

Which factors link to today's learning?
Social / Economic / Environmental

**GCSE Geography: The Living World – Hot Deserts
 Knowledge Organiser**



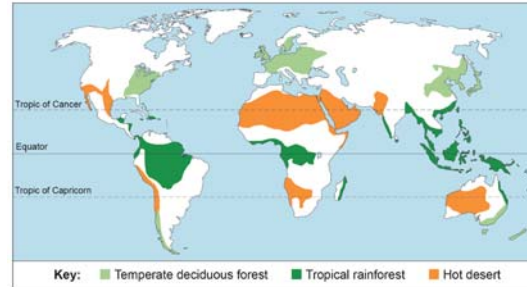
Here are some key words from this topic. **Can you add anymore?**



The Big Picture

- What are hot deserts like?
- How do plants and animals adapt to hot deserts?
- Why are there issues relating to biodiversity in hot deserts?
- What are the opportunities for development in the Thar Desert?
- What are the challenges for development in the Thar Desert?
- What are the causes of desertification?
- How can we reduce the risk of desertification?

Hot deserts are found along the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn where temperatures are high and air pressure is also high, leading to dry conditions. There is low biodiversity due to the lack of rain and few nutrients in the sandy soils, but there are some plants and animals which are highly specialised.



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|------------------------|---|
| hot desert (n) | Parts of the world that have high average temperatures and very low precipitation. |
| desertification (n) | The process by which land becomes drier and degraded, as a result of climate change or human activities, or both. |
| overgrazing (n) | Grazing too many livestock for too long on the land, so it is unable to recover its vegetation. |
| over-cultivation (n) | Exhausting the soil by over-cropping the land. |
| mineral extraction (n) | The removal of solid mineral resources from the earth to be sold. |
| | |

Camels have large, flat feet to spread their weight on the sand, this helps them to walk on sand without sinking into it. Cactus have a long but shallow root system – found just



below the surface, this helps them to gather as much water as possible when it rains.

CEIAG Link: For this topic we can make links to a variety of professions:

- Climate change scientist
- Soil scientist
- Geoscientist
- Farmer
- Renewable Specialist



If you are interested in the above careers, don't forget you can do some research and speak to Mrs Ackroyd.

Deserts are spreading due to:

- Climate change
- Population growth
- Overgrazing and over-cultivation in farming
- Deforestation
- Soil erosion

People are working hard to prevent it by using simple technologies that meet the needs of people without destroying the land.

The Thar Desert is on the border of India and Pakistan. It is difficult for the region to develop due to the intense heat, lack of water and poor roads. However, the region does have industries including mineral extraction of gypsum and phosphorite, renewable energy production through wind farming in Jaisalmer and tourism to desert festivals held every year.

