

How do Humans Use Deserts?

Even though deserts can be hard to live in, they provide many resources and other uses for humans. Here are a few of them.

<p>Salt Salt can be collected from the salt basins.</p>	<p>Oil Oil is one of the most valuable resources found in deserts.</p>	<p>Minerals There are many precious minerals that can be mined from deserts such as gold, silver and copper.</p>	<p>Diamonds Diamonds can be found in some deserts.</p>	<p>Military Testing Deserts can be used for testing dangerous equipment.</p>	<p>Generating Energy Because they are often windy and hot, deserts are ideal for generating renewable energy.</p>	<p>Extreme Sports Deserts are popular places for trying different extreme sports like rock climbing.</p>
						

Desert Cities



What Causes Desertification?

Human behaviour often causes desertification. Over grazing the land and cutting down trees are two causes.

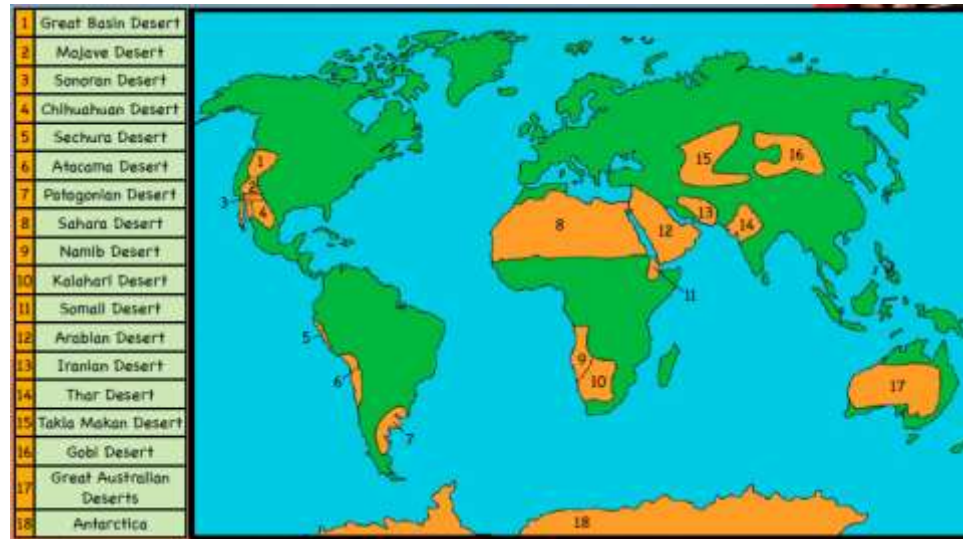


Key Vocabulary

Desert	A desert is defined as a place that gets less than 250ml of rainfall a year.
Continent	There are 7 continents in the world: Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Australia, Antarctica and Aisa.
Climate	Climate describes what the weather is like over a long period of time.
Arid	Arid places are very dry with very little rain.
Sand Dunes	These are formed when wind moves sand particles to form mounds.
Erosion	This happens when rain and wind cause rocks to move and change shape.
Salt Basins	These are formed when water evaporates and leaves the salt behind.
Desertification	This happens when an area that is already dry becomes a desert.

Where in the World Can We Find Deserts?

Deserts can be found all of the world's seven continents. You can see some of them on this map.



What is it like in a desert?

Climate	Water	Soils	Plants	Animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very hot during the day (e.g. 45°C). Cold at night (e.g. 5°C). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very little rainfall (less than 250mm a year). Rain is infrequent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shallow lacks nutrients (due to lack of humus) dry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sparse low bushes cacti Many hot desert plants only appear after the rain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lizards, snakes, scorpions and insects Small, nocturnal mammals, e.g. meerkat.