

Cactus

By David Harstad



A cactus lives in a hot, dry place. A cactus stores water for a long time. A cactus has small roots. The roots are near the top of the soil. These roots take in water after a rain.



A cactus does not have leaves. This helps the cactus save water. A cactus stores water in its thick stem. The stems have a tough skin with wax. The thick wax slows down the water loss. A cactus can have sharp spines. Many animals want the water



inside the cactus. But the sharp spines and thick skin help the cactus.



There are a lot of shapes and sizes of a cactus. Some are short and round. Some are tall and thin. Birds and



bats can live in a cactus. They also eat the cactus fruit.





1. What did you learn about the cactus?

2. What makes the cactus interesting?

3. What else might live in a desert?

• Circle things that you might find in a desert:

