



Cactus Spine

Procedure

- 1. Record Data** Work with a partner. In the space below, make a sketch of a cactus. Use tweezers to pull a spine off the cactus. **Safety:** Wear goggles. Never touch a cactus. Cactus spines can be sharp.
- 2. Observe** Use a hand lens to look at the cactus spine. The spine is a leaf of the cactus. Record your observations.

- 3. 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. Place the soil on a sheet of paper. Observe the soil with a hand lens. Record your observations. **Safety:** Wear goggles.

- 4. Continue** to move soil around the base of the cactus until you can see some of the roots. Sketch them and record whether they are growing deeply or are close to the surface of the soil.

Name _____ Date _____

5. Analyze Data On your sketch of the cactus, label its roots, stem, and leaves.

Conclusion

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

2. Hypothesize How do the parts of a cactus help it survive in its environment?

Research List two plants that live in dry areas of Georgia. Write one sentence about each plant to explain how it survives in its environment.

Guided Inquiry