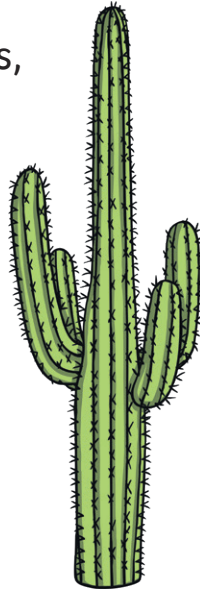


Crazy Cacti!

11 The cactus is a plant that grows where the soil
21 is rocky and dry. They can do this because they
31 have special roots that act like a sponge. The
42 cactus can store lots of water in the body of the
47 plant (stem) and save it for later.
57 The main root of the cactus is called the taproot.
67 It is longer and stronger than the main root of
74 other plants. It grows deep down into
82 the ground to find water for the cactus,
88 while the smaller roots near the
94 surface soak up any rainwater that
95 falls.
103 The outside of a cactus can feel waxy.
110 This waxy layer helps the cactus to
117 keep water inside when the weather is
118 hot.



Quick Questions

1. Give one word which describes the soil where a cactus can grow.

2. What is the main root of a cactus called?

Tick **one**.

plug root

sink root

deep root

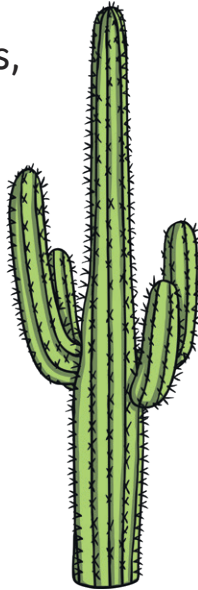
taproot

3. Why do you think that the cactus's main root is longer and stronger than the main root of other plants?

4. Predict what the cactus would do if did not have access to water for a long time.

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Answers

1. Give one word which describes the soil where a cactus can grow.

Accept: rocky or dry.

2. What is the main root of a cactus called?

Tick **one**.

plug root	<input type="checkbox"/>	sink root	<input type="checkbox"/>
deep root	<input type="checkbox"/>	taproot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Why do you think that the cactus's main root is longer and stronger than the main root of other plants?

Accept answers which discuss that the cactus's roots need to try harder to get water because it grows in such a dry environment.

4. Predict what the cactus would do if did not have access to water for a long time.

Accept any answers which predict that the cactus would use the water it had stored up and saved for later in its stem.