



# The Dead Heart?



UPPER PRIMARY

## Interpreting Information.

Read the following information carefully to fill in the gaps and answer the questions below.

A desert is a part of the earth's land surface where \_\_\_\_\_ is low and infrequent. Not all \_\_\_\_\_ are hot, sandy wastelands - some are \_\_\_\_\_, some are rocky. A huge variety of plants and \_\_\_\_\_ have adapted to desert \_\_\_\_\_, many developing clever ways of surviving long \_\_\_\_\_ of drought and sheltering from intense daytime heat.



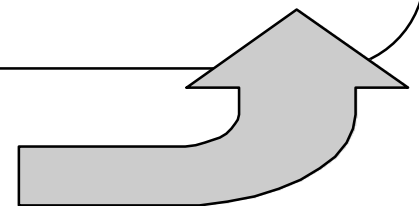
Plant growth depends on water and desert plants are usually widely spaced to reduce \_\_\_\_\_ for what little water is available. Most desert plants are able to tolerate or \_\_\_\_\_ drought. Some have small \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce the amount of moisture that evaporates from them while others, such as cacti, can store water in thick stems. Such plants (called succulents) have spines instead of leaves, which also protects them from foraging animals.

Many animals cope with hot desert conditions by sheltering under stones and burrows during the day and emerging at night to feed. Frogs and toads can \_\_\_\_\_ themselves for long periods, only emerging with rainfall. Mammals have hairy coats that \_\_\_\_\_ water loss and keep body \_\_\_\_\_ at a reasonable level.

Some lizards store food, in the form of fat, in their tails, while \_\_\_\_\_ store fat in their humped backs for when food is \_\_\_\_\_. Many desert creatures can survive on the \_\_\_\_\_ contained in their food and so need to drink very little.

Source: The Great Geographical Atlas, Rigby, 1984, pp. 74-5

reduce    rainfall    temperature    resist    moisture  
 leaves    camels    cold    bury    deserts    periods  
 environments    scarce    competition    animals



1. Why are desert plants often spread apart from one another? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How does having small leaves help desert plants? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What kind of plant is a cactus? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Can you think of an example of a 'cold' desert? \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Pairs.** Choose an appropriate adjective from the list to describe each noun.

native    scarce    fertile  
 sandy    oppressive

\_\_\_\_\_ heat  
 \_\_\_\_\_ soil  
 \_\_\_\_\_ water  
 \_\_\_\_\_ plantlife  
 \_\_\_\_\_ wasteland

**Dictionary Quiz.** Match the symbol with the correct definition:

- 💧 Active mainly at night
- 😊 A plant that stores moisture in its thick stems
- ★ The process of turning moisture into vapor
- ☒ Not easily seen or noticed
- ⊘ An adjustment made by an animal to fit into an environment or situation

- \_\_\_ inconspicuous
- \_\_\_ succulent
- \_\_\_ adaptation
- \_\_\_ evaporation
- \_\_\_ nocturnal

**Australian Deserts.** Mark in the following deserts with a number, using an atlas if necessary.

1. Great Victoria Desert (WA / SA)
2. Tanami Desert (NT)
3. Gibson Desert (WA)
4. Great Sandy Desert (WA)
5. Simpson Desert (NT/QLD)
6. Sturt Desert (SA / QLD)



**Cross Number.**

ACROSS

1.  $11^2$
3.  $100 - 57$
5. 42 hundreds + 96 units
13. 6 thousands + 218 units
17.  $8^2$
18.  $10^2$

1		2		3	4
		5	6		
11		12			
13	14		15		16
17			18		



DOWN

1. 1 dozen
2. Days in a fortnight
3.  $7^2$
4. Days in a year
6. Days in February 2000
11. Days in a leap year
12. Days in March
14. Hours in a day
15.  $9^2$
16. Years in a decade

**Work It Out.**

1.  $420 \div 60 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
2.  $5/8$  of 24 = \_\_\_\_\_
3. 40, 80, 160, \_\_\_\_\_
4.  $1/2$  of 735 = \_\_\_\_\_
5.  $3.2 + 1.05 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
6.  $46 + 58 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ + 14
7.  $\$10 - \$7.35 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
8.  $60 = 3 \times 4 \times$  \_\_\_\_\_
9.  $108 = 4 \times$  \_\_\_\_\_  $\times 3$
10.  $0.7 \div 10 =$  \_\_\_\_\_



**Design.**

Plants and animals have adapted over many years to survive in hostile desert conditions.

People have also found ways to live successfully in desert regions by making shelter and housing that suits particular climates (eg. mud brick houses, underground living).

Design a dwelling to be built for survival in harsh desert conditions. Label its features and describe their functions.

**Eugene's**

**Challenge.**

Describe the life cycle and/or daily habits of a plant or animal that has successfully adapted to living in the desert.



Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_