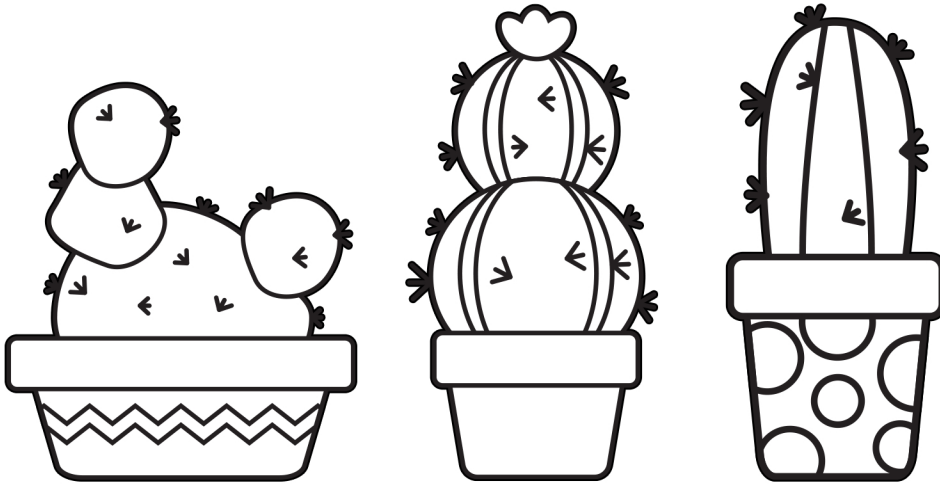


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Bank:**

pads

arms

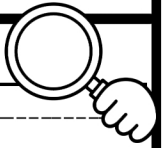
ribs

areoles

**Types of Cacti**

Cacti come in many shapes and sizes! The saguaro cactus is tall and has arms that grow out from its main stem. A prickly pear cactus looks very different. Instead of one tall stem, it grows flat, paddle-shaped parts called pads. A barrel cactus is short and round, with tall ridges called ribs running up its sides. Even though these three cacti look different, they are alike in some ways too. All three have areoles, the small bumps where spines grow. All three have roots that spread out wide to catch rain quickly. Also, all three use their thick, waxy parts to store water in the dry desert. The next time you see a cactus, look closely. Its shape can tell you a lot about what kind of cactus it is!

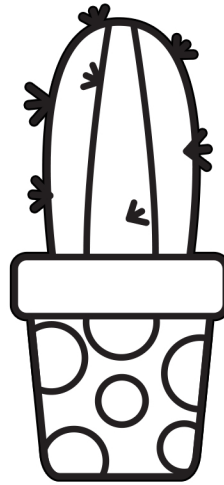
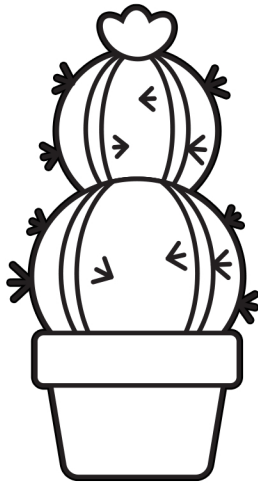
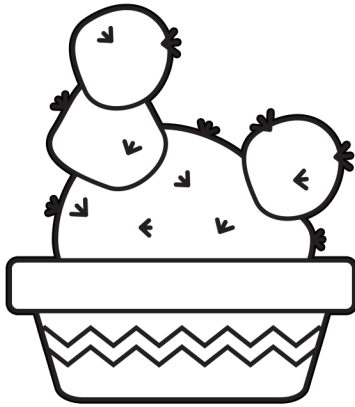
1. What grows out from the main stem of a saguaro cactus?



2. What are the flat, paddle-shaped parts of a prickly pear cactus called?

3. Name two things all three cacti have in common.

4. Why do cactus roots spread out wide instead of growing deep?

**Word Bank:**

pads

arms

ribs

areoles

**Types of Cacti**

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1. What grows out from the main stem of a saguaro cactus?

**Arms**

2. What are the flat, paddle-shaped parts of a prickly pear cactus called?

**Pads**

3. Name two things all three cacti have in common.

**They have areoles; they have roots that spread out wide; they store water in thick, waxy parts.**

4. Why do cactus roots spread out wide instead of growing deep?

**So they can catch rain quickly before it dries up in the desert sun.**