

Deadliest Plants and Bugs



Fact sheet: Cactus

There are about 2000 types of cacti and they come in all different shapes and sizes. Look but don't touch though as those spines are prickly.

Cactus scores decoded:

	10
	6
	9
	3
	7
	10

Size: 10

Sizes vary but the largest cacti can grow to be 66 feet and weigh up to 4800 pounds, which is as heavy as a car.



Life Span: 10

The average cactus lives to be 10 years old but can live to be up to 200 years.



Colour / Camouflage: 6

Usually green but can be bluish-green or brown-green. Cacti also have big bright beautiful flowers, but some only bloom for one day and many are nocturnal meaning they only bloom at night.



Strength: 7

Cacti are tough and have lots of tricks to help them survive in deserts. They have thick stems that store water. Even if it doesn't rain for a long time, the cactus still has water saved up to help it grow. A cactus can live for over a year without rain.



Armour / Defence: 9

Cacti are covered in sharp pointy spikes called spines. The spines protect them from animals and birds. Cacti also have a waxy coating which helps prevent water loss.



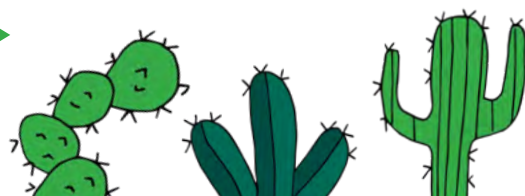
Poison level: 3

A puncture from a spine is very painful for a predator but the spines are not poisonous. Eating spines or any part of a cactus can cause a nasty stomachache, so it's best to avoid eating or touching them.



More amazing cactus facts:

In the desert there is not much rainfall and when it does rain the hot sun dries it up very quickly. Cacti have short roots so that they can absorb water quickly. The thick stems inside fill up and store the water. Even if the desert looks dry you can tell if it has rained because the cacti will look swollen up.



Cacti can be tall or short, wide or narrow. Some are very round, and others are flat like a pancake. Some are even shaped like snakes or starfish.