

DESERT PLANTS AND ANIMALS



Goal 5 You will understand how animals and plants adapt to a lack of water.

Animals and plants that live in the desert have to cope with very little water.

Find out how they survive:

Thorny devil

This lizard can trap raindrops or dew in the folds in its skin. The water can then run into its mouth.

Budgerigar

Budgerigars usually nest only after rainfall. They drink dew from leaves during drought.

Cactus

The cactus's thin leaves or spines reduce its water loss. It also stores water in its stem. The thick waxy coating of the cactus stops any water from evaporating.

Sturt's desert pea

The Sturt's desert pea grows in places where water collects, like rocky hillsides. It also has a long tap root to find water underground.

1 Complete the table with information from the text. Use note forms.

| Name | Plant or animal | Adaptation/s! |
|------|-----------------|---------------|
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| | | |

2 Use the table to find a plant or animal that:

- (a) drinks dew _____
- (b) has a tap root _____
- (c) has a special coating _____

3 Use the Internet or other resources to find a picture of one of the plants and one of the animals. Draw and label each in a box below.

