

3. Answers will vary. Students should understand that the organ pipe cactus is specialized for storing water, and forest plants would have stems adapted for other functions.

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1. Answers will vary. Students should understand that rainfall is in short supply, and plants must store water for long periods of time.

2. Answers will vary. Students should understand that the spines serve to protect the stems from predators.



1. The long stems of the organ pipe cactus shown above store water. Why do you think this would be useful in the desert?
2. What is the purpose of the sharp spines around the stem?
3. Would you expect the stems of plants found in forests, where there is more water available, to have nearly the same structure as the organ pipe cactus, or would those stems be different?