Affecting the Mojave

- Development
- Habitat loss & fragmentation
- Invasive species
- Rising temperatures
- Decreasing precipitation

(Walker & Landau, 2018; Guida et al., 2013; Guida et al., 2019)

Information Avoidance

- First, we need public buy-in
- Avoidance of negative information
 - Eco-anxiety
- Change of approach

(Cristiano & Neimand, 2018; Sweeny et al., 2010; Clayton, 2020)

Children & Learning



By CDC via Unsplash

- **Children have high neural plasticity and malleability**

(Cantor et al., 2018)



By Annie Spratt via Unsplash

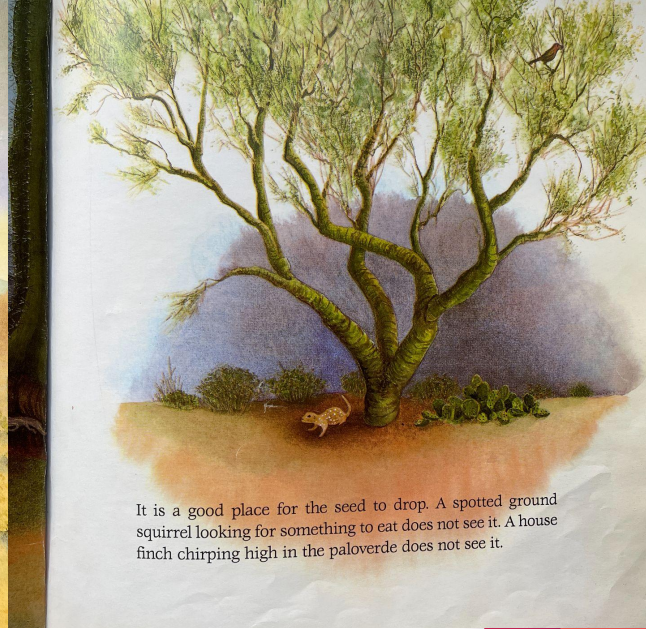
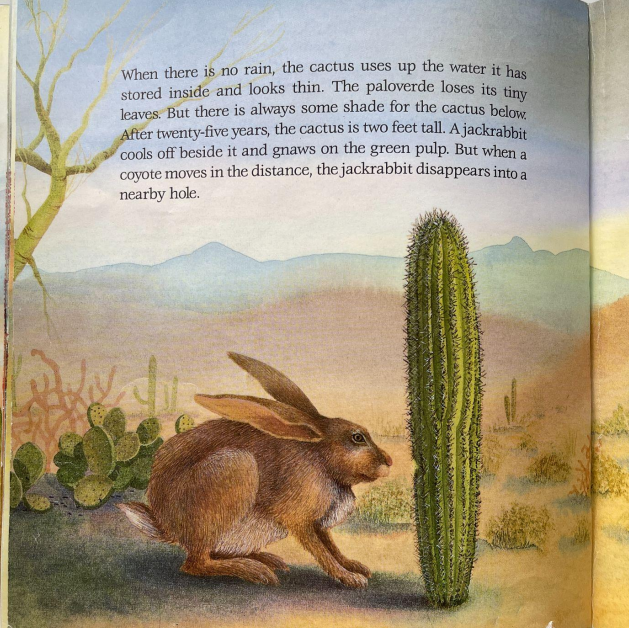
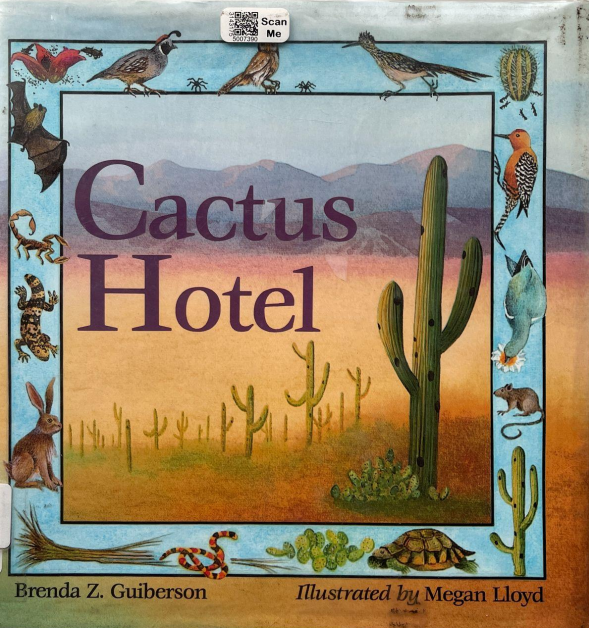
Effect of Picture Books

- Help children with literacy
- Morals and decision making
- Positive indicator of future engagement

(Condon et al., 2020; Paul, 2021; Ganee et al., 2008; Lain, 2017)

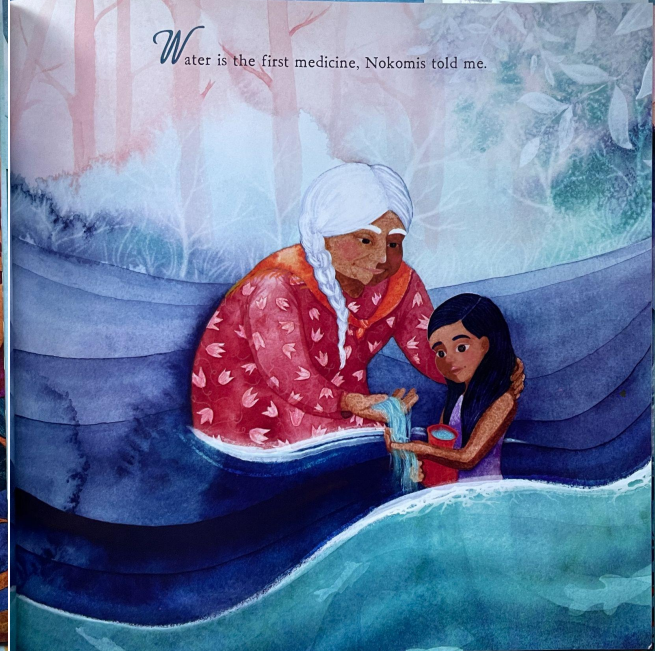
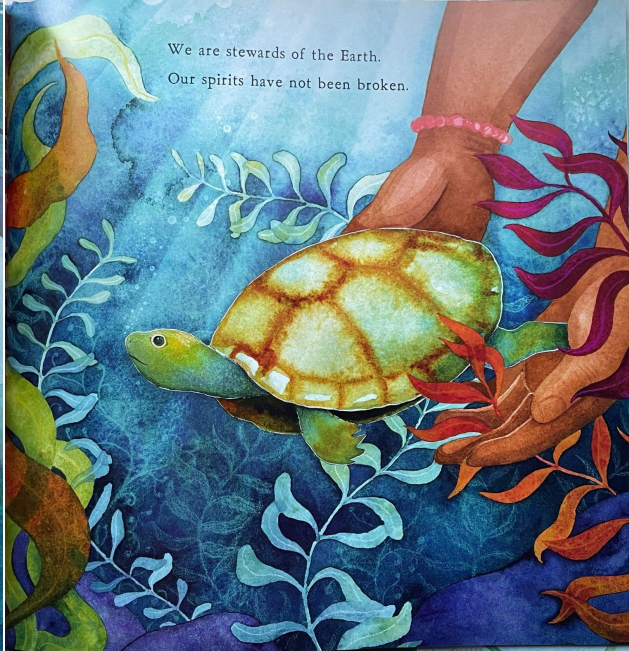
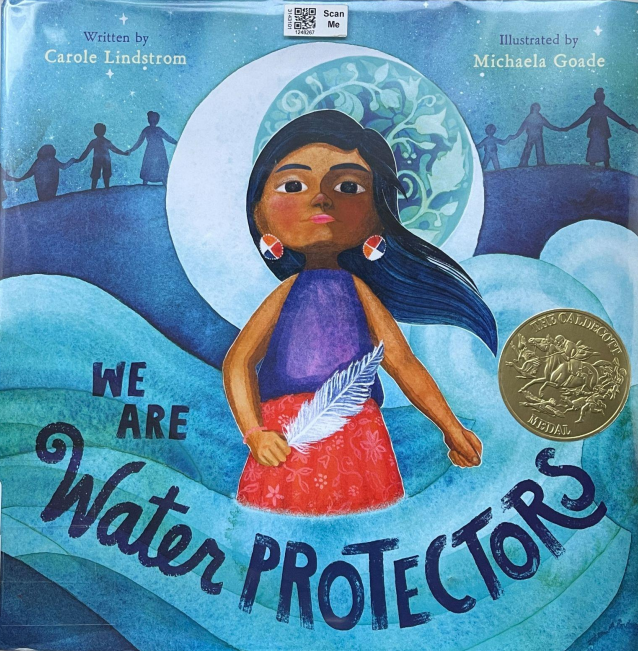
Literature Review

2



Cactus Hotel

Brenda Guiberson, 1991



We Are Water Protectors

Carole Lindstrom, 2020



Sulwe

Lupita Nyong'o, 2019

Rationale

Why is this project needed?

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What will this add?

- Diversity
 - Mirrors, windows, sliding glass doors
- Lack of mirrors for minorities

<https://www.benefitspro.com/2020/10/05/times-of-change-aligning-with-the-chief-diversity-officer/?sreturn=20211010103411>



(Cristiano & Neimand, 2018; Sweeny et al., 2010; Clayton, 2020)

DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison:
ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp

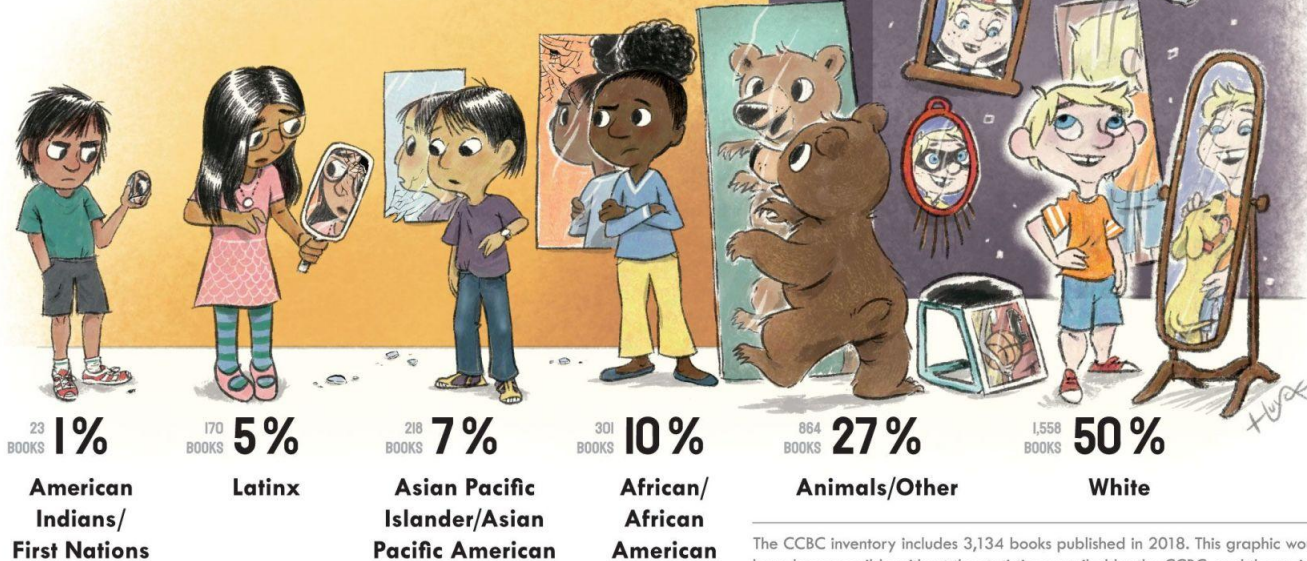


Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen
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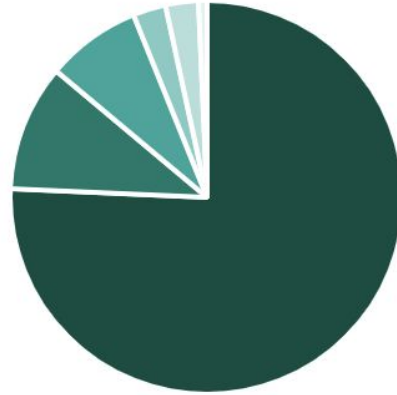
The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Horning, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tyner. Many thanks.



What will this add?

- Books with young black protagonist
- Lack of mirrors in the real world

Distribution of Ethnicities in Field of Ecology



- White, 75.7%
- Asian, 10.4%
- Hispanic or Latino, 7.8%
- Black or African American, 2.7%
- Unknown, 2.7%
- American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.7%

<https://www.zippia.com/ecologist-jobs/demographics/>

What will this add?

- Mojave Desert content

Picture Book Search Chart

Location	Result #		
	"Mojave Desert"	"Desert"	"Ocean"
UNLV TDRL	3	42	393
Henderson Libraries	3	101	839
Barnes & Noble	0	248	448
Amazon	2	622	2,000

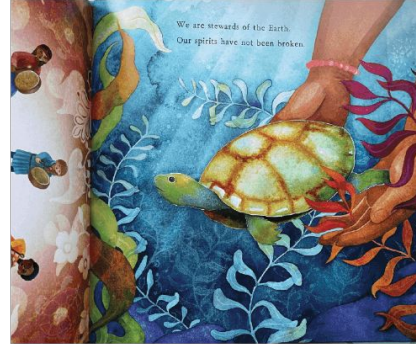
What will this add?

- Updated illustration style

2018



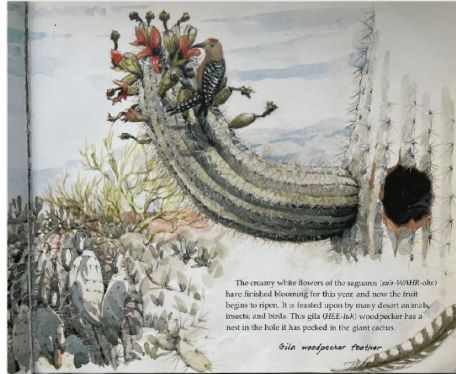
2020



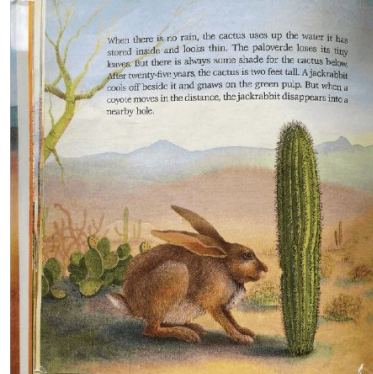
2018



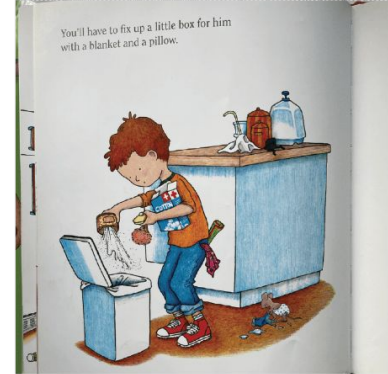
1996



1991



1985



Ultimate Goal

What do I want to accomplish?



Goals

- **Encourage care for nature**
 - Without eco-anxiety
 - Desire to learn more
 - Make good decisions
- **Representation**
 - Mirror for black children
 - Windows for other children

Goals

- Intrigue new generation
 - Vibrant illustrations
- Add to books about Mojave
 - Its plants & animals
 - Not a wasteland
 - Umbrella species

“

**A species whose conservation
confers protection to a large
number of naturally co-occurring
species**

- Roberge & Angelstam, p. 77, 2004

Umbrella Species

- Approach to conservation
- Desert Tortoise

(Roberge & Angelstam, 2004; Boykin, 2021; “Desert Tortoises Background Unit,” n.d.)



<http://www.sci-news.com/genetics/genome-mojave-desert-tortoise-04921.html>



<https://www.basinandrangewatch.org/TortoiseTranslocation.html>



<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/jun/01/tim-dowling-wife-war-with-tortoise>



**Creosote
Bush**

<https://www.nps.gov/para/learn/nature/creosotebush.htm>



**Desert
Pincushion**

http://southwestdesertflora.com/WebsiteFolders/All_Species/Asteraceae/Chaenactis%20stevioides,%20Esteve%E2%80%99s%20Pincushion.html



Joshua Tree

By Frank McKenna via Unsplash

Bobcat



<https://mojavedesert10.wordpress.com/2016/05/10/zoology/>

**Antelope
Ground
Squirrel**



<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/white-tailed-antelope-ground-squirrel-james-marvin-phelps.html>

**Banded
Gecko**



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_banded_gecko

Raven



<https://hardshelllabs.com/ravens-doom-for-desert-tortoises>

**Painted
Lady**



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanessa_cardui

Method

What will I do?

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Method

- Read more picture books
- Rough sketches
- Story outline & key characters
 - *By: December*

Little Girl

- Name: Nyla
- Age: 7
- Appearance:
 - Black
 - Curly hair

Other Characters

- Desert tortoise
 - Other commensals
- Girl's family?
 - Mom, dad, both parents? Sibling?

Method

- **Storyboard**
 - *Over winter break*
- **Digital illustrations & dummy**
 - *By: End of February*
- **Publish**
 - *By: Late April*

Method

- Target audience: 4-8
- Total pages: 32 (front & back)
- Sentences per spread: 5-6
- Drawing style: cartoon cute, stylized
- Medium: digital stylized



In every walk with
nature one receives far
more than he seeks.

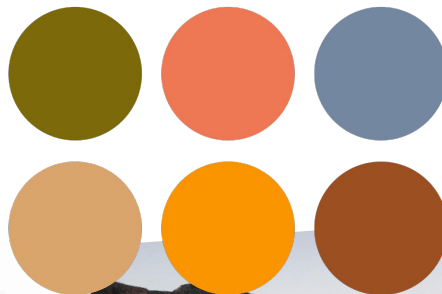
John Muir



Bugaki

Bodoni 72

Avenir Next



Illustrations & quote: from pinterest



Storyline

Nyla gets informed of
Mojave trip



Scavenger
hunt



Learns the desert is
interesting & full of life



Doesn't want to go;
thinks it will be
boring



Sees different
plants & animals



Enjoys the rest of
the trip & can't
wait to go back





Questions



**Thank
you!**