

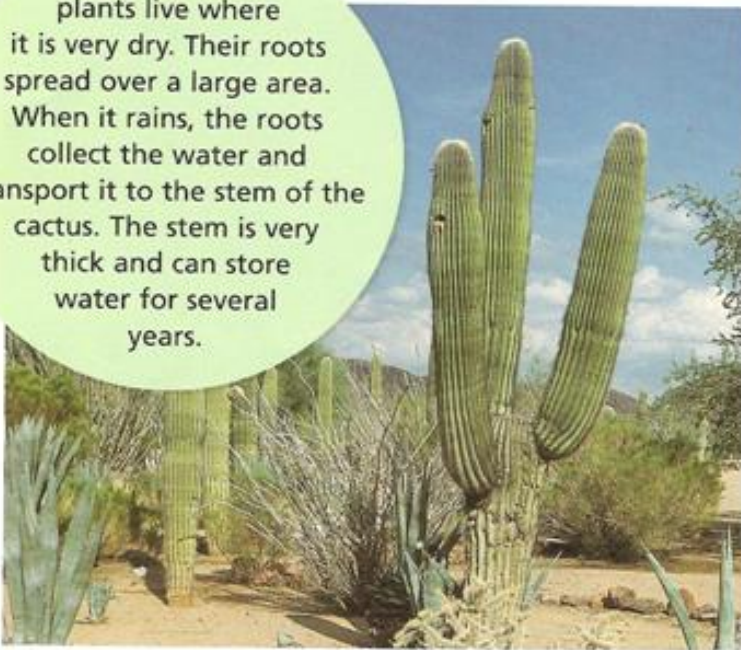
Name: _____

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Plant Survival Tactics

Plants grow and survive in many different places. You know that plants need water, but some plants can survive in the desert. You know that plants need food from the soil, but some plants can grow in rocky areas. You know that plants need carbon dioxide, but some plants live in water. How do plants like these get what they need to survive?

Cactus plants live where it is very dry. Their roots spread over a large area. When it rains, the roots collect the water and transport it to the stem of the cactus. The stem is very thick and can store water for several years.



The water lily has no trouble getting the water it needs to survive. The tops of its leaves help it to "breathe." The air travels to the roots in the bottom of the pond through long channels in the stem.

Plants in different places have different features to help them get food, water, sun, and space. Some plants have special leaves that don't let any water escape. These leaves help plants survive in very dry places. Other plants have features that stop animals from eating them. On the back of this page, summarize the information about some of these adaptations that help plants survive the dangers they face.

Roots

Spines

Chemicals

Runners

Vines

Seeds