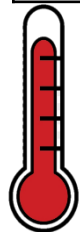


Topic Fact Sheet - Sahara (Hot and Cold Desert)

Key Terms

Arid	A dry climate in places like deserts, with little or no rain and where there isn't much access to water.
Climate	The average measurement of temperature, wind humidity, rain and snow over a long period of time, such as a year.
Desert	An area that gets less than 250mm of rainfall every year.
Equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth, half way between the North and South Pole.
Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn	Imaginary lines which run parallel to the equator. The Tropic of Cancer is the Northern line and the Tropic of Capricorn is the Southern line.



The Sahara Desert is a hot desert with an arid climate. During the day, temperatures can reach up to 47°C but at night can drop to 0°C.

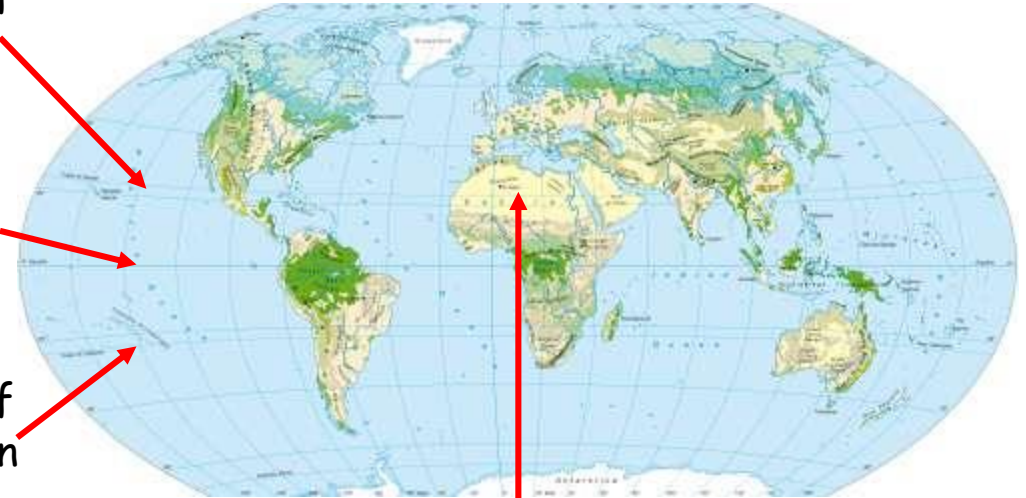


Rainfall is rare and unpredictable, but when it does rain the water evaporates before it even reaches the ground!

Tropic of Cancer

Equator

Tropic of Capricorn



Sahara Desert

The Sahara Desert covers 31% of the continent of Africa; spanning 11 countries.



Tropic of Cancer

Equator

Topic Fact Sheet - Sahara (Hot and Cold Desert)

Key Terms

Erg	A large desert area covered with sand dunes and little vegetation .
Hamada	A hard, rocky plateau , where most of the sand has been removed by the wind.
Reg	A mixture of sand and closely packed gravel or rock, which is often described as a desert pavement.
Oasis	A source of water for vegetation and life forms within an area of desert.
Plateau	A large area of high and mostly flat land.
Sand dune	A hill of sand near an ocean or in a desert that is formed by the wind.
Vegetation	Plants that typically grow in a particular area.

Desert Vegetation



Date Palm Tree



Acacia Tree

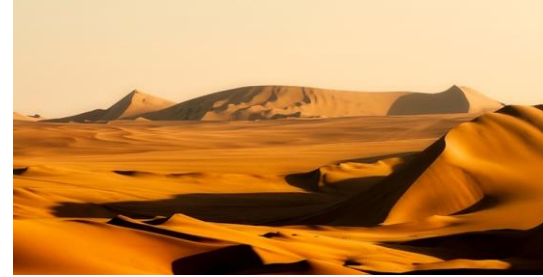


Desert Thyme



Sahara Lovegrass

Desert Landscape



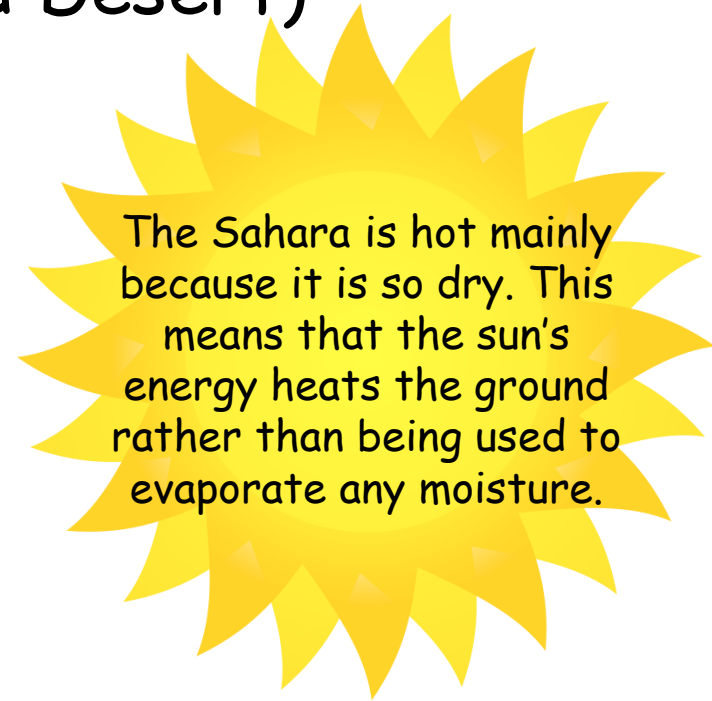
Erg



Reg



Hamada



The Sahara is hot mainly because it is so dry. This means that the sun's energy heats the ground rather than being used to evaporate any moisture.

Desert Wildlife



Fennec Fox



Horned Viper



Monitor Lizard



Dromedary Camel