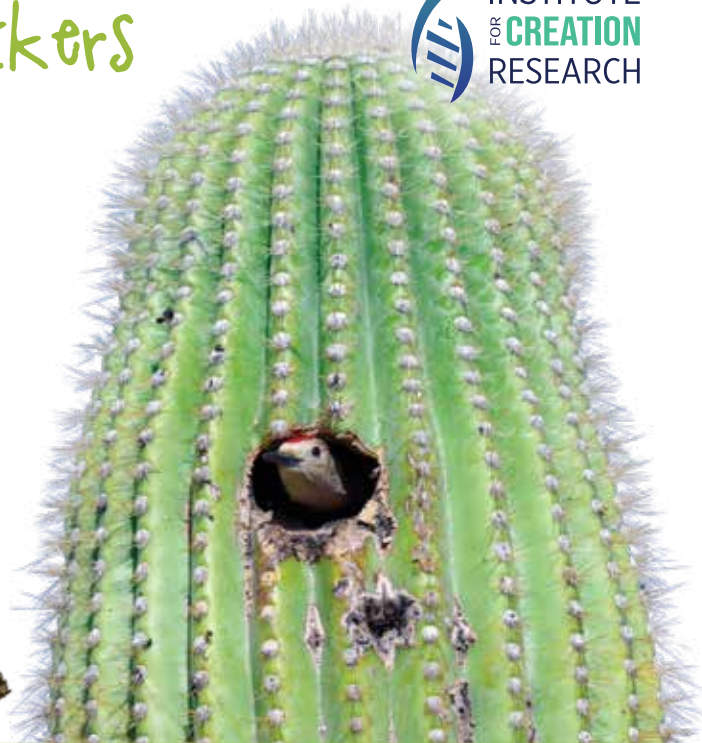


Saguaros and Gila Woodpeckers

Saguaros (suh-WAR-ohs) are the largest cactuses in the U.S., growing 40 to 60 feet tall and weighing over a ton. They have a symbiotic relationship with the Gila woodpecker, which nests in a hole in the cactus. When it chisels the hole, the woodpecker eats the cactus' fruit and scatters its seed. This helps other saguaros grow in the desert habitat. Did you also know...

- ✓ Animals and plants have a symbiotic relationship when they rely on each other to live.
- ✓ After making the hole, the Gila woodpecker waits for the inner pulp of the cactus to dry and harden. This makes the nest more solid.
- ✓ You can only find saguaros in the Sonoran Desert.
- ✓ Once the Gila woodpecker babies grow up, the hole becomes a nest for other birds like elf owls, kestrels, and purple martins.



a b e r s t w y



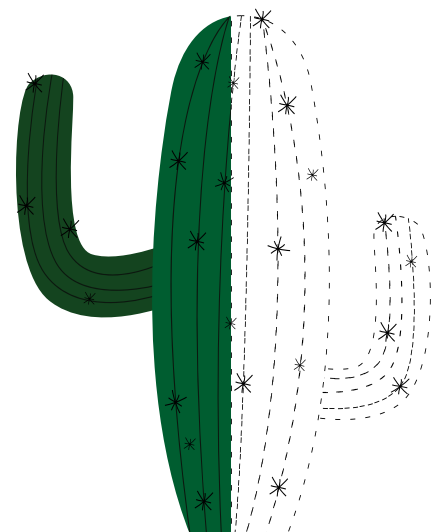
What does the fruit of the saguaro cactus taste like? Use the code above to find out.



Help the Gila woodpecker find his way to the saguaro.



Color the other half of the cactus.



Answer: strawberry