



Year 6 Deserts



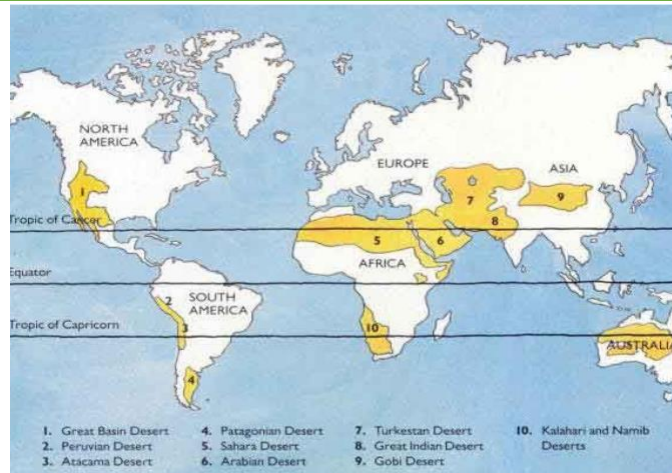
Animal adaptations

- Animals find clever ways to adapt- some are nocturnal and others can go days without drinking.
- Some have large fat stores (e.g. a camel's hump allows it to go for days without food and water).
- Some animals (e.g. the desert tortoise) spend much of their time underground.
- Some animals have large ears (e.g. fennec foxes) or long limbs to allow more heat loss.
- The Dorcas gazelle can go without drinking for its entire lifetime, but when water is available, it does drink.



Sticky Knowledge

- **Desert biomes** are dry areas that receive very little rain. They can be hot or cold. Most hot deserts are found near the **equator**.
- The largest hot desert in the world is the **Sahara**. Only the Antarctica and Arctic deserts, which are cold deserts, are bigger than the Sahara.
- The Sahara desert is located in North Africa and is the hottest large area on Earth.
- Around 2.5 million people inhabit the Sahara. Most people in the desert are **nomads** or people who move place to place, but they raise sheep, goats and camels. They move in their tents when the grass is eaten in a place. They usually settle in or near an **oasis**. Some people raise crops on **irrigated** land.



Plant adaptations

- Plants have either shallow, wide roots to catch as much water as possible when it rains or long roots to tap into deep underground water.
- Small leaves reduce the amount of water lost through transpiration.
- Succulents (e.g. cacti) have large, fleshy stems for storing water.
- Many plants have thick, waxy skin to stop transpiration.
- Some plants have spines and toxins to stop animals from stealing their water.

Key Vocabulary

climate	A description of the average weather conditions in a certain place.
equator	An imaginary circle around the middle of the Earth.
irrigation	The artificial supply of water to agricultural land.
biome	Areas of our planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants.
desert	Dry areas that receive very little rain.
species	A group of animals, plants or other living things that all share common characteristics. <i>From the Latin species (appearance)</i>
inhabit	To live or dwell in a place.
fertile	Land or soil that is fertile is able to support the growth of a large number of strong healthy plants.
nomad	A member of a people having no permanent home but moving from place to place usually in search of food or to graze livestock. <i>From Latin nomas (wandering shepherd)</i>
population	The whole number of people living in a country, city, or area.
oasis	A place in a desert where water comes up to the surface from deep underground.
nocturnal	An animal that is active during the night and sleeps during the day.
adaptation	A special skill which helps an animal to survive and do everything it needs to do. They can be physical changes to the animals body or behavioural changes in how an individual animal or a society do things in their daily lives.