

# The Desert

## What Is a Desert?

A desert is a place where it is normally very hot and dry during the day, and sometimes very cold at night. Normally it has a lot of sand or rocks and hardly ever rains.



## Different Types of Desert

There are two types of deserts; a very hot desert and a very cold desert. Antarctica is the world's largest desert. The hottest desert in the world is the Sahara Desert. It is located in Africa and it has mostly sand and rock.



## The Arabian Desert

The Arabian Desert is in the continent of Asia. It stretches across 8 different countries: The UAE, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar.

## Plant Life in the Desert

Agave, cactus, yucca and the aloe are some of the plants that grow in the desert. Some plants have thick stems to store water, such as cactus plants. Others have deep roots that are widespread to collect moisture from the ground.



## Desert Animals

Camels, Arabian oryx, spiny-tailed lizard and sand gazelle are all animals that live in the desert. Camels survive by drinking a lot of water at one time. They do not sweat, which helps them to conserve the water that they drink. Many animals like the 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.

# Questions

1. What is a desert?
2. Describe the two different types of desert.
3. What is the name of the hottest desert in the world?
4. Name three countries that the Arabian Desert stretches across.
5. Name 3 animals that live in the desert.

# Answers

1. What is a desert?

**A desert is a place where it very hot and dry during the day, and sometimes very cold at night. It has a lot of sand or rocks and hardly ever rains.**

2. Describe the two different types of desert.

**A very hot desert and a very cold desert**

3. What is the name of the hottest desert in the world?

**The hottest desert in the world is the Sahara Desert.**

4. Name three countries that the Arabian Desert stretches across.

**Any 3 of the following possible answers: The UAE, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar.**

5. Name 3 animals that live in the desert.

**Any 3 of the following possible answers: camel, Arabian oryx, spiny-tailed lizard, sand gazelle.**

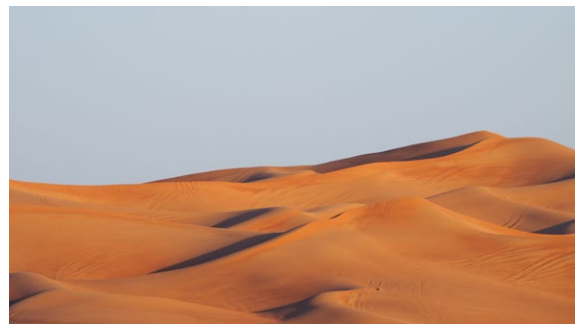
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## Different Types of Desert

Most people think that deserts are always hot. However, there are two types of deserts; a very hot desert and a very cold desert. Did you know, Antarctica is the world's largest desert! This might seem strange as it is not a hot place. However, it is considered a desert because the precipitation (rainfall, snowfall etc.) is very low. It does snow in Antarctica, but not as much as you would think. On average, it may only snow about 8-12 inches in a whole year. The hottest desert in the world is the Sahara Desert. It is located in Africa and it has mostly sand and rock.



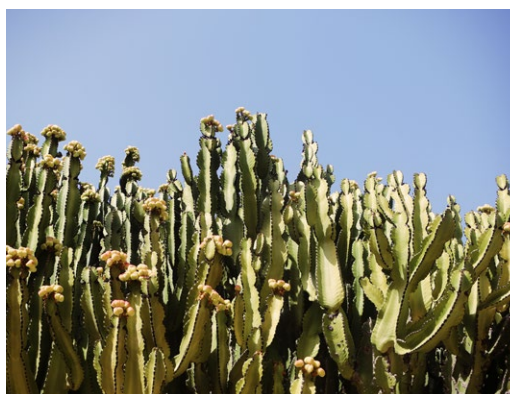
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## Plant Life in the Desert

Although the desert is very hot and there is very little rain, plants do grow there. These plants have special adaptations that help them to survive the hot and dry conditions. Agave, cactus, yucca and the aloe are some of the plants that grow in the desert.

Some plants have thick stems to store water, such as cactus plants. Others have deep roots that are widespread to collect moisture from the ground. Some varieties of cactus, have round stems to conserve water. Many plants have spines instead of leaves, to reduce water lost through evaporation.



## Desert Animals

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. 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.



6. Name two animals that can be found in the desert.

7. Describe the adaptations that help camels to survive in the desert.

# Answers

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2. Describe the two different types of desert.

**A very hot desert and a very cold desert**

3. In which continent is the Arabian Desert?

**The Arabian Desert is in Asia.**

4. Name two types of plants that grow in the desert.

**Possible answers: cactus, aloe, yucca, agave.**

5. Describe two adaptations of plants that help them to survive in the desert.

**Possible answers:**

- **thick stems to store water**
- **deep roots that are widespread to collect moisture from the ground**
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6. Name two animals that can be found in the desert.

**Possible answers: camel, oryx, sand gazelle, spiny-tailed lizard**

7. Describe the adaptations that help camels to survive in the desert.

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

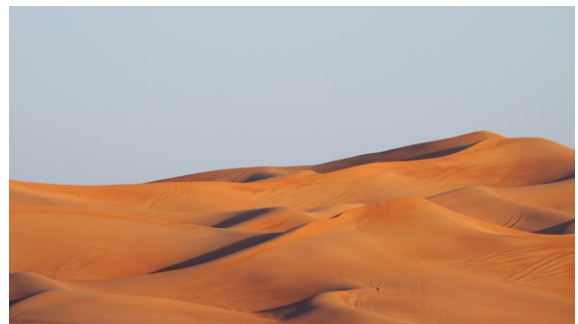
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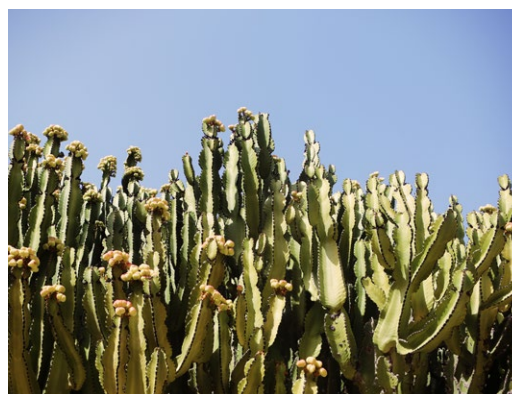
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# Questions

1. What is a desert?
2. Describe the two different types of desert.
3. In which continent is the Arabian Desert?
4. Name two types of plants that grow in the desert.
5. Describe two adaptations of plants that help them to survive in the desert.

6. Name three animals that can be found in the desert.

7. Describe the adaptations that help camels to survive in the desert.

8. Why is Antarctica considered to be a 'desert'?

# Answers

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2. Describe the two different types of desert.

**A very hot desert and a very cold desert**

3. In which continent is the Arabian Desert?

**The Arabian Desert is in Asia.**

4. Name 2 types of plants that grow in the desert.

**Possible answers: cactus, aloe, yucca, agave.**

5. Describe 2 adaptations of plants that help them to survive in the desert.

**Possible answers:**

- **thick stems to store water**
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6. Name 3 animals that can be found in the desert.

**Possible answers: camel, oryx, sand gazelle, spiny-tailed lizard**

7. Describe the adaptations that help camels to survive in the desert.

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

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