



# All About Desert Life

## Subject Area

The Natural World

## Topics & Curriculum Links

deserts and the environment (Science; Civics)

deserts around the world (Geography)

plants and animals (Science)

life at home (Civics)

seasons, weather, and climate (Geography)

places and countries (Geography)

desertification (Science; Geography)

quantities and measurements (Mathematics)

## Vocabulary

plants; animals; food; materials; homes; weather; seasons; transportation; numbers; measurements; places; countries; continents

## Grammar

present simple; present continuous; past simple; question forms; imperative; adjectives; prepositions; adverbs

## Teaching Ideas

See also [pages 6–7](#) for general ideas that you can adapt. Or go to [www.oup.com/elt/teacher/readanddiscover](http://www.oup.com/elt/teacher/readanddiscover)

### A Desert Advert

After completing Project 1, students design an advert for their desert, listing what people can see and do there, and also listing what they should bring on their trip, for example, water, suncream, sun glasses, a hat. Posters can then be displayed together.



### A Desert Animal Presentation

After completing Project 2, students present their animal to the rest of the class. They can talk or write about it like this: *It's a / an ... It's ... It lives ... It eats ... It comes out ...* Or students can talk about their animal without saying its name, and ask the class to guess the animal. Posters can then be displayed together.

### Desert Research

Using books or the Internet, students do research on how plants, animals, or people adapt to desert life. They can write about their findings and add pictures. They can write about it like this: *To stay cool ... To collect water ...*

## Activities Answers

**Page 24–25** 1 1 snow 2 rain 3 mountain 4 stones 5 sand 6 rocks  
2 1 25 2 50 3 0 4 2, 4 5 5 3 1 false 2 true 3 true 4 false 5 true 6 false  
4 1 Some deserts have no rain for months or years. 2 Deserts can be hot or cold. 3 The temperatures in hot deserts are from 20 to 35 degrees centigrade. 4 At night it's cold in the desert. 5 The winter temperatures in cold deserts are from 2 to 4 degrees centigrade. 6 Water in cold deserts comes from snow or fog.

**Page 26–27** 1 1 nine 2 Africa 3 hot 4 Mongolia 5 coldest 6 one desert  
2 1 Gobi 2 Sahara 3 Gobi 4 Atacama 5 Sahara 6 Atacama 3 1 desert  
2 sand dunes 3 sandstorms 4 coldest 5 rock 4 1 One of the oldest deserts is the Atacama Desert. 2 180 metres tall 3 in Peru and Chile  
4 minus 40 degrees centigrade 5 the USA 6 1,300,000 square kilometres

**Page 28–29** 1 1 leaves 2 soil 3 spikes 4 stem 5 seeds 6 roots  
2 1 Cactus: spikes, water; Baobab: desert, 9 meters; Welwitschia: leaves, fog 3 1 dry 2 big 3 store 4 grow 5 soil 6 fog 4 1 So it can collect water fast when it rains. 2 They collect water, and they stop animals eating the plant. 3 thousands of liters 4 more than 9 meters across 5 the leaves 6 They grow fast and produce flowers.

**Page 30–31** 1 1 true 2 true 3 false 4 true 5 true 6 false 2 1 Insects: ant; Mammals: jerboa; Arachnids: spider, scorpion; Reptiles: snake, lizard 3 1 ant (2) 2 snake (1) 3 spider (4) 4 scorpion (5) 5 tortoise (6) 6 lizard (3) 4 1 seeds 2 poison 3 plants 4 skin 5 bigger 6 tortoises

**Page 32–33** 1 1 Animals that come out in the day: lizards, desert tortoises, many birds; Animals that come out at night: foxes, scorpions, desert cats, owls 2 1 in the day 2 at night 3 in the day 4 at night 5 in the day 6 at night 3 1 food 2 see 3 well 4 hairs 5 feel 4 1 Lizards lie on rocks to get warm. 2 Tortoises look for food in the morning. 3 Most desert animals sleep in the day. 4 Small animals sleep in burrows. 5 Scorpions have tiny hairs on their legs. 6 Desert cats can see well at night.

**Page 34–35** 1 1 mud house 2 wood 3 tent 4 farm 5 city 6 clothes  
2 1 clothes 2 things 3 art 4 farmers 5 2,000 6 first 3 1 Aborigines live in the Australian deserts. 2 Many aborigines are going back to their traditional life. 3 Tuaregs are called the blue people. 4 Tuareg tents are made from animal skins and wood. 5 Many Bedouins work in cities. 4 1 Because of the color of their clothes. 2 on camels 3 They use art. 4 tents or mud houses 5 in cities

**Page 36–37** 1 1 oasis 2 river 3 pond 4 well 5 tank 6 lake 2 1 true 2 false 3 false 4 true 5 false 6 true 3 1 dry 2 ground 3 farming 4 collect 5 rainwater 6 fog 4 1 in Egypt 2 in ponds, wells, and big tanks 3 They use nets to collect it. 4–5 free answers

**Page 38–39** 1 1 People wear long clothes to stay cool. 2 People wear a head cloth to protect their head and face. 3 Some desert houses have no windows. 4 The houses keep out the sun and the wind. 2 1 Oryxes 2 Crocodiles, snakes 3 tortoises 4 lizards 5 hole 6 clothes 3 1 Many people and animals live in deserts. 2 Desert people use clothes to stay cool. 3 Some desert houses have no windows. 4 Big animals stay in a cool place. 5 Some animals sleep in summer. 6 Some lizards can swim under the sand. 4 1 a head cloth 2 So that it stays cool inside. 3 Stay in a cool place in the day. 4 They swim under the sand.

**Page 40–41** 1 1 porridge 2 bread 3 cheese 4 dates 5 milk 2 1 false 2 false 3 true 4 false 5 true 6 false 3 1 fires 2 cheese 3 sand 4 tents 5 SUVs 6 schools 4 free answers

**Page 42–43** 1 1 plants 2 animals 3 tree 4 rain 5 farm 6 soil 2 1 true 2 true 3 false 4 true 5 true 3 1 desert 2 rain 3 blows away 4 food 5 hungry 4 1 When there's no rain for a long time. 2 There isn't food for everyone. 3 In countries in Africa near the Sahara Desert. 4 By growing more trees.