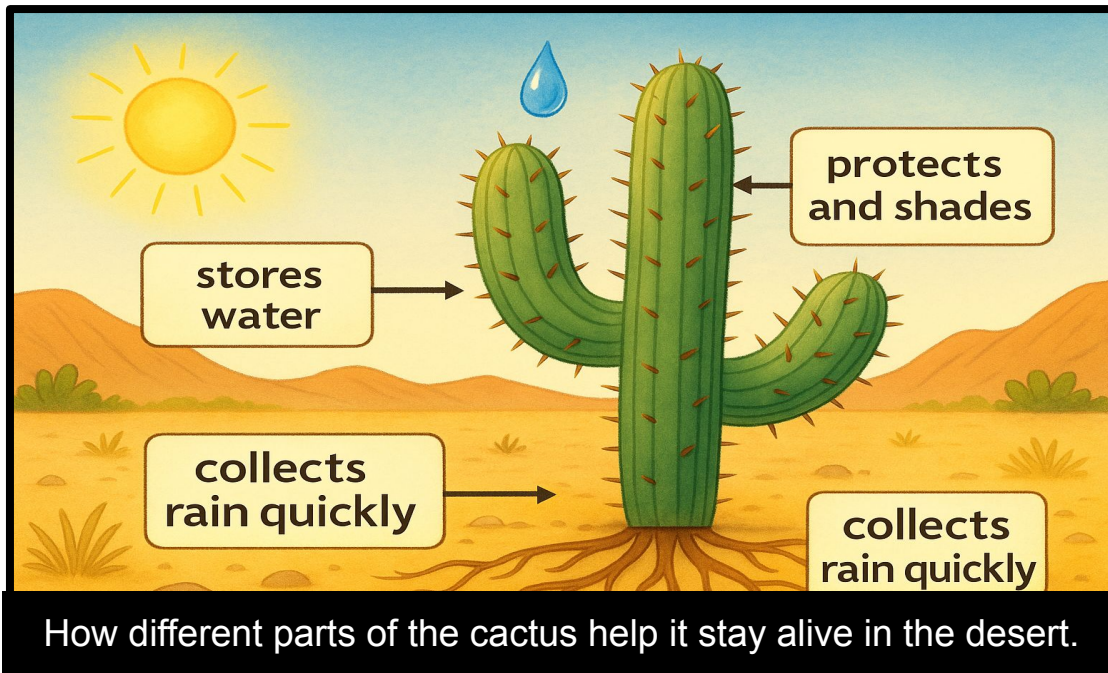


## Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Using Images

Read the short story and answer each question.



### Why Cactus Plants Don't Need Much Water

Cactus plants live in deserts where it does not rain very often.

Most plants need lots of water. But cactus plants are special.

They have thick stems that hold water like a sponge. They also have sharp spines instead of leaves. These spines help protect the cactus and keep water from drying up.

The roots of a cactus grow wide, not deep. This helps the plant collect rainwater quickly before it disappears into the dry ground.

Because of these special parts, a cactus can survive even in very hot places with almost no rain.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Cactus Plants Don't Need Much Water

1. What helps a cactus store water?

- A. Its thin roots
- B. Its sharp spines
- C. Its thick stem
- D. Its colorful flowers

2. How does the diagram help you understand the text?

- A. It shows how each cactus part works to survive in the desert
- B. It shows cactus flowers blooming
- C. It shows the rain falling on a mountain
- D. It shows animals that live near cacti

3. Fill in the blank:

The spines of a cactus help protect it and keep \_\_\_\_\_ from drying up.

4. How do the labels and arrows in the diagram help you understand the cactus better?

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5. What is one thing you learned about cactus roots from the picture and the text?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** K

**Lexile Level:** 420L-520L

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational Text

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we'll read about a plant that can live in one of the hottest places on Earth—the desert! We'll use both the text and the diagram to understand how each part of the cactus helps it survive with very little water."*

**Vocabulary:** desert, spines, roots, protect, store

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about cactus plants?
  2. Why might it be hard for plants to live in the desert?
  3. How do pictures help explain science ideas?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Which part of the cactus holds water?
  2. How do the roots work differently than other plants?
  3. What do the arrows and labels in the diagram help you see?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the picture show you what the cactus does?
  2. Could you explain the cactus without the diagram? Why or why not?
  3. What other types of plant diagrams have you seen?
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## Activity Idea

Have students draw their own diagram of a cactus and label the parts: stem, spines, roots. Then they write one sentence explaining how one of those parts helps the cactus survive. Share diagrams and display them with captions.

