

Deserts and landscapes KS2 Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
Tropics	The Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn are two parallels of north or south of the equator, where the sun is directly overhead when it reaches its most northerly or southerly point in the sky.
Equator	The equator divides the Earth into the northern and southern hemispheres. The climate is hot for any country lying on the equator.
Hemisphere	The Earth is divided into 2 halves by the equator, the northern hemisphere and the southern.
Desert	Deserts are primarily defined by their lack of rain. They generally get 10 inches or less rain in a year. Deserts are characterized in an overall lack of water. They have dry soil, little to no surface water, and high evaporation.
Biome	A biome is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. A desert is a biome. The plants and animals of each biome have traits that help them to survive in their particular biome. Each biome has many ecosystems.
Arctic Circle	The Arctic Circle is a line of latitude around the Earth. The lands and ocean north of the Arctic Circle is called the Arctic.
Coastal	Describes a place or landform near to the shore, where the sea meets the land.
Polar	Relating to the north pole or south pole or nearby regions. Polar deserts are deserts located in either of the Poles.

To understand how humans live and adapt in deserts.	Life in the Sahara is incredibly difficult because of the lack of water, limited food supply, extreme heat during the day and cold during the night (regularly below freezing because of lack of cloud cover) and exposure to the elements.
To understand the causes of deserts including desertification.	Desertification is the expansion of desert into the surrounding areas. The desert area in the world is getting bigger. Desertification usually happens on the edge of deserts. It is caused by a variety of factors.
To understand the different types of desert biomes and why this links to their location including polar deserts.	<p>A desert is a type of biome. Deserts receive less than 10 inches of rainfall a year.</p> <p>There are 4 different types of deserts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cold winter deserts- also known as semi-arid deserts. They have long, dry summers and cold winters with low rain or snowfall. - Hot and dry deserts- hot and dry weather all year round. - Coastal deserts- found on coasts where the land meets the sea. They have cool winters, but warm summers. The winds bring fog from the sea. - Polar deserts- found in the Arctic and Antarctic polar regions, they are defined as a region with a mean temperature during the warmest month of less than 10 degrees Celsius and annual precipitation of no more than 250 mm.
To name and locate the world's deserts and describe their location in relation to the Tropics, Equator and Northern/ Southern Hemisphere.	<p>The most common deserts are: The Gobi Desert (Asia); Sahara Desert (Africa); Arabian Desert (Iraq); Kalahari Desert (South Africa); Arctic Polar (Arctic circle); Antarctic Polar (Antarctic).</p> <p>The Sahara Desert is located in northern Africa, spanning 12 different countries.</p> <p>Only 20% of the world's deserts are covered with sand! In fact, most are made up of rocks or gravel whilst others are icy.</p> <p>Deserts cover more than one quarter of the Earth's land surface.</p> <p>The largest cold desert on Earth is Antarctica.</p> <p>The largest hot desert on Earth is the Sahara.</p>

