Name: _____ Date: _____

A Cactus in the Desert

Circle group

A cactus lives in the desert. It is hot and dry. Not much rain falls.

A cactus has a thick stem. The stem holds water. The cactus uses it when it is dry.

Sharp spines keep animals away.

Questions

1. Where does a cactus live?

_____

_____

2. Is the desert wet or dry?

_____

_____

3. What does the stem hold?

_____

_____

4. What do the spines do?

_____

_____

5. How does a cactus live with little rain?

_____

_____

Words to know

cactus: a plant with a thick stem and sharp spines
desert: a very dry place with little rain
stem: the main part of a plant that holds it up
spines: sharp points on a plant

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Cactus in the Desert

Triangle group

A cactus lives in the desert. The desert is hot and dry. Not much rain falls there.

A cactus has a thick stem. The stem holds water like a sponge. The cactus can use the water when it is dry.

A cactus has sharp spines. The spines keep hungry animals away.

Questions

1. Where does a cactus live?

_____

_____

2. Is the desert wet or dry?

_____

_____

3. What does the thick stem hold?

_____

_____

4. What do the sharp spines do?

_____

_____

5. How can a cactus live when little rain falls?

_____

_____

Words to know

cactus: a plant with a thick stem and sharp spines
desert: a very dry place with little rain
stem: the main part of a plant that holds it up
spines: sharp points on a plant
sponge: something soft that soaks up water

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Cactus in the Desert

Square group

A cactus makes its home in the desert, a place that is hot and very dry. Only a little rain falls there during the year.

To survive, a cactus has a thick stem that soaks up water and holds it inside, much like a sponge. When the land is dry, the cactus can use the water it saved.

A cactus also grows sharp spines, which keep hungry animals from nibbling on it.

Questions

1. Where does a cactus make its home?

_____

_____

2. Is the desert wet or dry?

_____

_____

3. What does the thick stem of a cactus hold inside?

_____

_____

4. What do the sharp spines keep away?

_____

_____

5. How can a cactus survive when only a little rain falls?

_____

_____

Words to know

cactus: a plant with a thick stem and sharp spines
desert: a very dry place with little rain
stem: the main part of a plant that holds it up
spines: sharp points on a plant
sponge: something soft that soaks up water

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A Cactus in the Desert

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A Cactus in the Desert

Easier · 38 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. In the desert.
2. Dry.
3. Water.
4. They keep animals away.
5. It saves water in its stem.

Triangle: A Cactus in the Desert

This passage · 51 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. In the desert.
2. It is dry.
3. Water.
4. They keep hungry animals away.
5. It saves water in its thick stem.

Square: A Cactus in the Desert

Harder · 72 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. In the desert.
2. It is hot and very dry.
3. Water.
4. Hungry animals.
5. It uses the water it saved in its thick stem.