

DESERTS - KEY

1. What is the climate like in a desert ? Describe! **very hot in the summer months; big difference between daytime and night temperatures; rainfall below 200 mm per year**
2. Hot and wet air rises over the **equator** and sinks over **the Tropic of Cancer** and **the Tropic of Capricorn** .
3. What are trade winds ? **tropical winds that blow to the equator from the northeast and southeast**
4. Why are there deserts near the coast of South America and Africa ? **cold water moves along the coast towards the equator and prevents air from rising and forming clouds**
5. What material are most deserts made up of ? **gravel, rocks; only ten per cent of deserts are made up of sand**
6. What happens to rivers and lakes in the desert? **water evaporates and salt and other minerals come to the surface**
7. What kind of life goes on in an oasis ? **underground water comes to the surface; permanent settlements; people plant crops and raise animals**
8. How do people who live in the desert protect themselves ? **houses are painted white; people wear long white coats to protect themselves from the sun and wind.**
9. Where do desert plants keep their water ? **in needles and in thin stems**
10. At which time of day are most desert animals active ? **they stay in the shade during the daytime and are active at mostly at night when it is cooler**
11. Why are camels fit to live in the desert ? **they can go on for days without food and water**
12. What are ergs ? **sandy plains**
13. Where do the Tuareg live and what do they do ? **they are a mountainous tribe that live in the central Sahara**
14. Which large river flows through the Sahara desert ? **the Nile**
15. What was the climate of the Sahara like during the Ice Age ? **a much wetter climate with lakes and rivers, grasslands and forests**
16. Why is the Sahara desert still growing today ? **people destroy fertile land; too many animals are raised and the few trees that are left are cut down**
17. Which raw materials are located in the Sahara desert ? **oil and gas, copper, iron ore**
18. Where can you find polar deserts? **Antarctic and arctic regions**