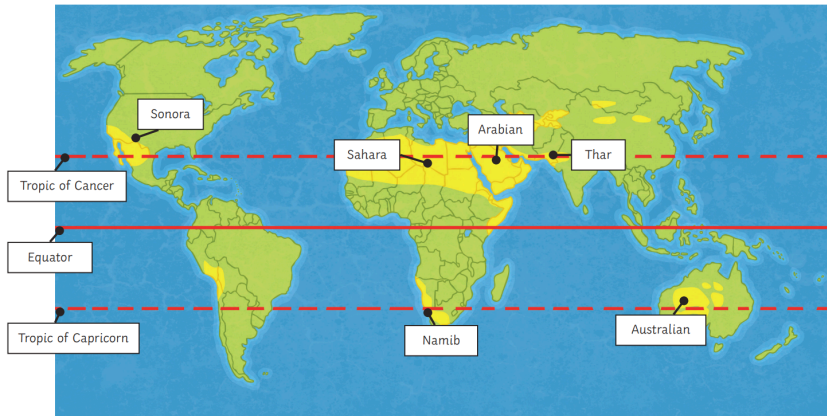


ORANGE CLASS SPRING TERM 2 TOPIC: DESERTS

Topic Overview: In this topic we will define what a desert actually is and discover that there can be deserts in cold climates as well as hot climates. We will use a world map with a key to identify the major deserts of the world. We will also find out some interesting facts about different deserts around the world. Also, we will think about some of the challenges faced by people living in deserts. We will find out how people find water in the desert and the effects that a lack of water can

Where are the world's deserts?



Hot and Cold Deserts

Deserts are very dry places. Some deserts are hot but some are very cold!
The Antarctic and the Arctic are two cold deserts!



Climate Zones

The weather changes in different parts of the world. Where there are similar weather patterns this is known as a **climate**.

At the top of the Earth there is an arctic climate and some of the coldest temperatures in the world are found here.

Temperate climates are found a bit further south, and as you approach the equator you find Mediterranean and **desert** climates. Some of the hottest places on Earth are found here, and few people live in this climate.

At the equator there is a tropical climate, and travelling south of the equator it gets cooler again before reaching the Antarctic.

Desert

A desert is an area where little or no life exists because of a lack of water. Scientists estimate that about one-fifth of the earth's land surface is desert.

Deserts can be found on every continent except Europe.

There are two different kinds: hot and dry (such as the Arabian and Sahara deserts) and cold and dry (such as Antarctica and the Gobi desert).

Special features The lack of water and intense heat or cold make this biome inhospitable to most life forms.

Animals you might find A few animals—mainly reptiles, like snakes and lizards, and amphibians, like frogs and toads—are well adapted to the hot desert.

Plants you might find Most of the plants you'll see in the desert are species of cactus.



KEY QUESTIONS:

- What are the different deserts called?
- Where in the world they are located?
- What is the weather and climate like?
- What is it like for humans living in the desert?
- How are deserts used by humans? Do plants survive in the desert? Which animals live in the deserts?



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Animal Life in the Desert

There are many animals that live in the Arabian Desert. They also have special adaptations that help them to live in the hot, dry conditions.

Camels are able to drink a lot of water at one time. They do not sweat, which helps them to conserve the water that they drink.

Other animals, such as spiny-tailed lizards, do not need to drink any water at all. They have glands that help them to keep hydrated.

Arabian oryx and sand gazelle survive the heat of the desert by grazing at cooler times of the day and finding shade from the heat during the day.



Desert Plants

Desert plants do not need much water.


They have thick leaves or spiky spines.

They have long roots to find water.



Desert Animals

Deserts are hot and dry but many animals do live there!



Opportunities for Enrichment : The library, to find books about contrasting deserts. A beach or park with a sand pit to create your own sand sculpture. West Midland Safari Park have animals that live in the desert. Birmingham Botanical Gardens have a wide range of plants that have adapted to survive in different conditions.

Online resources:

- What is a desert habitat? - BBC Bitesize
- Deserts 101 | National Geographic - Bing video
- Wild Arabia - Hidden Deep in the Desert |
- Wonders of the Wildlife (Nat Geo Wild) - Bing video
- Amazing Ways to Live in the Desert! - Bing video

Books to support available to buy or borrow from the library:

