

Primary Science: Cactus



The cactus is a spiky green plant that grows in the desert. It is a succulent plant, meaning that it can store water in its stems, roots, and leaves.

The cactus can live for over a year without rain because of its ability to store water. It saves up the water to help it grow.

There are many different types of cacti that comes in different shapes, sizes, and colors. Green is the most common colour, but they can also be bluish or even a shade of brown and green.



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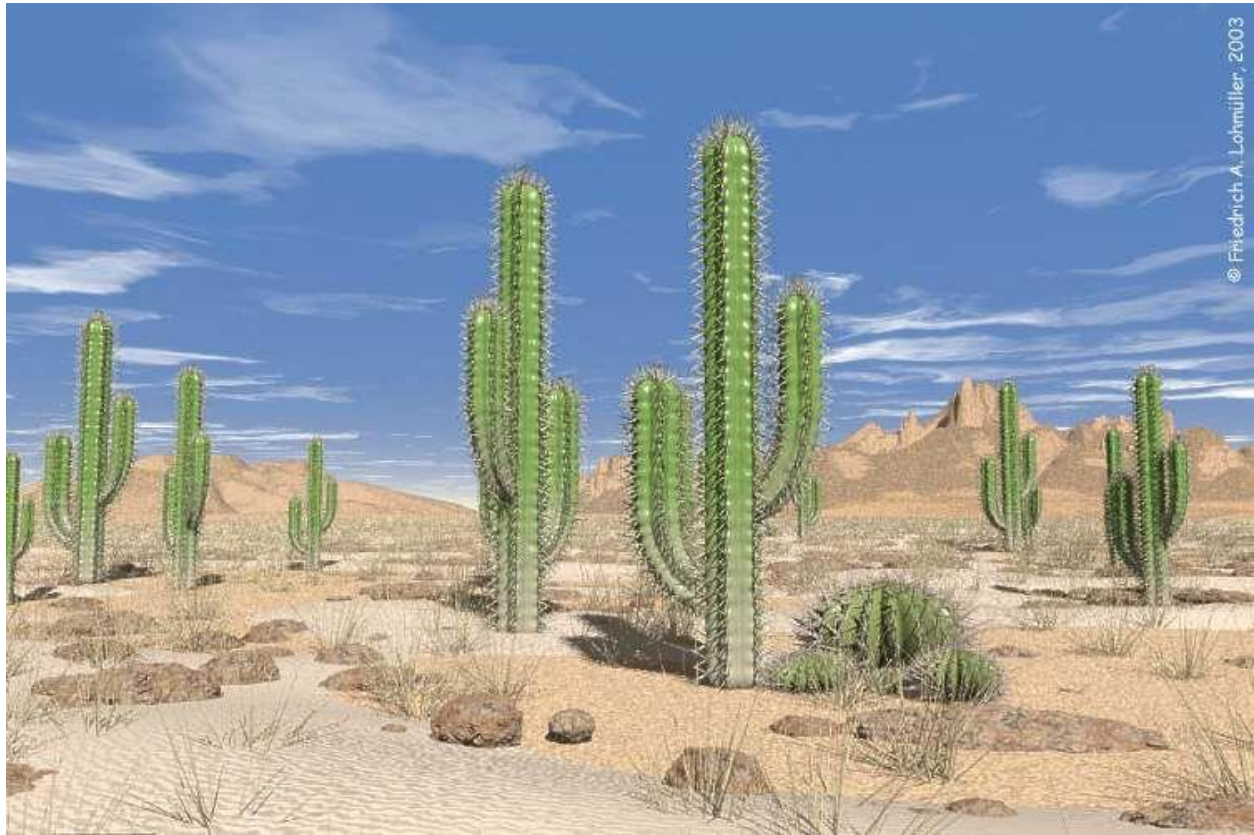
Some cactus plants can be round, and others flat like a pancake. Some can be very small that can fit in any household, but they can also be very big, growing up to 66 feet tall and weighing up to 2000kg!

Cactuses are usually thought of plants that are only covered in spikes, but it can grow big, beautiful flowers as well! The flowers can vary in colours! Most of these flowers only bloom at night and can last from a day to a couple of weeks.

The spikes on cactuses are called spines. The sharp spines protect them from animals and birds. They can also help keep the cactus plant's water from escaping. Keeping the spines on a cactus is essential for their survival in the wild.



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Most cacti grow in the desert or in very dry areas as they like dry, rocky soil. Though it is possible for some cactus plants to grow in the rainforest. Some cactuses live for only fifteen years, but some live to be as old as 300!

Cactus is essential for survival in the desert. Its waxy skin helps it hold in water. The water inside is much thicker than normal water. It is safe to drink but may not look tasty! It is even possible to eat some cacti, even the fruits that grow on them.

Cacti is popular in some countries like Mexico, served in salads and soups.



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Answer the questions.

What is a cactus??

Why is it special?

Why are their spines important?



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Answer the questions.

Where can we find cactuses?

How can cactuses help us survive in the desert?

