Science Fables

The Plants That Saved Every Drop

Story Quiz

This quiz follows Riya and Caleb as they discover how desert plants conserve and collect water.

1. Why do many desert plants have spines instead of large leaves?

A. To attract more animals
B. To reduce water loss and protect the plant
C. To collect sunlight at night
D. To make the plant grow taller

2. Where does a cactus store water?

A. Inside its thick stem
B. Inside its flowers
C. Inside its spines
D. Under its bark

3. How do aloe and agave leaves help the plants survive?

A. Their thick, waxy leaves help keep moisture inside
B. Their leaves fall off every morning
C. Their leaves absorb food from insects
D. Their leaves produce rain

4. How do mesquite trees find water in dry places?

A. They collect water only from their leaves
B. They grow deep roots that reach underground water
C. They store water inside their flowers
D. They wait for animals to bring water

5. Why do some desert plants have wide, shallow roots?

A. To quickly absorb rainwater near the surface
B. To hold their flowers above the ground
C. To keep insects away
D. To produce more seeds

Answer Key

1. B — To reduce water loss and protect the plant

Desert plants have spines instead of large leaves to reduce water loss and protect the plant.

2. A — Inside its thick stem

A cactus stores water inside its thick stem.

3. A — Their thick, waxy leaves help keep moisture inside

Aloe and agave have thick, waxy leaves that help keep moisture inside.

4. B — They grow deep roots that reach underground water

Mesquite trees grow deep roots that reach underground water.

5. A — To quickly absorb rainwater near the surface

Wide, shallow roots help desert plants quickly absorb rainwater near the surface.