How the Cactus Got Its Spikes

By Finn Hartman

Age 8

Grade 3

Hopi Elementary School
There was a boy whose name was Jack. One day in class his teacher asked him to do an assignment.

"Today class we’ll be studying Arizona. I would like you study an Arizona object," she said.

Jack decided to research a cactus.
Jack went home and went to his mom. He asked her, "How did the cactus get its spikes?"

She said, "One day there was a little porcupine who was lost and wanted a hug. He was walking in a desert and met a cactus and started crying. The cactus asked, Why are you crying? The porcupine whimpered, I’m lost and I miss my mommy. To cheer up the porcupine, the cactus hugged him, got the porcupine’s spikes stuck all over him, and showed him the way."
Then Jack went to his big brother. He asked him, "How did the cactus get its spikes?"

His brother said, "A boy was walking by a cactus and asked the cactus for his water. The cactus said no and the boy got mad. Because the boy couldn't get the water, he had another idea. He saw some beavers making a dam nearby. He told them this cactus said you have big ugly teeth that look like spikes. The beavers got mad at the cactus and stuck all their "spiky" teeth in his body."
Next, Jack went to his dad. He asked, "How did the cactus get its spikes?"

His dad said, "A group of spiders were crawling by a cactus. They asked if he could be their friend. The cactus said yes. To show their appreciation, the spiders crawled on the cactus, stuck their legs out, and froze so that if anybody wanted to hurt the cactus, they would have to touch their spiky legs."
Finally, Jack went to an actual cactus. He asked, "How did you get your spikes?"

The cactus said, "I was made with them so I can defend myself from things that want to eat me."

The next day, Jack went to his teacher and handed in his report. It was called, How the Cactus Got Its Spikes.