

Surviving in the Desert

Deserts are the driest places on Earth. Deserts get little rain. Many deserts are hot. All desert plants must live without much water. Desert plants have **adapted** to these hot, dry places. Cacti, grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and small trees live in deserts. Desert plants must store water as long as they can. Cacti are well **adapted** to live in the desert. Cacti are found in many different shapes and sizes. They



have **stems** that can store water. Cacti also have wide **root** systems that can collect water from a large area. In addition, cacti have

spines instead of leaves. The **spines** help the cacti from losing water. The spines also **protect** the cacti from animals that might eat them. Cacti can grow to be old. The saguaro cacti can live over 200 years. That's a long time to live in the hot desert!