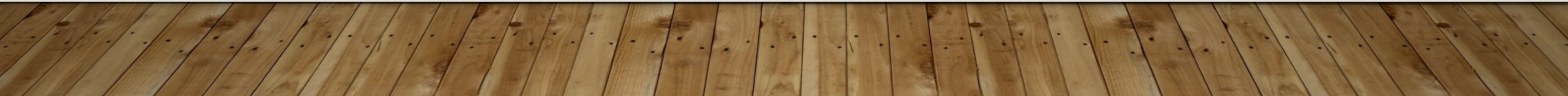# DESERT PLANTS

THEIR NEED TO FIND WATER

SPINES PROTECT FROM ANIMALS

- The prickly spines don't feel very nice,

- If you think you want dinner, you'd better think twice!

- A mouthful of me is a painful surprise.

- Don't bother to taste me, you'd better be wise!

SPINES PROTECT FROM ANIMALS CACTUS

SHALLOW ROOTS

- My roots spread out underneath the ground.

- When it rains they soak up any water to be found.

- The shallow roots wait for rains to fall.

- Soaking it up I trap it all.

SHALLOW ROOTS
CREOSOTE BUSH

SHALLOW ROOTS
PINION PINE

LIGHT COLORS ABSORB LESS HEAT

- My leaves are colored lightly or gray.

- They reflect the sun and keep it away.

- My leaves are quite small, as a rule,

- In hot temperatures they keep me cool.

LIGHT COLORS ABSORB LESS HEAT
GLOBEMALLOW

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LIGHT COLORS ABSORB LESS HEAT RABBITBRUSH

WATER STORED IN THICK STEMS

- Although it's been weeks since there was rain,

- I stored up water so I won't complain.

- My thick stem stores the H2O

- So I can survive the sun's hot glow.

WATER STORED IN THICK STEMS
JOSHUA TREE

WATER STORED IN THICK STEMS BEAVERTAIL CACTUS

HAIRS, SPINES LESSEN EVAPORATION

- My prickly spines are really leaves,

- That stop the wind and help relieve

- My losing moisture to the wind.

- I'm grateful for a spiny skin.

HAIRS, SPINES LESSEN EVAPORATION
PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS

HAIRS, SPINES LESSEN EVAPORATION
SAGE BRUSH

WAX TRAPS MOISTURE

- My leaves and stems have a waxy touch.

- Water trapped inside me helps so much.

- When rain does fall I fill up fast,

- So when it stops, my water will last.

WAX TRAPS MOISTURE JUNIPER

WAX TRAPS MOISTURE CLIFFROSE

ROOTS FIND AVAILABLE WATER

- My deep taproot drills down very deep.

- To underground water, where it may seep.

- Sometimes my root is 40 feet down.

- That's a long way to go underground.

ROOTS FIND AVAILABLE WATER MESQUITE

ROOTS FIND AVAILABLE WATER YUCCA