

Key vocabulary

Adaptation – when a plant or animal changes to better suit its environment

Arid - a place or climate with little or no rain; too dry for plants to grow.

Climate – the weather measured in a place for a long time.

Desert– an area that gets less than 250mm of rainfall every year.

Desertification - the process by which fertile land becomes desert, typically as a result of drought, deforestation, or inappropriate agriculture.

Dunes– large piles of sand that look like hills; this happens because of wind or water moving the sand around.

Erosion - the process of eroding or being eroded by wind, water, or other natural agents.

Fertile - producing or capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops.

Flash flood - a sudden local flood, typically due to heavy rain.

Inhospitable - harsh and difficult to live in.

Irrigation - people add water to plants, to help them grow when there is not enough rain.

Natural Resources - materials or substances occurring in nature

Oasis– a spot in a desert where water and plants can be found (often around a natural spring)

Overgrazing - excessive grazing which causes damage to grassland.

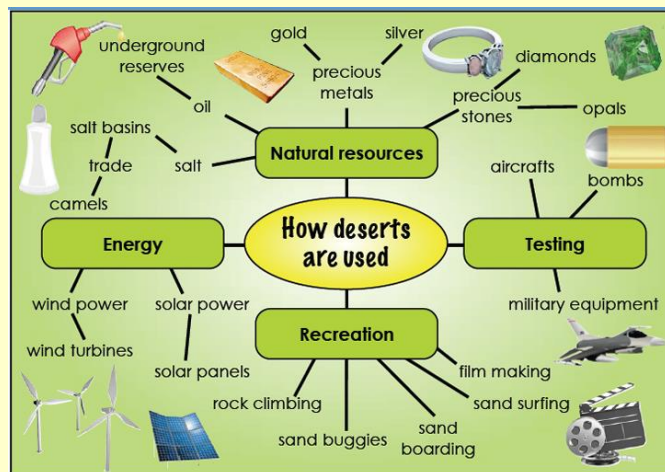
Precipitation - rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to or condenses on the ground.

Salt Flats - areas of flat land covered with a layer of salt.

In the Desert

Summer 1

Uses of Deserts



Top Takeaways

Having studied this topic you will:

- * know what deserts are and where they are located in the world
- * be able to describe the weather and climate of deserts
- * know about desert formations and be able to describe them
- * know how deserts are used by humans
- * be able to talk about people who live in deserts
- * know the causes and effects of desertification



Key Information

Deserts can be either hot or cold.

The largest hot desert in the world is the Sahara Desert in Africa – it is 9.4 million square kilometres. One of the largest cold deserts in the world is the Gobi Desert in China, which is 1.3 million square kilometres.

Temperatures in hot deserts can be up to 40-45°C, and can cool down significantly when the sun sets. At times during the year, it can get as cold as 0°C.

In cold deserts the average lowest temperatures can be well below 0°C. Both the Arctic and Antarctic are considered deserts, in fact Antarctic is the largest desert in the world.

The total surface occupied by all deserts makes up around 33% of the Earth's surface.

Desert Features

Sand Dunes

Salt Basins

Rock Formations



Desert Trade

Energy

Oil

Salt

Precious metals and Diamonds



Desertification

Desertification is the expansion of a desert into its surrounding area. Often when this expansion happens the land that people may live or farm on can become inhospitable.

