

---

## 42. ONCE UPON A TIME...

**Overview:** Students listen to stories of the past and learn about history of the southwest.

**Objective:** Students will learn a little history of the people and places of the southwest to better understand our heritage.

**Time needed:** Approximately 30 minutes to an hour.

**Group Size:** any size

**Age appropriateness:** any grade

**Site:** Any location but, the Garden amphitheater is ideal.

**Background:** Prior knowledge of story-telling is helpful and will make this activity more successful. If the story-teller has the story or stories memorized and dresses the part or has a couple of props, it makes a better program. Two stories can be told in 30 to 45 minutes.

**Materials:**

Provided at the Garden

Provided by the classroom teacher

A story or two

**Preparation:** The story-teller needs to learn the stories they plan to tell.

**Pre Activity:** Videos, posters, and class discussions of the past history of our area and its peoples.

**Procedure:** Have the students take a seat and close their eyes and imagine they are back in the time of your story. Tell the story and then discuss it with the students. The students should understand a little more about our past.

**Modifications:** Stories should be age appropriate.

**Extensions:** Students could create a piece of artwork, a diorama, poem, short story, or do research to learn more about the people in the story.

---

---

**Reference List:**

Keepers of the Animals by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac.  
Keepers of the Earth by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac.  
Coyote Stories by Heister Dean Guie.  
Cowboy Curmudgeon and Other Poems by Wallace McRae.  
Coyote and Me: Native American Folk Tales retold by Joe Hayes.  
The History of Yuma and the Territorial Prison by Robert Woznicki.  
Hell's Outpost: A History of Old Fort Yuma by Frank Love.  
Ranch Trails & Short Stories by Claire Champic Cordes.  
Outlaws & Lawmen: Arizona Territory, Old Yuma by Frank Love.  
Yuma by James M. Barney.

**Time of Year:** any time

**\*\*This activity was developed and tested at the Yuma Conservation Garden by Paul Myers.**