

Desert Biome: Cactus Plant Adaptations

stem

- used for photosynthesis
- thick stems that can store water

shape

- evolved over time to different shapes to reduce surface area

roots

- shallow to collect surface water
- fibrous to absorb water
- spread wide to collect water

spines

- helps to reduce water loss during evaporation
- absorb and reflect light to keep the plant cool
- deter animals from feeding on the plant
- collect dew, fog, and other water sources and direct it to the plant's roots

