Name: Date: Score: / 6

# Cactus Plants: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 90 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

### 🌵 Cactus Plants

A cactus is a plant that lives in the desert, where it is hot and dry. It can go a long time without rain. When it does rain, the cactus soaks up water and stores it inside its thick stem.

Most cactus plants have sharp spines instead of leaves. The spines protect the cactus from animals that want to drink its water. They also make a little shade. The saguaro cactus grows in Arizona and can live for more than 150 years. Birds like woodpeckers make homes inside it.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. rain forests B. woodpeckers C. cactus plants

2. **Detail:** Where do cactus plants live?
   A. in the desert B. in the ocean C. on snowy mountains

3. **Detail:** Where does a cactus store water?
   A. inside its thick stem B. in the sand C. in its spines

4. **Detail:** What do most cactus plants have instead of leaves?
   A. flowers B. roots C. sharp spines

5. **Detail:** How long can a saguaro cactus live?
   A. ten days B. one year C. more than 150 years

6. **Inference:** Why does a cactus need spines?

ANSWER KEY

# Cactus Plants: Reading Comprehension (answers)

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   **to protect it from animals that want its water**