

Name: _____

Desert Challenge

Dykens

A number of words have been removed from the text and placed in a word bank. Use the words from the word bank to fill in the blanks in the text. Write the words in the blanks provided.

The Desert is one of the [1]_____ biomes. The word desert means [2]_____. The desert gets a minimal amount of [3]_____ which is why it's one of the driest [4]_____. There are both [5]_____ and [6]_____ deserts. Survival in the desert is difficult due to the extreme [7]_____ and the dryness. One fifth of the [8]_____ is a Desert biome.

Deserts are found along coastlines and also within continents. Hot deserts are found in [9]_____ America, [10]_____ America, North Africa, Central Australia and Cold deserts are found in the Antarctic, Greenland and Central Asia.

Deserts get less than 25 cm or 10 in of rain per year.

[11]_____ rates are faster than rainfall rates which keeps the desert very dry. In some deserts, rain doesn't fall for years. Cold deserts although still dry, get more [12]_____ (which is in the form of snow or

fog) than the hot deserts. In hot deserts, daytime temperatures can be over 38°C and 100° F in the daytime and below -4°C and 25° F in the evening. Temperatures in cold deserts are usually between 0°C and 4°C or 32°F and 39° F.

In the hot deserts, the seasons are warm throughout the year and very hot in the [13]_____. In the cold deserts there are long cold winters and short warmer summers. The cold deserts are cold most of the time.

Desert animals tend to get their water from [14]_____. They have a thick outer coats, they tend to have larger ears and they will [15]_____ through the day. Many desert animal have adapted to this harsh environment by being [16]_____. Examples of animals in the desert are rattlesnakes, jack rabbits, lizards, and kit foxes. There are also reptiles, scorpions and grasshoppers.

The soil is [17]_____ and rocky. Plants typically have few [18]_____ and thick roots to help them retain [19]_____ in the dry climate. The dessert has cacti, smaller bushes and grasses .

rain	temperatures	north	burrow
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earth	summer	south	food
hot	driest	rainfall	abandoned
evaporation	coarse	nocturnal	leaves
biomes	moisture	cold	

Dykens

The Desert: Plant and Animal Adaptations

Dykens

Plants and animals living in the desert must be able to adapt to extreme heat and dryness, and the desert's harsh environment. The deserts are very hot during the day but will cool during the evening. There is constant sunlight almost daily. Plants and animals also need to be able to adapt to strong winds, limited access to water and extreme temperatures. (*The Antarctica is also considered a desert due to the lack of vegetation, however, it is not included here.*)

Plant Adaptations in the Desert Biome

In order for plants to survive in the desert, they have adaptations that allow them to collect and store water and moisture and, prevent moisture loss. The plants in the desert biome store water in their roots, stem, leaves, or fruit. Plants called succulents store water in their stems or leaves. Some of the desert plants have roots that grow deep enough in the ground that they are able to reach the water. Small, spiny leaves of the desert plants prevent evaporation, helping them to retain moisture. Some plants have glossy leaves that will reflect the sun's rays which also help them retain moisture. Some plants have a short life cycle, they grow, flower, germinate and die within a year. Some plants will shrink in size during dry times which allow them to use the stored moisture. The plants are often slower growing types which require less energy (*food and water*).

Examples of Plants found in the Desert:

Sage Bushes, Creosote Bushes, Cacti, Lupine, Indian Paintbrush, Prickly Poppies, Chia, Ghost Flower, Desert Chickory, Prickly Pears, Dragon Trees, Desert Spoons.

Animal Adaptations in the Desert Biome

Animals of the desert need to adapt to intense heat and lack of water and shelters. Many of the desert animals are only active during the evening when the temperatures are cooler. Other animals burrow during the day to avoid the harsh conditions during the day. It is difficult for large animals to survive the desert due to the lack of shelter to hide from prey. Some animals don't need to drink water as they get all the water they need from the insects, plants and seeds that they eat. Many desert animals don't have sweat glands which lets them retain moisture eliminating the need to drink. Birds have feathers that keep them insulated from the strong heat of the sun. Some rodents have specialized kidneys that return their water to the bloodstream instead of losing it through urination.

Examples of Animals found in the Desert:

Desert animals include many reptiles, insects, birds and small mammals. Camels, Frogs, Lizards, Bobcats, Golden Eagles, Kangaroo Rats, Spadefoot Toads.

Name: _____

Biomes

The Desert Biome

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Complete the following questions about the Desert.

1. Name five animals that are found in the Desert Biome: _____

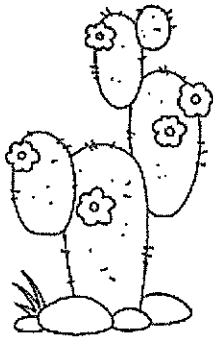
2. Provide 3 locations for the Desert Biome: _____

3. Identify the way 3 animals adapt in the Desert Biome: _____

4. Describe the weather in the Desert: _____

5. Describe plant life and how plants adapt in the Desert: _____

6. Identify the major threats to the Desert: _____



Name: _____

Desert Biome Word Search

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At the bottom of the page is a list of words. These words are hidden in the puzzle. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally - frontwards or backwards. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

h	z	a	l	d	r	y	l	w	c	a	c	t	u	s	w	q	u	e	v
c	o	o	a	c	j	c	a	c	t	i	d	p	l	x	v	u	k	x	o
o	k	f	w	c	m	s	u	b	t	r	o	p	i	c	a	l	e	l	t
h	n	i	s	m	h	d	g	b	m	m	s	o	t	s	e	n	a	i	g
c	p	u	l	i	a	v	r	d	f	j	r	p	w	a	v	m	h	z	c
g	y	m	c	u	r	v	h	m	q	n	a	c	g	h	a	r	a	a	r
b	i	o	m	e	s	u	f	g	a	a	d	o	u	a	p	r	d	r	d
k	c	w	m	y	h	b	p	w	l	q	v	a	s	r	o	p	a	d	e
e	e	h	e	q	e	i	d	u	u	h	y	s	c	a	r	m	p	s	s
s	b	q	y	c	s	j	v	d	q	q	h	t	o	m	a	u	t	c	e
j	w	a	c	o	l	d	d	j	q	c	d	a	r	n	t	p	a	c	r
t	i	q	h	i	j	e	t	h	o	t	u	l	p	w	i	j	t	p	t
i	n	u	i	n	t	e	r	i	o	r	n	m	i	q	o	w	i	n	d
i	d	u	x	m	s	b	y	z	o	x	e	x	o	e	n	g	o	f	z
b	y	l	m	a	r	i	d	w	o	v	s	x	n	b	v	l	n	s	w
w	b	x	l	c	y	b	b	l	r	n	r	s	s	p	u	y	s	z	b

interior	coastal	cold	wind
arid	evaporation	cactus	hot
subtropical	sahara	cacti	lizards
dunes	desert	scorpions	adaptations
harsh	windy	dry	biome