



## **The Desert Speaks**

*#1003 In the Land of the Guarijio*  
Teacher Information Sheet

### Program Description

The Guarijío People live in the southern portion of the state of Sonora, Mexico in the Sierra Madre Mountains. The tribe has lived in these mountains for centuries, but until the 1970s they were held in virtual slavery by wealthy landowners. Through an uprising they regained control of the land they call home, a tropical deciduous forest rich in plants and animals.

### 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

- Tropical Deciduous Forest      a forest whose trees are green and leafy during the brief summer rainy season and dry and leafless the other nine months
- Indigenous      native; original inhabitant

### Related Web Sites

*Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (habitats)*  
<http://www.desertmuseum.org/sonora.html#habitats>

*Sierra Madre*  
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/articles/11866.html>

*Sierra Madre Occidental*  
[www.peakware.com/encyclopedia/ranges/sierramadreoccidental.htm](http://www.peakware.com/encyclopedia/ranges/sierramadreoccidental.htm)

**The Desert Speaks**  
*In the Land of the Guarajio*  
Student Viewing Sheet

1. The Guarajio people are a small group, they only have about \_\_\_\_\_ members.
2. When did the Guarajios gain control of their land and become independent? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name some hardships that the Guarajios suffered before gaining control of their land.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did things improve after getting their own land? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why is their music so important to the Guarajio? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When is the Tuberada Festival performed? (hint: on what occasions)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Give one reason the Guarajios are able to retain so many of their traditions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. One common way that the Guarajios use plants is to make a \_\_\_\_\_ from them and use them as medicines.
9. Name 2 other ways the Guarajios use plants. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What skill seems to be dying out due to a lack of local wool? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Name two things that make farming difficult for the Guarajios. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why do some Guarajios fear that their language will die out? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Why do so many Guarajio children attend boarding schools? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. What is the main influence on them while attending school? \_\_\_\_\_

**The Desert Speaks**  
*In the Land of the Guarijio*  
Answer Key

1. 1800
2. 1970
3. they had no land of their own and they had to work for the landowners and were given only a little corn and salt in return
4. they owned their own land and had a place to live and farm
5. their music is the center of their culture
6. at the end of every harvest; when they wanted it to rain; on the one year anniversary of a person's death
7. because they are so isolated from other people
8. tea
9. food, to make baskets, as a dye
10. weaving
11. the soil is very thin and the land is mountainous
12. because it is not always taught to the children in school
13. because the members of the tribe are scattered and do not live near the schools
14. the Spanish language and culture