

What is the biome in the Sahara Desert?

In this unit, children will identify the different climate zones and vegetation belts on a map.

Children will learn what a desert is and where the major deserts of the world are, as well exploring the physical and human geography of the desert biome. With a specific focus on the Sahara Desert, children will learn about how temperatures vary from night to day and season to season, and use graphs and charts to analyse desert climates. Find out about some of the ways in which deserts are used by humans.

In this unit children will:

- Describe what the weather in different climate zones.
- Use different maps to identify and name the major deserts of the world.
- Find the equator on a map.
- Name some countries where deserts are found.
- Label a map to show countries where deserts are found.
- Identify human and physical features of a desert.
- Explore and compare the various climates of deserts around the world.
- Use graphs and charts to analyse desert climates.
- Name natural resources found in deserts.
- Explain desertification is and why it is happening to deserts around the world.
- Tell you more about one animal living in a desert.
- Compare two deserts.

Prior Learning

Year 1 Hot and Cold Countries

Year 2 Australia (Climate)

Cross Curricular Links

History Ancient Egypt

Key Vocabulary

Biome - Areas of our planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants.

Climate - a description of the average weather conditions in a certain place.

Desert - Dry areas that receive very little rain.

Desertification - the process by which fertile land becomes desert, typically as a result of drought, deforestation, or inappropriate agriculture.

Equator - an imaginary circle around the middle of the Earth.

Fertile - Land or soil that is fertile is able to support the growth of a large number of strong healthy plants.

Human features - features of land that have been impacted by human activity.

Inhabit - To live or dwell in a place.

Irrigation - the artificial supply of water to agricultural land.

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.

Physical features - natural features of land.

Population - The whole number of people living in a country, city, or area.

Species - s group of animals, plants or

Key Knowledge

- The three major climate zones on the Earth are the polar, temperate, and tropical zones.
- Desert biomes are dry areas that receive very little rain.
- Land is called 'desert' if it gets less than 250mm of rain every year.
- Deserts can be hot or cold. Most hot deserts are found near the equator.
- One-third of the land on Earth is covered in deserts!
- One of the largest cold deserts in the world (the Arctic deserts are the largest) is the Gobi Desert in China, which is 1.3 million square kilometres.
- The largest hot desert in the world is the Sahara Desert in Africa – it is 9.4 million square kilometres.
- Only the Antarctica and Arctic deserts, which are cold deserts, are bigger than the Sahara.
- 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.
- Some cities have been built in deserts such



- Plants and animals that live in the desert have had to adapt to the conditions there. This means they either do not need much water to stay alive or can conserve water very well, and that they can handle very hot and/or very cold temperatures.

Camels

- Camels have fat stored in their humps, so they can go for days without food and water. This natural ability makes them especially useful as a form of transport across the desert.

Key Questions

- Can you locate the equator on a map?
- What are the different climate zones?
- Can you describe the climate in the Sahara Desert?
- What natural resources are found in the deserts?
- On a map can you locate 5 different deserts?
- How have animals adapted to living in deserts?