



DESERTS

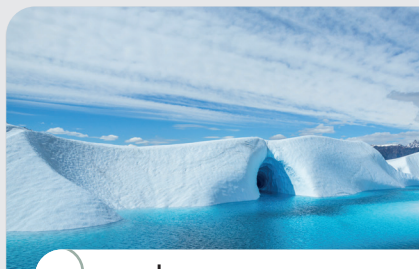
A1+

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

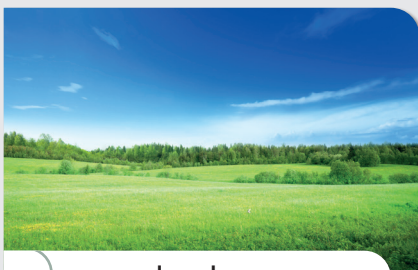
A There are many different habitats on Earth where animals and plants live. Look at the pictures and tick the habitats you know about.



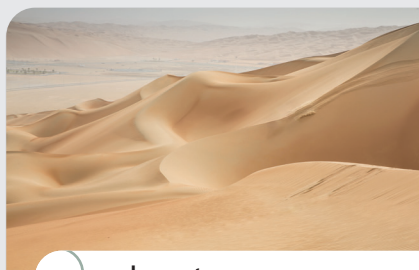
rainforests



polar areas



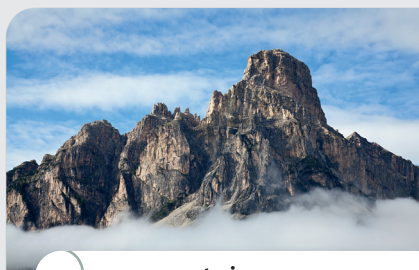
grasslands



deserts



oceans



mountains

B Match the words to the pictures and use them to fill in the blanks.

1 oasis

2 dune field

3 camels

4 Antarctica

5 cactus

6 farm



a



b



c



d



e



f

- 1 _____ is a continent, but nobody lives in it.
- 2 Natalie lives in a(n) _____ outside of the city, and she grows her own food.
- 3 The _____ plant needs very little water to survive.
- 4 A(n) _____ covers half of this desert.
- 5 _____ look like they are always smiling!
- 6 Desert animals usually live near a(n) _____.

CHAPTER 1



WHAT IS A DESERT?

Before Reading

*What do you know about deserts?
Do you know how large they are?*

A desert is a type of habitat. They are very dry, and they get little rain. They have less rain in a year than they give to the air. They get less than 25 cm of rainfall a year. Sometimes it doesn't rain in a desert for years.

Deserts cover almost one-fifth of the Earth. They can be hot or cold. Hot deserts have very **extreme**¹ temperatures. In the daytime they are very hot. But at night-time, they can be freezing cold. The largest hot desert in the world is the Sahara Desert in northern Africa. It covers 9 million square kilometres.

There are also cold deserts. Antarctica is one of them. It is the largest cold desert in the world. It is in the South Pole. Atacama in South America is a cold desert too, and it is sometimes frozen. It is one of the driest places on the Earth.

Desert Types

Deserts are mostly in the western part of the Americas, Western Asia, Central Australia, and South and North Africa. They have various surfaces. These can be stones, sand dunes, rocky plains, oases, and snow.

A dune is a hill of sand, and usually winds make them. Dunes happen in some deserts and beaches. Sand dunes are giant hills of sand. They can have different forms and sizes. They can change with the wind. Sometimes they go **downwind**². A “dune field” is an area that has many sand dunes.



Rocky plains are very flat and dusty. Wind and water usually move sand in those areas. So, there is very little sand in rocky plains. There are mostly rocks and large stones.

Oases are pools of water in the middle of deserts. They come from underground **streams**³. Those streams push up through the ground. Oases give animals a space to live in desert. There are also plants in these areas.

¹ **extreme:** very great.

² **downwind:** if something goes downwind, it goes the same way as the wind.

³ **stream:** a small river.



DISCUSS

Did you know there were cold deserts before reading this text? Would you like to visit a cold or a hot desert?



INTERNET PROJECT

DESERT ANIMALS

There are many animals that live in deserts. Go online to find three animals other than the ones in this book, and fill in the charts with the information about them.

Animal 1

Name : _____

Characteristics : _____

Where they live : _____

What they eat : _____

Animal 2

Name : _____

Characteristics : _____

Where they live : _____

What they eat : _____

Animal 3

Name : _____

Characteristics : _____

Where they live : _____

What they eat : _____

DESERT TOURS

You can go and explore some deserts with special cars on some tours. Go online and find a tour similar to the one below.

2-DAY SAHARA DESERT TOUR



Highlights:

Cross the High Atlas Mountains, and Tizi Ntichka pass.

Visit Casbah Ait Ben Haddou (UNESCO World Heritage site).

Drive along Draa Valley to see its palm tree plantations.

Enjoy a fascinating Zagora desert sunset camel ride.

Spend the night in a desert camp in Zagora desert.

Visit Ouarzazate the Gate to Morocco's Sahara Desert.

Up to 10 people can join.
Price per person: €60

Highlights:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



Up to people can join.
Price per person: €....

GENERAL EXERCISES

COMPREHENSION CHECK

A Answer the questions below.

- 1 Why are the deserts dry?

- 2 Which parts of the world have desert on them?

- 3 How does a cactus keep the water in its body?

- 4 Why do desert animals use poison to kill their prey?

- 5 What are the temperatures like in the desert?

- 6 How many people live in the Sahara, and how do they usually live?

**B**

Listen and fill in the blanks with the correct information.

- 1 According to the text, _____ and _____ are cold deserts.
- 2 Unlike dune fields, rocky plains are very _____.
- 3 _____ cover one-fourth of the Sahara Desert.
- 4 Saharan people can get gold or coal from _____ in the Sahara Desert.
- 5 We can't see many surfaces in Antarctica because they are all covered in _____.
- 6 Antarctica is almost a(n) _____ desert. Only scientists go there for research and a few plants grow in the summer.

GLOSSARY

border: (noun) a line between two countries that separates them

- ▶ *The country shares its **border** with eight countries.*

cattle: (noun) cows and bulls

- ▶ *My grandparents have a **cattle** farm near to the city.*

chain: (noun) a group of things in a line

- ▶ *Many people come to see this **chain** of islands.*

cover: (verb) to make a layer over something

- ▶ *The clouds **covered** the sky.*

droplet: (noun) a very small round-shaped liquid

- ▶ ***Droplets** of water fell down the roof.*

dusty: (adjective) being covered with dust

- ▶ *He cleaned the **dusty** desk and started to work.*

flat: (adjective) level and smooth, with no curved, high, or hollow parts

- ▶ *The floor should be **flat**.*

freezing: (adjective) very cold

- ▶ *It is **freezing** out there. Wear your coat!*

habitat: (noun) the natural environment of an animal or a plant

- ▶ *Animals in zoos do not live in their natural **habitat**.*

herd: (noun) large group of animals of the same kind that live together

- ▶ *Buffalos live in **herds** and they move together.*

hump: (noun) the high rounded part on a camel's back

- ▶ *Camels have fat in their **humps**.*

invent: (verb) to make or create something for the first time that has never existed before.

- ▶ *In the past, people **invented** some systems to carry water to their homes.*

ENGLISH**GERMAN****SPANISH****Chapter 1**

cover	bedecken	abrigar
dusty	verstaubt	polvoriento
flat	platt	plano
freezing	eisig	helador
habitat	Habitat	habitat
underground	unterirdisch	subterráneo
various	verschieden	varios

Chapter 2

herd	Gruppe	manada
hump	Stinklaune	jaroba
poison	Gift	veneno
prey	Beute	presa
protect	schützen	proteger
rodent	Nagetier	roedor
root	Wurzel	raíz
stem	Stengel	tallo
survive	überleben	sobrevivir
thorn	Dorn	espinas

Chapter 3

chain	Fessel	cadena
lifeless	entseelt	desvitalizado
secret	Heimlich	secreto
soil	Erde	tierra
southernmost	südlichst	lo mas al sur

Chapter 4

border	Bordüre	frontera
cattle	Rind	ganado vacuno
crop	Ernte	trigos cultiuo
droplet	Tröpfchen	gotita
invent	erfinden	inventar
research	Forschung	investigación