

AREOLES Can Tell All!

- **Areoles are small fuzzy bumps all over the cactus**
- **Succulents that have Areoles are called Cactus**
(All Cactus are Succulents but not all Succulents are Cactus)
- **Spines, Flowers, Roots and Branches grow out of the Areoles**
- **Spines and Flowers are key items that help identify cactus types**
- **Spines provide:** Protection, Shade, and help with water collection
- **Some Cactus have both Spines and Glochids on their Areoles**
- **Glochids are very small, sharp, light weight, and splinter like stickers**
- **Cactus Spines are different shapes, colors, lengths and vary in quantity**

Typical Spines Growing out of Areoles

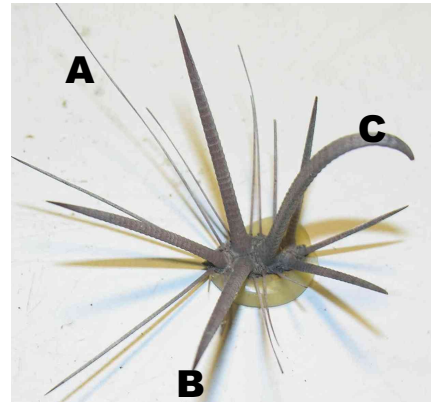
Can you Identify the spines that would be “the Best” for:

(Circle all letters that apply)

Protection: A B C

Shade: A B C

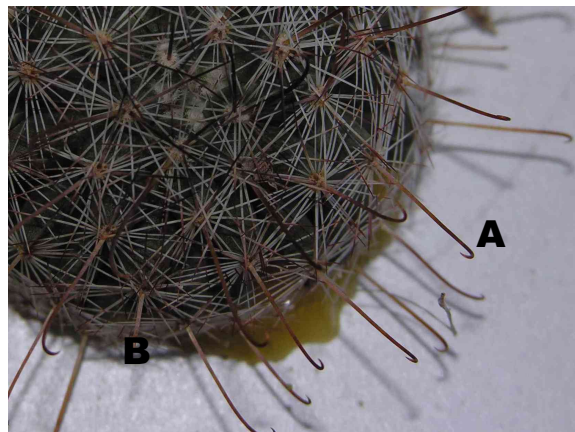
Water Collection: A B C



Protection: A B

Shade: A B

Water Collection: A B



Areoles and Spines Continued....

Match up the Spines with the Type of Cactus

(see display board for real Spines Samples)

Saguaro Cactus - Picture # _____

The spines are very hard, sharp, dark color and lots of them. One spine in the cluster is usually longer than the others. They run all up and down the outside edges of the saguaro and covers the ends of the arms and top.

Jumping Cholla Cactus - Picture # _____

The spines are usually long, thin, very sharp, barbed ends and light in color. They have a sheath around the spine to protect it.

Hedgehog Cactus - Picture # _____

The hedgehog cactus shown has many smaller spines very close to the cactus with some longer spines sticking way out.

Fishhook Barrel Cactus - Picture # _____

One spine of each cluster is a big "J" hook shape or Fishhook looking. There are a few other heavy spines and then some or lots of finer spines to provide lots of shade.

Prickly Pear Cactus - Picture # _____

A Prickly Pear cactus is made up of a bunch of paddles connected together. The areoles are on the flat surfaces of the cactus and on the edges. Most prickly pear cactus have lots of glochids on the areoles where the spines are attached. The prickly pear shown only has a few long spines on each areole.

Pincushion Cactus - Picture # _____

One longer spine is hooked. Has lots of smaller spines very close to the skin giving the cactus a grey color look, hard to see the skin.

