

# 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

