

DESERT



What is a habitat?

All living things need air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, and shelter for protection. *The place where living things get what they need to live is called a **habitat**.*

Trace the word that names the habitat in which you live.



city

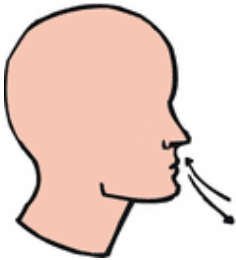


country



suburb

Trace the words that name the things you need to live.



air



food



computer



toys



shelter



water

Deserts (teacher copy)

A desert is a land that receives very little rain. The desert is very dry and usually very hot. It is hard to find food and water.

We usually think of a desert as very hot and covered with sand, but some deserts are cold and covered in snow! Sometimes cold deserts are called tundra. The largest cold desert is the continent of Antarctica.

The desert looks like it has no life in it, but the desert is full of life. It is home to many animals, plants, and people.

Many different plants live in the desert: trees, shrubs, cactus, wildflowers, and grass. All plants need water; since there is very little water in the desert, plants must conserve, or save, water. The leaves of some desert trees curl up during the hottest parts of the day to save water.

Most trees lose their leaves when the leaves die, but the dead leaves of the Joshua tree don't fall off. The leaves shade the trunk from the hot sun.

A lot of water can escape from a plant through its leaves so some desert plants have small leaves or spines to save water. Cacti store water in their spongy tissues and have thick, waxy skins which hold water in.

In hot deserts, animals hide under rocks or in burrows during the day and come out at night when it is cooler. To live in the dry land, desert animals need very little water. They get the water they need from the plants and animals they eat or from watering holes.

The most well-known desert animal is the camel. Camels store food in their humps. They can feed off this food for weeks and drink little or no water. Other animals that live in the deserts are: scorpion, vulture, road runner, centipede, tarantula, sidewinder, coyote, bobcat, jack rabbit.

Some people that live in deserts are nomads. Nomads are people that travel from place to place looking for food and have tents for homes. Other desert dwellers build homes out of mud, clay, and stone. These people build around water. There are also people who live in caves.

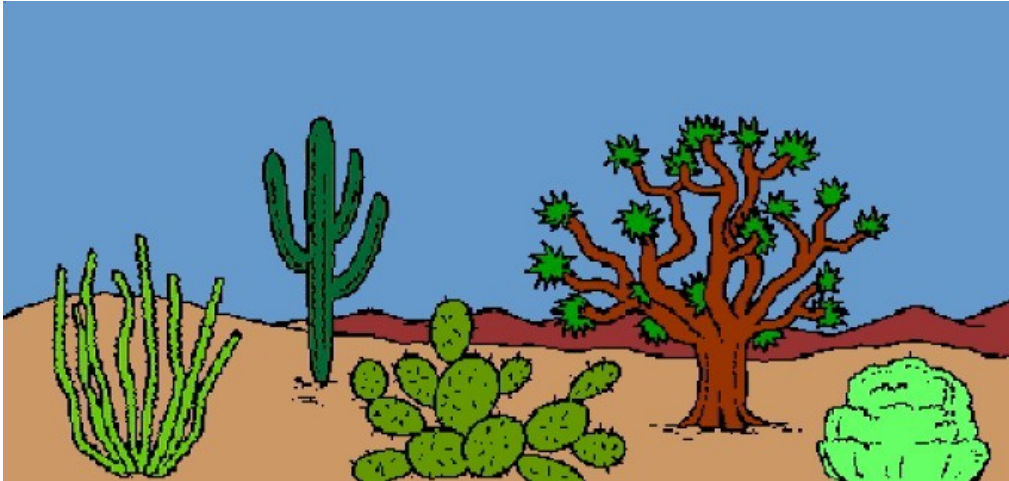
People who live in the desert wear long robes to protect them from the sun. In colder deserts, they wear thick animal skins. People in the desert eat cactus and fruit from cactus, roots, and seeds. They also kill wild animals such as deer, antelope, and rabbits for meat.

[Desert Plants reading comprehension](http://www.tlsbooks.com/desertplants.pdf)

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