



## **The Desert Speaks**

### *Pinacate the Mysterious*

### Teacher Information Sheet

### Program Description

Exploring the Pinacate, one of the driest and last explored regions of North America, has been the goal of explorers through the ages. In 1907, at the end of the "Age of Discovery," a group of men set out on the last grand adventure, to explore what they believed to be the final great-unknown surface on the planet. This group of sportsmen, photographers, geographers, lawmen and writers intended to write a book about their experience in this harsh, unmapped environment. This program recreates that expedition.

### Teaching Tips

1. Discuss vocabulary words
2. Introduce the episode by giving a brief summary of the program and telling students what information you would like for them to gain from viewing the program.
3. Review the information on the viewing sheet prior to watching the episode.
4. Allow time at the conclusion of the program for discussion and the completion of the viewing sheet.
4. Investigate the related web sites listed below.

### Vocabulary Words

- **Pinacate** a region in the Sonoran Desert just south of the U.S. Mexican border known for its unusual volcanic field complete with hardened lava flows and volcanic craters

**Note:** You may want to explain to students that this program deals with a reenactment of the 1907 expedition and that the use of black and white film and the reading of excerpts from the book *Campfires on Desert and Lava* help to illustrate the information presented.

### Related Web Sites

#### ***Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum***

<http://www.desertmuseum.org/habitats/lcv/LCV-Pinacate.html>

#### ***Pinacate Mexico***

[http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/volc\\_images/img\\_pinacate.html](http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/volc_images/img_pinacate.html)

#### ***Mexico's Sierra Del Pinacate Reserve***

<http://www.gorp.com/gorp/location/latamer/mexico/pinacate.htm>

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Student Viewing Sheet

1. The book *Campfires on Desert and Lava* was written by \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Who was president when the Pinacate Expedition took place? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In what year did the expedition take place? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What forms of transportation did the explorers use? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How did they hope to record their trip? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What desert plant grows abundantly on the plains in this region? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What things did the explorers hope to accomplish on this trip? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Pinacate Peak is named after \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who was the first European to visit Pinacate and map the area? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did NASA choose to test the lunar rover in the Pinacate? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What problems did the men on the 1907 expedition experience? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What did the explorers do to help share the honor of being the first white man to set foot on the summit of Pinacate? \_\_\_\_\_

**What Do You Think?**

1. How might the expedition have been different if it took place in the year 2000 rather than in 1907?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think the names the explorers gave to craters and other geographic features were changed from English names to Mexican names? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Answer Key

1. William Hornaday
2. Teddy Roosevelt
3. 1907
4. wagons and horseback
5. on writing, on maps, and in photographs
6. the choya
7. collect specimens, survey the area, climb the peak, and see if they could discover unknown geographic features
8. the black ileotis beetle
9. Father Kino
10. They wanted a place that would have rock similar to the moon
11. The rock was too rough for the horses and if the explorers fell the rocks would cut them
12. They formed a line side by side and walked up together

**What Do You Think**

Answers will vary.