

# Deserts

## What is a Desert?

Deserts don't get much rainfall and so are very dry places. Many deserts are made up of sand and rock.

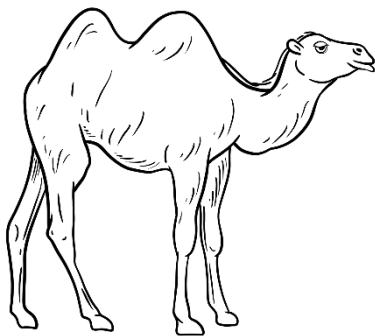
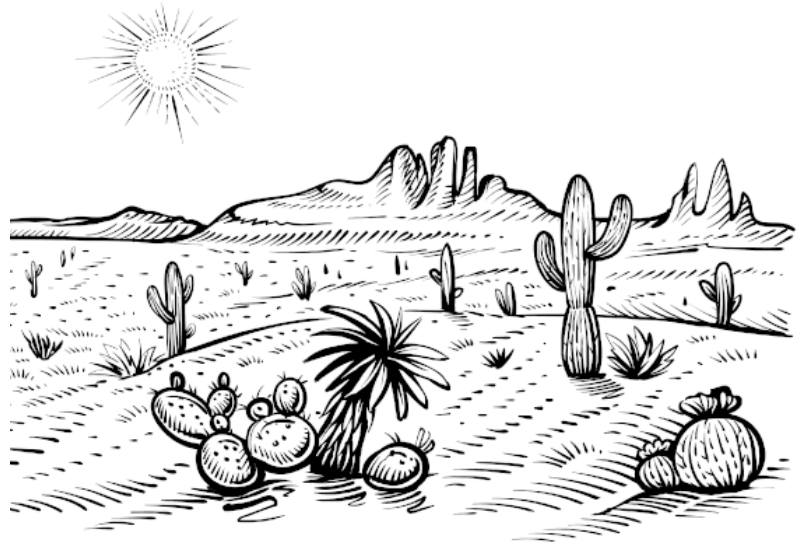
## Climate

Deserts are very hot during the day but often very cold at night. Deserts are very windy places.

## Animals

Deserts are so dry that not many plants and animals can survive.

The plants and animals that do live in deserts have special ways to survive.



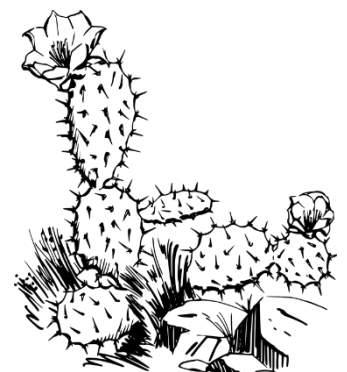
Camel

Due to a lack of water, most desert animals get their water from their food. Other animals, like camels, store fat in their bodies. This provides them with energy. Many desert animals are small because small animals don't need as much water.

Some desert animals are nocturnal. This means that they are active during the night when it is cooler. During the day, they sleep in a spot of shade or in a burrow. This stops animals losing as much water as they would out in the sunlight.

## Plants

Several desert plants hold water in their leaves, stems and roots. Other plants have very long roots which allows them to get water from underground. Many desert plants have prickly spikes to prevent hungry and thirsty animals eating them!



Cactus plant