This plant, with its’ thin trunk and shaggy crown of leaves, *looks* kind of like a palm tree... but guess what? It’s not really a palm at all. It’s actually a member of the Lily family! But it’s still *called* a “pony tail palm.” Why do you think that is? Well maybe because the leaves resemble the ponytail hairstyle that cartoon character Pebbles Flintstone wears on top of her head.

Now take a look at the *shape* of the trunk of this plant and you might discover another name for it. Do you see how it starts out thick and round at the bottom and then gets skinnier as it goes up? That big rounded part is where this plant stores water during times of drought. Which would explain why another name for this native of the deserts of southern Mexico is the “bottle palm.”

This huge plant was actually moved out during the renovation of this greenhouse in 2003. As conservatory manager Rob Nicholson tells it, it required more than a little bit of muscle. *Rob:* “*We had to get it on a two-wheeled cart, and cart it out of here. It took about three or four guys to move, it weighs about 500 lbs!* So we were very happy that we were able to move that successfully and as you can see, it’s got a lot of new growth coming out. In another couple of years you probably won’t even be able to tell that it ever was moved. We were happy that we were able to keep that old fella alive. It’s pretty tough to kill one of these, they’re survivors.”