



Medium Term Overview - Geography

Year 3	Unit Title: Deserts	Vocabulary
<p>National Curriculum Links:</p> <p>Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities</p> <p>Describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography</p> <p>Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy,</p>	<p><u>Key Learning:</u></p> <p><u>What and where are deserts?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should know that there are many different types of deserts. Deserts are not always hot, dry places with sand. A desert is defined as a place that gets less than 250mm of rainfall a year. Antarctica is a desert as even though it is a continent covered in ice it gets very little precipitation. In comparison, the UK gets around 11,000mm of rainfall a year. • Children will compare photographs of deserts and describe the different landscapes. • Children will know, around a quarter of all the land on Earth is desert. • Children will be able to name and locate some of the world's major deserts using maps and atlases, including: the Sahara Desert, the Great Basin Desert, the Gobi Desert, the Great Australian deserts, Atacama Desert. <p><u>Weather climates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will know that there is a difference between weather and climate, climate is a measure of time and weather is the changes in the atmosphere over a short period of time. • Children will know all deserts have an arid climate, this means that they are very dry and have very little precipitation. • Children will know although deserts have the same climate, they can have very different temperatures, for example the Sahara is very dry and hot all year round, compared to the Antarctic with is very dry and cold all year round. • Children will know temperatures in the Sahara can often reach 50 degrees, whereas temperature in Antarctica can often reach negative 50 degrees. • Children will know the Gobi Desert in Mongolia and China has a very varied climate; it can reach 40 degrees in the summer but can go as low as -40 degrees in the winter. <p><u>Features of deserts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will know deserts have no tall trees due to the lack of rainfall, this often results in it being very windy. • Children will know one of the most recognisable features of sandy deserts are sand dunes. Dunes are formed when the wind moves sand to form mounds. • Children will know that rocky deserts often have amazing rock formations. These rock formations are caused by the effects of temperature, wind and flash floods. • Children will know that rain doesn't happen often in deserts, but when it does, it causes flash flooding. This causes rocks and boulders to be carried along in the water scraping against other rocks this causes the rocks to wear away which is a process called erosion. Desert winds also cause erosion. • Children will know another feature of deserts are salt basins, these are formed when water evaporates and leaves the salt behind. These can also be called salt flats and salt plains. 	<p>Desert Antarctica Sahara Desert Great Basin Desert The Gobi Desert The Great Australian deserts, Atacama Desert Arid Climate Precipitation Dunes Rock formations Erosion Salt basins Natural resources Oil supply Dwellers Livestock Desalination Desertification Overgrazing Climate Weather Vegetation</p>

<p>food, minerals and water</p>	<p><u>Desert resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will know there are many natural resources in the desert that humans use, such as, the salt from salt basins can be collected and sold, in the Sahara camel caravans are used to transport the salt that is collected to towns and cities. Oil is one of the most valuable resources found in the desert, the Arabian desert provides a large proportion of the world's oil supply. In Australian deserts there are many gold and silver mines. The Atacama Desert in Chile provides more copper in the world than any other place. <p><u>Land use:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will know that because of the huge open spaces, military officials test aircrafts and other equipment over deserts. • Children will know deserts can be used for recreation such as people enjoying sand buggies and jeep safaris. People also go sand surfing and sand boarding for fun. • Children will know film makers also use deserts as film sets. • Children will know that despite deserts being very dry many people live in deserts all over the world. The biggest challenge faced by desert dwellers is finding water and because there is so little water, they cannot grow crops. A lack of vegetation and water means they cannot keep live stock to raise for food. Despite all of these difficulties, many people find their homes in deserts. Many desert dwellers and nomads, which means they don't have a fixed place to live, but move around to find food and water. • Children will know some cities have been built on deserts such as Las Vegas and Abu Dhabi. Las Vegas has to transport water from hundreds of miles away, whereas Abu Dhabi have a different solution, they use water from the sea. The salt and other minerals are taken out using a process called desalination. <p><u>Desertification:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will know desertification happens when an area that is already quite dry, becomes a desert. It can make land that people live on, become inhospitable. One of the main causes of desertification is overgrazing when all the animals eat the vegetation in an area leaving the soil bare. Desertification is also caused by humans, when too many trees and plants are removed from an area. Another reason for desertification is climate change. Things such as cars, aeroplanes and factories release gases into the air which changes the atmosphere and makes the weather warmer. 	
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Community Links		Previous Learning	Future Learning
		FS – Similarities and differences between where we live and contrasting areas of the world. Year 1 – Seasons, hot and cold countries of the world Year 2 - The 7 continents and 5 Oceans	Year 4 – Earthquake and Volcanoes, South America compared to UK, Rivers and Coasts Year 5 – Biomes and Climate Zones, Mountains Year 6 – North America, In depth study of the UK
Curriculum Sequence	1		
	2		
	3		

	4	
	5	
	6	
Assessment – Children who are working towards		Assessment – Children who are working at greater depth