

**CHAPTER 24 WHAT IS A PLANT?****Get the Big Picture**

Read the paragraph in the box. Then answer the questions.

Plants were some of the earliest living things on land. When they moved to land, plants faced challenges to get water, food, and energy. Some plants, like giant redwood trees, formed deep roots. These roots helped the trees get water and food from deep below the surface of Earth. Other plants, like some desert cacti, formed shallow roots like bicycle spokes. These roots help desert plants capture water near the ground over a great distance. Most plants have leaves that capture energy from the sun. The leaves of many plants are covered with a waxy coating called a cuticle that helps them hold water. Plants have adapted to many types of land environments.

1. How does each plant structure below help plants live on land?

a. Roots: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Leaves: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Waxy coating: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why are the roots of many desert plants very shallow?

---

---

---

3. What trait of plants helps prevent water loss from their leaves?

---