

DESERTS



We think of deserts as being hot, but some of them are cold. What deserts *are* is dry. Any place that gets less than 25cm (10in) of rain or snow per year (such as the Antarctic ice sheet) is a desert.

WARM DESERTS

The thing about hot deserts is that they're hot all the time - cold deserts can be frosty in winter and boiling in summer. There is not much moisture, so there are very few clouds. At night, with no cloud "blanket", the temperature can drop dramatically.

DESERT ANIMALS

From insects and reptiles to huge mammals, most desert animals have highly specialised characteristics that are precisely suited to their extreme conditions. Some get their water from the food they eat, for example, while others sleep during the hot days.

FENNEC FOXES

Fennec foxes use their huge ears to help them locate prey. The large surface area also allows heat to escape.



CAMELS

Camels have adapted and evolved over time to withstand the terrain and climate of the desert. In addition to their fat storing humps, camels also have other adaptations that make them suited for the desert.

Camels have long, thin legs that actually help to keep them cool. The desert sands can get incredibly hot, almost 160°F and by being so tall, with the majority of their body lifted high above the ground, they avoid absorbing much of the heat that radiates off the hot sands.



COLD DESERTS

The coldest and most northern of all the world's non-polar deserts, the Gobi desert stretches across China and Mongolia. Like many cold deserts, it sits on a high plateau, where the temperature is naturally lower than at sea level.

SANDSTORMS

Strong, dry winds blow across the desert, carrying clouds of sand that reduce visibility to almost zero. Roads and wells are often covered completely, and a violent storm can dehydrate - or even suffocate - animals and people. Sandstorms last for hours, and some can even go on for days.



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PUNGENT



DEFINITION:

This means when something has a horrible smell or taste.



TELL A STORY WITH THE WORD:

The pungent smell of frying onions filled the room.

SYNONYMS

(an alternate word with a similar meaning)

stench
putrid
rancid

ANTONYMS

(opposite meaning)

mild
pleasant
fragrant

WORD PAIRS

pungent scent
pungent source
pungent flavour