When we talk about succulents coming in all shapes and sizes, we aren't kidding! You'll have to take a good look to find this plant. It's a master of camouflage and can mimic the stones or soil of its natural habitat with the greatest of ease. Do you see what appears to be a small group of colored rocks and stones? Some are green or pink, others are gray or brown and many have beautiful markings on them. If you were a hungry or thirsty desert animal, you'd probably walk right by them. Well, take another look. Those aren't rocks. They're amazing succulents called Lithops - their nickname is “living stones.”

These remarkable plants have evolved to survive the heat and drought of the deserts of South Africa by storing water in their thick leaves. A living stone plant never has more than two leaves at any given time. But these aren't just any old leaves. The leaves are waxy, small and rounded to keep precious moisture from evaporating off their surface. Once a year they produce white or yellow daisy-like flowers. Some plants live in the cracks between rocks, others live buried under the desert sand during periods of drought. It's a good thing living stones have such a great disguise, since these succulents can live for at least 50 years or more. That's a long time to be hiding from hungry desert animals!