

DESERT

Deserts are the driest places on Earth. Desert is a region that gets very little rain each year. There aren't only hot deserts that are covered with sand. There are cold deserts covered with snow and ice.

Hot deserts are mostly in the subtropics. By day, deserts can be extremely hot but at night they can be freezingly cold. The largest hot desert in the world is the Sahara in North Africa. It is almost as large as Europe or the United States. Deserts cover about 20 percent of Earth's land surface. They are found on every continent. Deserts have a big variety of land features such as shifting sand, mountains, bare rock, dunes, plains of gravel and boulders.

Animals and plants adapted to survive in this dry climate. Some plants have special roots that help them absorb water while other plants like Mesquite grass have very small leaves that curl up in the daytime to conserve the water. Desert animals include camels, gazelles, snakes, lizards, and small rodents. Most desert animals stay underground or beneath shady rocks during the day and come out to hunt for food at night.

OASIS

An oasis is an isolated place in the desert where there is vegetation. Oasis is usually found where an underground water source exists. Oases provide a habitat for animals and are used as a source of water for humans. Oases also provide rest, shade, food, and water for nomads as they travel their territory. The knowledge of the location of oases has been important for trade and transportation routes in desert areas. Political or military control of an oasis means control of trade on a particular route. Some people even think that oases are sacred places.



1. Choose the correct answer according to the text:

1. What are cold deserts are covered with?

A) Cold deserts are covered with rock.

B) Cold deserts are covered with sand.

C) Cold deserts are covered with snow.

2. What is the biggest hot desert in the world?

A) The Sahara Desert

B) The Gobi Desert

C) The Arabian Desert

3. How much surface do deserts cover?

A) Deserts cover about 10% of Earth's surface.

B) Deserts cover about 20% of Earth's surface.

C) Deserts cover about 15% of Earth's surface.

4. How big is the Sahara desert?

A) It is as big as New-York or Los Angeles.

B) It is as big as Australia or New Zealand.

C) It is as big as Europe or the USA.

5. Where do desert animals stay during the day?

A) They stay near the water.

B) They stay near the shade.

C) They stay in the forest.

6. Where are oases usually found?

A) They are found near the source of water.

B) They are found near the big cities.

C) They are found near the mountains.

7. What do oases provide to people and animals?

A) Oases provide a safe place from animals.

B) Oases provide a place to keep warm.

C) Oases provide food and a habitat.

8. What does control of an oasis mean?

A) It means control of trade in this region.

B) It means a safe place from wild animals.

C) It means control of natural resources there.

1. Complete the sentences:

1. By day, deserts can be extremely .

2. The largest hot desert in the is the Sahara.

3. Deserts have a big variety of features.

4. Deserts cover 20 of Earth's land surface.

5. Animals and plants adapted to in deserts.

6. Desert animals stay underground during the .

7. Oasis is found where a source exists.

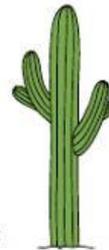
8. Oases provide a habitat for .

9. Control of an oasis means control of in this area.

10. Some plants have special to absorb water.

11. Deserts are found in every .

12. Some people even think that oases are places.



water

land

animals

sacred

hot

roots

continent

world

survive

percent

trade

day