

Desert Plants

Summary

Plants grow in many places and are adapted to live in different environments. A desert is a hot, dry environment. When it rains in a desert, plants bloom quickly. Their roots may spread out near the surface or grow deep in the Earth to take in water. Desert plants have adapted so they can store water. They may have thick, waxy skins or spines that hold water. They have few leaves. Some plants have no leaves and use their stems to make food. Not all parts of a desert are dry. An oasis is a place in the desert with water. Many plants can grow in an oasis.

Before Reading

Take a Picture Walk

Build background for the book by taking a picture walk with children. Discuss the pictures and preview the key vocabulary and concepts. Invite children to share their impressions of deserts and desert life.

Vocabulary

adapt, environment, flower, leaf, nutrients, prairie, roots, stem, cactus, evaporation, oasis, petals, pollination, surface

Comprehension Skill: Predict

Say: We can use what we already know and what we learn to make predictions about what might happen next. Think about what you know about plants and what you know about the desert. What special adaptations do you think desert plants have made?

During Reading

Think Critically

Have children answer the *What Did You Learn?* questions located on the inside back cover of their book.

1. What are two ways desert plant roots grow?

Desert roots may spread out near the surface to take in water. They may grow deep into the ground to take in underground water.

2. What do spines do?

Spines help to block the wind and to keep the sun off a desert plant. Some spines also hold water.

After Reading

Writing in Science

Some desert plants have folds in their skin. Write to explain how folds help desert plants store water. Use words from the book as you write.

Organize Information

Graphic Organizer: Predict Have children complete the Predict chart on the BLM for this Leveled Reader to predict what will happen to desert plants after it rains.

Related Kit Resources

Vocabulary Cards

Every Student Learns

Quick Study

Big Book of Science Songs and CD

Graphic Organizer Transparencies

Quick Activity Transparency

www.pearsonsuccessnet.com

Equipment Kit

Activity Flipchart

LabZone

Write your answers.

1. How do desert animals help desert plants?
Desert animals carry pollen from one plant to another.
2. How do desert plants without leaves make food?
Desert plants without leaves use their stems to make food.
3. What is an oasis?
An oasis is a place in the desert with water.
4. What will happen to desert plants after it rains?
Use the graphic organizer to help you.

Possible answer:

Predict

I know

Plants need water to grow.
Some plants spring to life when it rains.



I predict

Desert plants will take in water when it rains.
The flowers of some desert plants will bloom.