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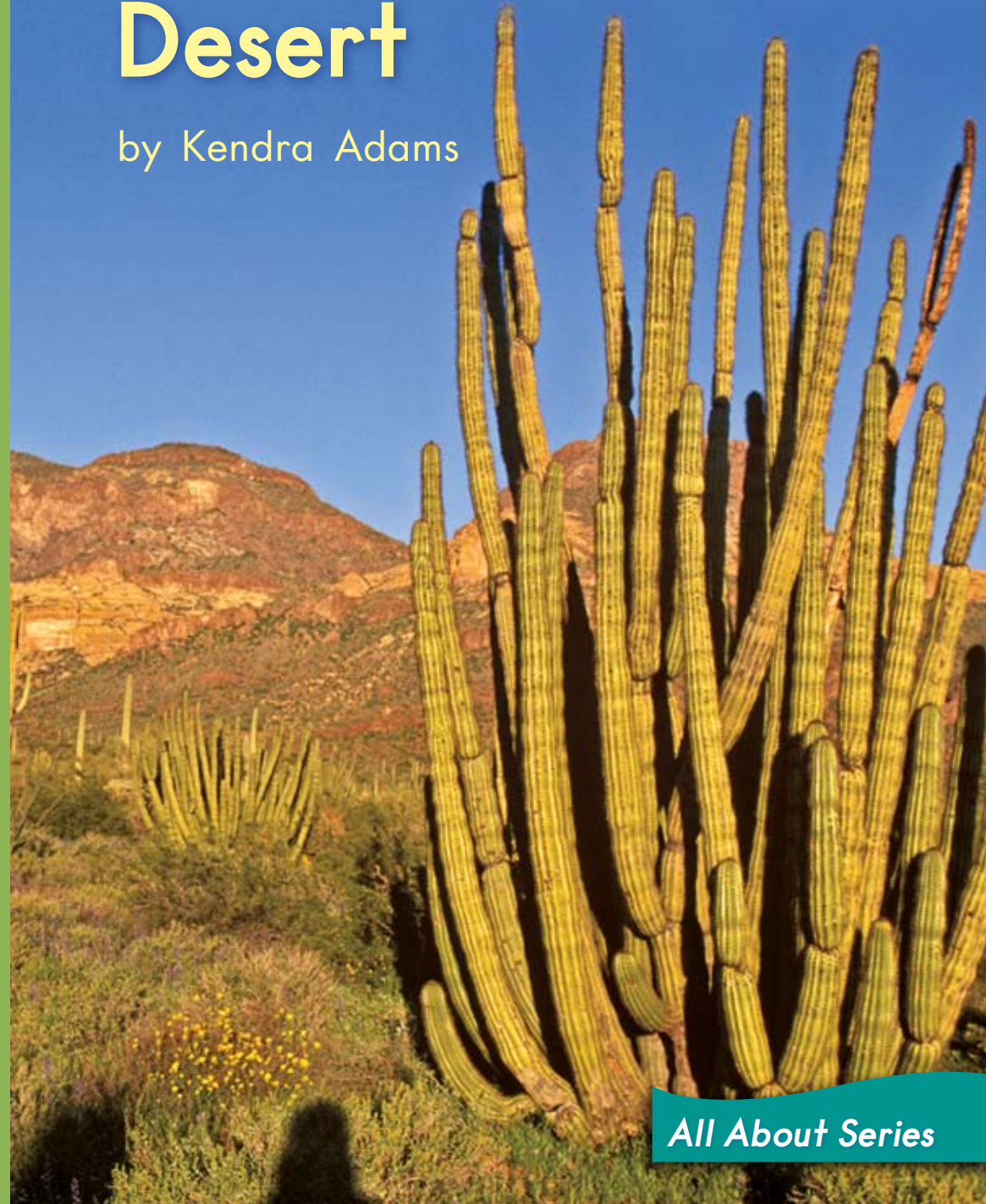


Book 77

Level J

All About The Sonoran Desert

by Kendra Adams



All About Series

All About the Sonoran Desert

Author: Kendra Adams

Heinemann

361 Hanover Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801-3912
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Glossary

| | |
|---------------|--|
| desert | a dry place where there is little rain |
| spines | thin, sharp needles that can grow on a plant |
| stores | keeps or saves |
| swell | to grow bigger in size |

All About
**The Sonoran
Desert**

by Kendra Adams



The Sonoran Desert

The Sonoran Desert is very hot and very dry.

For most of the year, it does not get any rain.

Yet many plants and animals live in this **desert**.

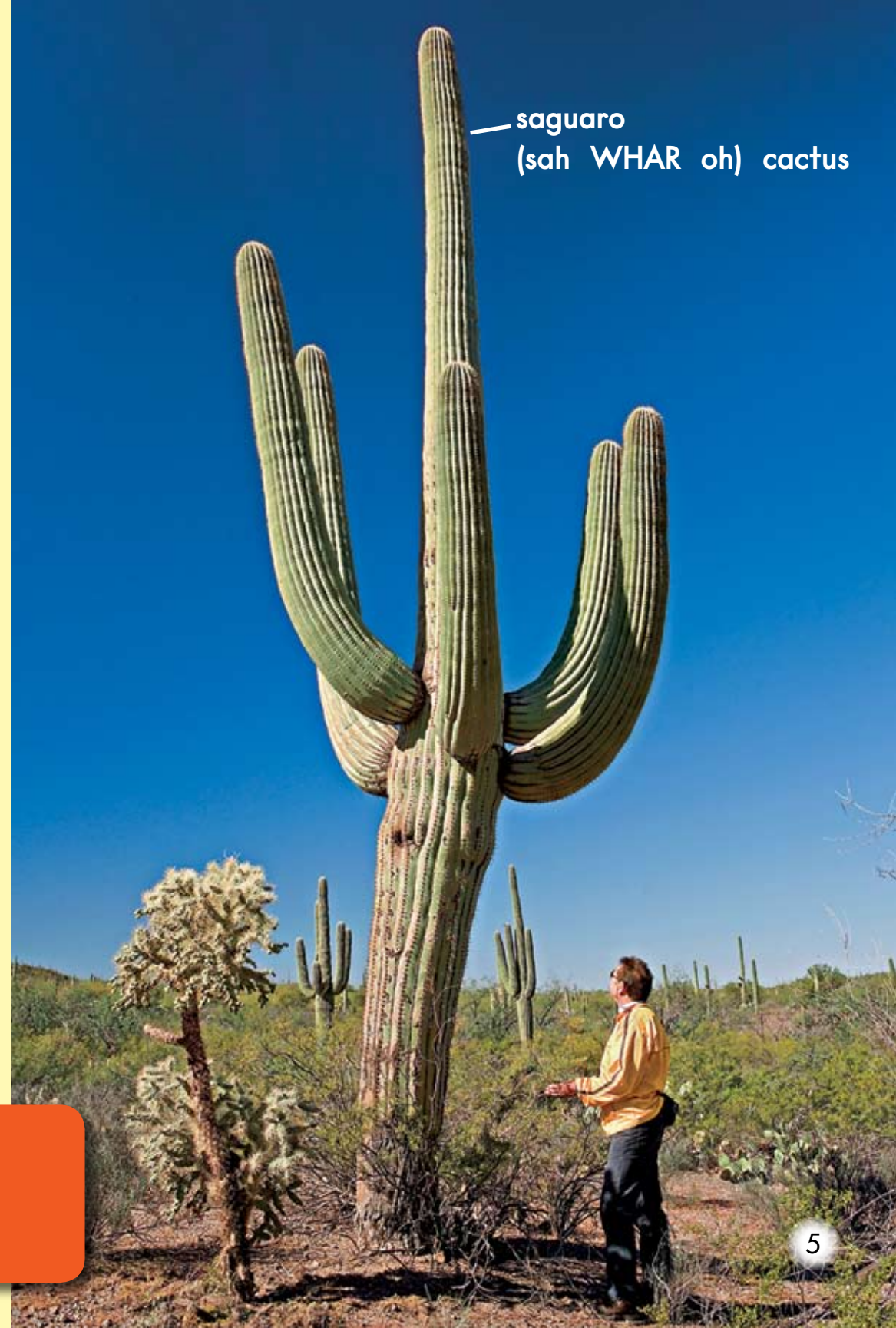


Plants of the Desert

This tall plant is a cactus. The cactus can live here because it **stores** water in a special way.

When it rains, the cactus roots soak up water. The plant **swells** up and gets bigger. The cactus uses the water until it rains again.

The saguaro cactus can grow taller than a house.



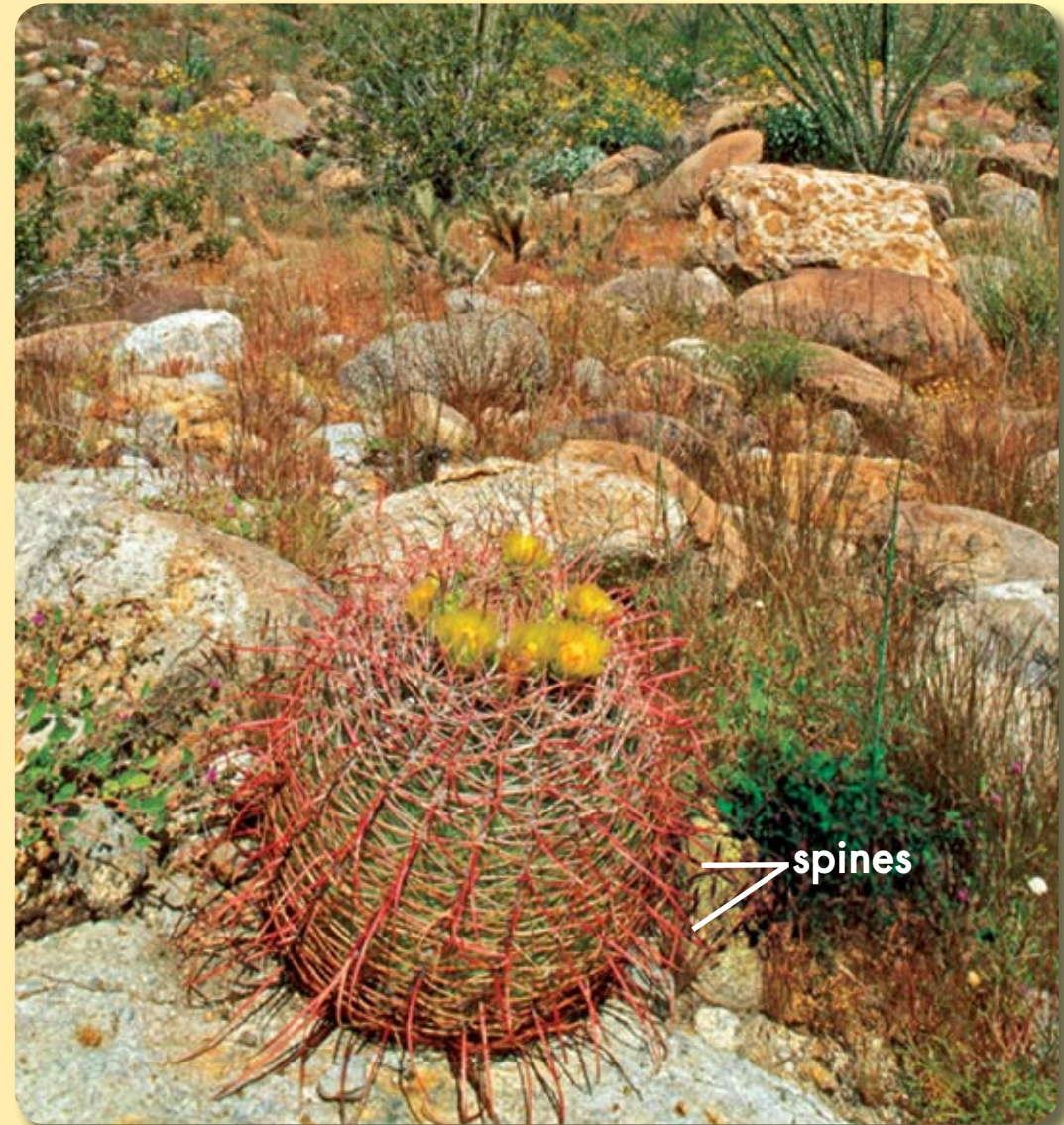
saguaro
(sah WHAR oh) cactus



nurse plant

small cactus

The cactus has very long **spines**.
The spines help shade the plant
from the hot sun.



spines

This small plant is a cactus, too.
When the cactus is little,
it grows in the shade
of a taller plant.
A plant that helps a cactus grow
is called a “nurse” plant!

This desert plant
has no leaves.
The plant dropped its leaves
to save water.



ocotillo (oh ko TEE oh) plant before the rain

Here is the same kind of plant
after the rain.
Now the plant is covered
with new green leaves.



ocotillo plant after the rain

Animals of the Desert

Many animals make their homes in the Sonoran Desert. The animals find ways to stay cool on very hot days.

Some animals find places to hide when the sun is very hot.

The javelinas (ha vah LEE nahz) rest in the shade of a cactus plant.

The desert tortoise may dig deep into the dirt to stay cool. The tortoise also finds shade under large rocks.

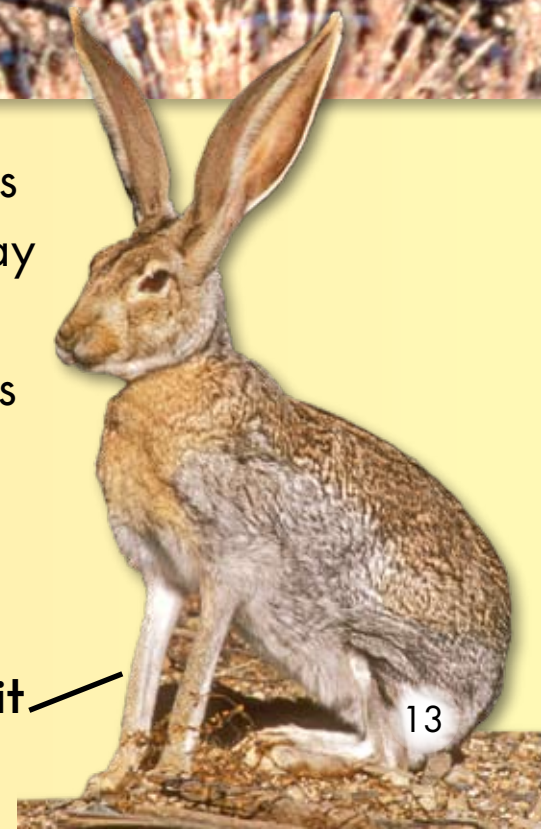


The tortoise gets some water by eating the fruit of a cactus plant.



mule deer

These desert animals have a different way to stay cool. They have long ears that let out the heat.



jackrabbit

Desert birds have other ways to cool off. This bird lifts up its feathers to stay cool.



An elf owl stays cool inside a cactus plant.

Some birds make nests inside a cactus plant. They stay inside the cactus during the heat of the day. They come out at night to hunt for food.

Desert Rain

The Sonoran Desert doesn't get much rain. But when rain does fall, desert plants burst into bloom. Then the desert is full of color!

