

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

- reduce water lost through 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 plants roots