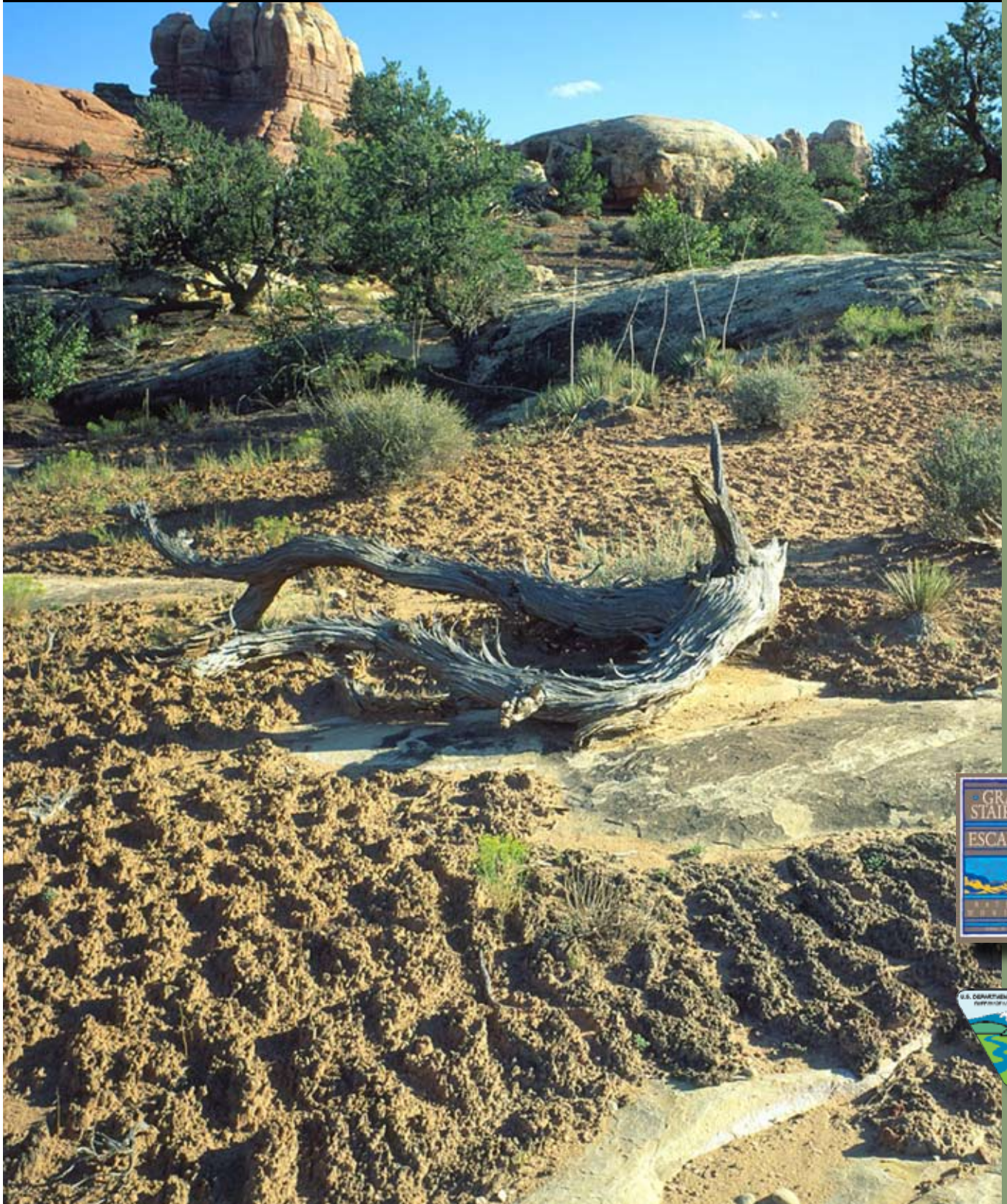


The Secret Life of Cryptobiotic Soil

Student Questions



BLM

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument



The Secret Life of Cryptobiotic Soil

Question 1

Using the blow dryer, begin on low speed and aim the blow dryer at the simulated cryptobiotic soil. Record your observations.

Question 2

Now aim the blow dryer, on low speed, at the sand. Record your observations.

Question 3

Turn the blow dryer onto high and aim it toward the sand so that the sand will blow toward the pile of simulated cryptobiotic soil. Record your observations.

Question 4

Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ the water directly onto the pile of sand. Record your observations.

Question 5

Now pour the rest of the water directly on the simulated cryptobiotic soil. Record your observations.

Question 6

Why are cryptobiotic soil crusts important to the southwest desert?

Question 7

How would you explain the importance of cryptobiotic soil crusts to your family and friends?

Question 8

How would you suggest dealing with cryptobiotic soil crusts if your family and friends were to come across this type of crust in the southwest desert?
