


Year 4 Geography Knowledge Organiser - Deserts

Are deserts always hot?	
1.	A place is called a desert if it is extremely dry.
2.	The word arid describes a place that is extremely dry.
3.	An arid place might be hot during the day and cold during the night.
4.	An arid place might be cold all year round.
5.	If a place gets less than 250mm of rain a year, then it is a desert.
6.	Some of the world's largest deserts are cold deserts.
7.	There are no deserts in the UK.
8.	The Sahara Desert in North Africa is very dry and hot in the day and cold at night.
9.	The Gobi Desert in the middle of Asia never gets very hot in the day but does get freezing cold at night.

Sahara Desert	
	
<p>The Sahara is the hottest desert and as well as sand dunes you find small patches of fertile land with water. This is called an oasis.</p>	
<p>Did you know...?</p> <p>The largest desert in the world is not a hot desert. It is the continent of Antarctica. Antarctica is cold but very dry. Penguins live on this continent.</p>	

How have humans used deserts?
1. About one billion people on Earth live in deserts and have done for thousands of years.
2. The need to find water and water led people to become nomadic.
3. The Bedouin are nomadic people who live in tents made from thick heavy cloth.
4. Humans have built cities (like Dubai) in the Arabian Desert.

What plants and animals live in a desert?
 <p>A meerkat</p> <p>What about desert fauna? This is a meerkat (<i>meer-cat</i>). This meerkat lives in a desert in southern Africa. Amazingly, meerkats do not need to drink extra water because they get all the water they need from the insects they eat. Some animals might burrow underground to escape the desert heat.</p>
 <p>A thorny devil</p>
 <p>A chameleon</p>

Desertification	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Physical causes of desertification include droughts where no rain falls causing the vegetation to die. Humans can cause desertification if they let their animals overgraze on vegetation or they overfarm by growing too many crops.

Vocabulary

1. Hydrated	Drinking water to keep you healthy.	10. Sand Dunes	Wind blows the sand which create mounds.	19. Non-productive	A landscape where plants don't grow.
2. Dehydrated	When your body does not have as much water as it needs resulting in sickness.	11. Oasis	A small patch of fertile land with water.	20. Desertification	This happens over time and plants no longer grow in that area.
3. Desert	A very dry landscape that receives less than 250mm of rain in a year.	12. Oases	More than one oasis.	21. Overgrazing	When animals eat all the vegetation.
4. Vegetation	Plants that are found in a particular habitat.	13. Store	Keep.	22. Overfarming	Farmers grow too much on a piece of land.
5. Arid	A place that is extremely dry.	14. Camel	An animal that can live in the desert.	23. Steppe	A semi-arid grassy plain.
6. Sahara Desert	A desert in north Africa that stretches from the west to east coast.	15. Sahel	The area where the Sahara Desert meets the green fertile land.	24. Flora	Plant life that grows in a habitat.
7. Aridity	The aridity of the Sahara Desert is very high because it is very dry and very hot.	16. Semi-arid	A landscape that receives 250mm - 450mm of rainfall in an average year.	25. Fauna	Animal life that lives in a region.
8. Plummet	When the temperature goes down very fast.	17. Drought	Period of time where there is very little water.	26. Succulents	Types of plants that can store water.
9. Lush	Land that is fertile and vegetation can grow.	18. Productive	A productive landscape is where plants can grow.		