

Animal Classification and Habitats

Desert Knowledge Organiser

Desert Biome

Desert **biomes** are dry areas that receive very little rain.

Deserts can be hot or cold.

Most hot deserts are found near the **equator**.

How Some Species Adapt to Survive in the Sahara Desert

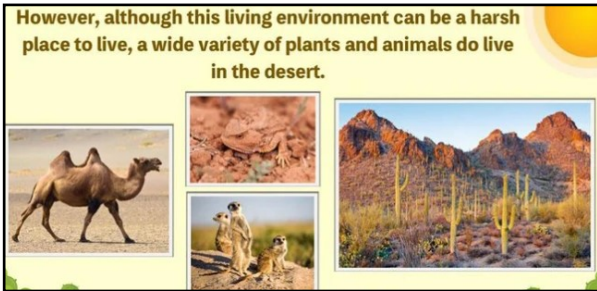
Animals find clever ways to adapt in the Sahara desert. Some are nocturnal, only coming out at night when it's cool and others can go days without drinking.

Camels have two rows of eyelashes to protect their eyes from the dust; they have fat in their hump so they can go days without food and they can even close their nostrils to stop them inhaling sand.

Gerbils are excellent burrowers. Living in a burrow enables gerbils to escape the intense heat of the day. The sand insulates their little nest, keeping it safe from the burning heat and helping it protect against the chill of a cloudless desert night.

Fennec foxes have bat-like ears that radiate body heat and help keep them cool. They also have long, thick hair that insulates them during cold nights and protects them from hot sun during the day. Even the fox's feet are hairy, which helps them perform like snowshoes and protects them from extremely hot sand.

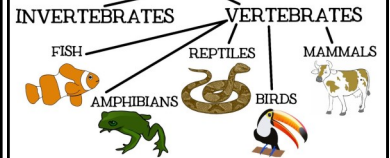
The dorcas gazelle can go without drinking for its entire lifetime, but when water is available, it does drink.



However, although this living environment can be a harsh place to live, a wide variety of plants and animals do live in the desert.

The Chihuahuan desert is home to about 345 of the world's 1,500 cactus **species**. The cacti and other plants are a crucial part of the desert ecosystem, providing shelter and food for birds, bats and other animals.

ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION



We could also sort the animals according to what 'class' they are.

Mammals
Mammals are vertebrates. They give birth to live young and feed them with milk. They have fur or hair, and are warm-blooded.

Arachnids
Arachnids are invertebrates. They are wingless, with a body divided into two parts. They have eight legs and no antennae. They are cold-blooded.

Birds
Birds are vertebrates. They have feathers and wings. Most, although not all, can fly. They lay eggs and are warm-blooded.

Insects
Insects are invertebrates. They have a body that is divided into three parts, with six legs and two antennae. They are cold-blooded.

Reptiles
Reptiles are vertebrates. They have scales and dry skin. They usually lay eggs, although some give birth to live young. They are cold-blooded.

This is a food chain.

The cactus is eaten by the rabbit, which in turn is eaten by the coyote.



The plants and animals that live together in a particular habitat can be linked together by what they feed on. They rely on each other for survival. Food chains show how the plants and animals are linked through their diet.



This is a thorny devil lizard.

It has developed skin which can **absorb water** like a paper towel.

The 'thorns' also **help to protect** it from other animals who might be thinking of eating it!

Desertification is **the process of land turning into desert as the quality of the soil declines over time**. ... The main causes of desertification include: Population growth - the population in some desert areas is increasing. In places where there are developments in mining and tourism, people are attracted by jobs

