

Desert Plant

Procedure

- 1. Record Data** Work with a partner. Observe a cactus. Make a sketch of the cactus.
- 2. Use tweezers to pull a spine off the cactus.**
Safety: Never touch a cactus. Cactus spines can be sharp.
- 3. Observe** Look at the spine with a hand lens. Record your observations.



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- 4. Observe** Use a plastic spoon to gently move some of the soil around the base of the cactus. Use the spoon to remove a small amount of soil. Put the soil on a sheet of paper. Observe the soil with a hand lens. Record your observations below.

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- 5. Continue to move soil around the base of the cactus until you can see some roots. Sketch them below. Note whether the roots grew deeply or were close to the surface of the soil.**



Name _____ Date _____

6. Infer Describe the habitat in which you think the cactus might be found.

Conclusion

1. Infer Based on your observations, where do you think a cactus lives?

2. Infer How do the parts of a cactus help it survive where it lives?

Ask Questions

Guided Inquiry

Ask other students their opinion about whether a cactus would likely live in a wet habitat. **Research** whether cacti live in rainforests. Present the evidence that you find.
