Plant Adaptations to Climate

Plants are very different all across North America because they have specific adaptations to the local climate. Specific traits help plants live in certain habitats. In many cases, a trait that helps a plant live in one climate makes it very difficult for the plant to live in another climate. Can you connect the dots to find examples of plant traits you would expect to find in each habitat indicated?

A habitat with a hot & dry climate

A habitat with a wet & hot summer, and a cold & snowy winter
Meet the Plants!

**Saguaro Cactus**
- Grows in Sonoran Desert of Arizona
- Can grow up to 70 feet tall!
- Stores water in its stem
- Can live up to 100 years old

Why do you think this plant has spines instead of leaves?

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**Sugar Maple**
- Grows all over north eastern North America
- Leaves turn red and drop every winter
- Grows to around 100 feet tall
- Can live up to 400 years!
- Produces Maple Syrup!

Do you think this tree survive in the same desert that our Saguaro can? Why or why not?