Chapter – 10
Life in the Deserts

Exercise

1.

(A) What are the two types of deserts found in the world?

Answer:

The two types of deserts found in the world are the hot deserts and cold deserts.

NOTE: They are characterized by low rainfall, scanty vegetation and extreme temperatures. Depending on the temperatures there can be hot deserts or cold deserts. The people inhabit these lands wherever little water is available to practice agriculture.

(B) In which continent is the Sahara desert located?

Answer:

The Sahara Desert is located in the African continent.

It covers a large area of Northern Africa. The Sahara Desert is the largest desert in the world. It has an area of around 8.54 million sq. km. The Sahara desert touches eleven countries. These are Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia and Western Sahara.

(C) What are the climatic conditions of the Ladakh desert?

Answer:

The altitude in Ladakh varies from about 3000m in Kargil to more than 8,000m in the Karakoram. Due to its high altitude, the climate is extremely cold and dry. The air at this altitude is so thin that the heat of the sun can be felt intensely. The day temperatures in summer are just above zero degree and the night temperatures well below -30°C. It

is freezing cold in the winters when the temperatures may remain below -40°C for most of the time.

Due to high aridity, the vegetation is sparse. There are scanty patches of grasses and shrubs for animals to graze.

(D) What mainly attracts tourists to Ladakh?

Answer:

Tourism is a major activity with several tourists streaming in from within India and abroad. Visits to the gompas, treks to see the meadows and glaciers, witnessing ceremonies and festivities are important activities.

The women of Ladakh are very hard working. They work not only in the house and fields, but also manage small business and shops. Leh, the capital of Ladakh is well connected both by road and air. The National Highway 1A connects Leh to Kashmir Valley through the Zoji la Pass.

(E) What type of clothes the people of the Sahara Desert wear?

Answer:

The people of Sahara Desert wear heavy robes as protection against dust storms and hot winds.

The Sahara Desert despite its harsh climate has been inhabited by various groups of people, who pursue different activities. Among them are the Bedouins and Tuaregs. These groups are nomadic tribes rearing livestock such as goats, sheep, camels and horses.

(F) Name the trees that grow in Ladakh.

Answer:

Groves of willows and poplars are seen in the valleys. During the summers, fruit trees such as apples, apricots and walnuts bloom in Ladakh.

The animals of Ladakh are wild goats, wild sheep, yak and special kinds of dogs. The animals are reared to provide for the milk, meat and hides.

2.

(A) Tick the correct answer.
Sahara is located in which part of Africa
A. Eastern
B. Northern
C. Western

Answer:

Besides the vast stretches of sands, that Sahara Desert is covered with, there are also gravel plains and elevated plateaus with bare rocky surface. These rocky surfaces may be more than 2500m high at some places.

(B) Tick the correct answer.
Sahara is what type of desert
A. Cold
B. Hot
C. Mild

Answer:

The climate of the Sahara desert is scorching hot and parch dry. It has a short rainy season. The sky is cloudless and clear. Here, the moisture evaporates faster than it accumulates. Days are unbelievably hot.

(C) Tick the correct answer.

The Ladakh desert is mainly inhabited by
A. Christians and Muslims
B. Buddhists and Muslims
C. Christians and Buddhists

Answer:

In the summer season the people are busy cultivating barley, potatoes, peas, beans and turnip. The climate in winter months is so harsh that people keep themselves engaged in festivities and ceremonies.

(D) Tick the correct answer.
Deserts are characterized by
A. Scanty Vegetation
B. Heavy Precipitation
C. Low Evaporation

Answer:

It is an arid region characterized by extremely high or low temperatures and has scarce vegetation. The people living in desert areas have learned to cope with extreme harsh temperatures; in some places as hot as fire and some as cold as ice.

(E) Tick the correct answer.
Hemis in the Ladakh is a famous
A. Temple
B. Church
C. Monastery

Answer:

Life of people is undergoing change due to modernization. But the people of Ladakh have over the centuries learned to live in balance and harmony with nature. Due to scarcity of resources like water and fuel, they are used with reverence and care. Nothing is discarded or wasted.

(F) Tick the correct answer.

Egypt is famous for growing

A. Wheat

B. Maize

C. Cotton

Answer:

The oasis in the Sahara and the Nile Valley in Egypt supports settled population. Since water is available, the people grow date palms. Crops such as rice, wheat, barley and beans are also grown. Egyptian cotton, famous worldwide is grown in Egypt.

3. Match the following.

i. Oasis	a. Libya
ii. Bedouins	b. Monasatery
iii. Oil	c. Glacier
iv. Gangri	d. Depressions with water
v. Lamayuru	e. Cold desert
-	f. Sahara

Answer:

i. Oasis	d. Depressions with water	Explanation: Oasis - Depressions are formed when the wind blows away the sands. In the depressions where underground water reaches the surface, an oasis is formed. These areas are fertile. People may settle around these water bodies and grow date palms and other crops.
ii. Bedouins	f. Sahara	Explanation: Bedouins- Groups of nomadic tribes rearing livestock such as goats, sheep, camels and horses.
iii. Oil	a. Libya	Explanation: Libya- The discovery of oil - a product in great demand throughout the world, in Algeria, Libya and Egypt is constantly transforming the Sahara desert. Other minerals of importance that are

		found in the area include iron, phosphorus, manganese and uranium.
iv. Gangri	c. Glacier	Explanation: Gangri-Gangri glacier is found in Ladakh
v. Lamayuru	b. Monastery	Explanation: Lamayuru-Lamayuru is a monastery located in Ladakh. A monastery is a place where the monks and nuns live.

4.

(A) Give reasons

There is scanty vegetation in the deserts.

Answer:

A desert is an arid region characterized by extremely high or low temperatures and has scarce vegetation. People have learned to cope with extreme harsh temperatures; in some places as hot as fire and some as cold as ice. These are characterized by low rainfall, scanty vegetation and extreme temperatures. Depending on the temperatures there can be hot deserts or cold deserts. The people inhabit these lands wherever little water is available to practice agriculture.

Explanation- It is difficult for anyone to live in places where there is no water to drink, where there is no grass for their cattle to feed on and where there is no water to help the crops to grow.

(B) Give reasons

People of the Sahara desert wear heavy robes.

Answer:

The Sahara desert despite its harsh climate has been inhabited by various groups of people, who pursue different activities. Among them are the Bedouins and Tuaregs. These groups are nomadic tribes rearing livestock such as goats, sheep, camels and horses. These animals provide them with milk, hides from which they make leather for belts, slippers, water bottles; hair is used for mats, carpets, clothes and blankets. They wear heavy robes as protection against dust storms and hot winds.

Explanation- The cultural landscape of the Sahara is undergoing change. Gleaming glass cased office buildings tower over mosques and superhighways crisscross the ancient camel paths. Trucks are replacing camels in the salt trade. Tuaregs are seen acting as guides to foreign tourists. More and more nomadic herdsmen are taking to city life finding jobs in oil and gas operations.

5.

(A) Map skills.

On the outline map of Africa, mark the Sahara desert.

Answer:

(B) Map skills.

On the outline map of India, mark the Karakoram Range, Zanskar Range, Ladakh and Zoji La pass.

Answer:

6. For Fun

Desert Game

This is a class room activity involving all the students. The teacher will create a list of desert creatures. The number of the creatures should be same as the number of students in the class. The creatures can be picked up from the categories of mammals, birds and reptiles.

Mammals can include – camel, yak, fox, sheep, goat, antelope…

Birds – raven, eagle, vulture, turkey…

Reptiles – snakes …

Assign one desert creature to each student. Ask the student to write three characteristics of the creature on plain sheet of paper. (Students can use index cards of size 10 cm × 15 cm). Questions such as - in what type of deserts it is found? Major adaptation? Use to man?

These characteristics will be used as clues in the guessing game. On the board make three columns – mammals, birds and reptiles. Paste a sheet of paper in the column under the particular category. The class can be divided in three to four groups. They will compete against each other in the 'desert game'. Each group now takes turn

in guessing the correct answer. Explain to the class that they have to guess what animal matches the characteristics listed on the paper.

For example:

- Animal of hot desert
- Has double set of eyelashes to keep away the sand
- The hide is used for making water bottles

The correct answer is 'camel'. Within the group there will be a student who has prepared the card. That student should not answer. Ten points are awarded for the correct answer.

This game will enable students to understand the desert. You can play the same game by taking different types of fruits, flora and the clothes the people wear.

Answer:

Students should do this activity in the class themselves.