

## Spectacular Spines!

Cacti are able to store a lot of water! Many desert animals eat cacti in order to get the water they need when the desert is very dry. Cacti have spines to help protect them from thirsty animals. You can use different craft materials to make your very own paper cactus art!



### Here's what you'll need:

- Two sheets of paper
  - If using construction paper, choose two different colors!
- Glue
- Any color of paint
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- A fork
- Sand, dirt, or soil

### Let's get crafting!

1. First, use your scissors and one piece of paper to cut out your cactus shape. You can draw out your shape first, or try cutting it out freehand.
2. Then, glue the cactus shape to the other sheet of paper. Once the glue is dry, you can color the cactus and background if you'd like.
3. Next, put some glue on the bottom of the paper, where the cactus would be growing from the ground. Before the glue has dried, sprinkle sand, dirt, or soil onto the glue! Let this dry and then shake off any extra dirt.
4. Finally, dip your fork into the paint and press the fork all over the cactus to create spines!
5. Once the paint has dried, your cactus is complete! You can hang it up or give it as a gift to somebody you care about.



**Other ways to create:**

- You can use any craft materials to make your cactus. For example, try using string or yarn to create your desert ground!
- Consider adding other desert plants and animals to your art.
- What other plants can you use a fork to add spines to? Mesquite is another desert plant that has spines!