# ✓ Grade 4–5 Listening Prompt #2: "How Cactuses Stay Cool"

**Prompt Type:** Informational

Length: ~210 words

Standard Alignment: EL.4–5.S1 (Determine central idea and supporting details), EL.4–5.S2

(Determine word meaning)

## Teacher Script (Directions):

SAY:

Listen carefully to this informational passage. You may take notes while you listen. Then, answer the questions that follow. You will hear the passage one time. Ready, set, listen!

### **Audio Prompt:**

Have you ever wondered how a cactus stays cool in the desert heat? These unique plants have special features that help them survive in hot and dry places. First, many cactuses have ribs or folds that expand and shrink. When it rains, the ribs help them store water and use it slowly during the dry days. Second, instead of wide leaves, cactuses have spines. These spines help protect the plant and reduce water loss by providing shade and keeping animals away. Cactus stems are thick and waxy, which helps trap moisture inside. During the day, cactus pores—tiny openings on the surface—stay closed to keep water in. At night, when it's cooler, the pores open to let in carbon dioxide for photosynthesis. Thanks to these smart adaptations, cactuses can survive even the hottest summers in places like Arizona and Mexico.

# @ Questions & Answers:

- 1. What is the central idea of the passage?
  - A. Cactuses are colorful and grow fast.
  - B. Cactuses only grow in Arizona.
  - C. Cactuses have special features to survive in hot places.
  - D. Cactuses don't need sunlight to grow.
- 2. How do cactus spines help the plant?
  - A. They collect rainwater.
  - B. They make the cactuses look pretty.
  - C. They help the plant grow taller.
  - D. They give shade and protect it from animals.
- 3. What does the word "adaptations" most likely mean in the passage?
  - A. Special changes that help something survive V
  - B. Sharp spines
  - C. Things that make plants look nice
  - D. Types of deserts

- 4. What does the word pores mean in the sentence: "During the day, cactus pores—tiny openings on the surface—stay closed to keep water in"?
  - A. Sharp points
  - B. Ribs inside the cactus
  - C. Tiny openings on the surface 🗸
  - D. Spots on the cactus stem

#### STUDENT PAGE:

#### @ Questions:

- 1.
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- A. They collect rainwater.
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- A. Special changes that help something survive
- B. Sharp spines
- C. Things that make plants look nice
- D. Types of deserts
- 4.
- A. Sharp points
- B. Ribs inside the cactus
- C. Tiny openings on the surface
- D. Spots on the cactus stem