

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School – Knowledge Organiser



Geography

In the desert

Year 3

What should I already know?

- Deserts are the driest places on Earth.
- There are very few animals and plants that live there.



Key Skills

- I will find out what deserts are and where in the world they are located.
- I will investigate the weather and climate of deserts.
- I will find out about desert formations.
- I will find out how deserts are used by humans.
- I will find out about people who live in deserts.
- I will find out about the causes and effects of desertification.

Vocabulary & Explanation

Desert- an area that gets less than 250mm of rainfall every year.

Arid- a way to describe the dry climate in places like deserts, where there isn't much access to water.

Dunes- large piles of sand that look like hills; this happens because of wind or water moving the sand around.

Oasis- a spot in a desert where water and plants can be found (often around a natural spring)

Climate - the weather measured in a place for a long time.

Desertification - the expansion of desert into the surroundings areas.

Overgrazing - allow animals to graze (an area, such as a pasture) to the point of damaging vegetational cover.

Irrigation - people add water to plants, to help them grow when there is not enough rain.

Key Information

Deserts can be in hot or cold.

The largest hot desert in the world is the **Sahara Desert in Africa** - it is 9.4 million square kilometres.

One of the largest cold deserts in the world is the **Gobi Desert in China**, which is 1.3 million square kilometres.

Temperatures in hot deserts can be up to 40-45°C, and it cools down a lot at nights when the sun sets. At times during the year, it can even get as cold as 0°C.

In cold deserts the average lowest temperatures can be well below 0°C.

Both the Arctic and Antarctic are considered as deserts, in fact Antarctic is the largest desert in the world



Did you know?

Compared to deserts, the UK gets around 1m of rain, so 250mm really isn't very much at all!

The total surface occupied by all the deserts makes up around 33% of the Earth's surface.

Both the word 'sahara' and 'gobi' mean desert in the local languages, so they both really have the same name - Desert!

The driest desert is the Atacama Desert in Chile. It only gets 1mm of rain in an entire year!

Animals living in the desert



Fennec Fox



Camel



Jerboa

There are many more you can discover!

Major deserts in the world



Sahara Desert in Africa



Gobi Desert in China



Atacama Desert in Chile



Kalahari Desert in Africa