

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Subject: Geography

Topic: The Desert

Year: 3

What should I already know?

- That deserts are very hot places
- Deserts are very sandy places with sand dunes
- The Sahara is a desert

What am I going to learn?

- Where they are located in the world
- Antarctica is a desert and it is freezing cold
- Deserts can be very hot during the day but cold at night
- The climate varies depending on the desert and where in the world it is
- There are different desert formations, eg, sand dunes, rock formations, flat top mountains called mesas, salt basins
- Humans use deserts to mine oil, for leisure activities, to test military aircraft and to generate energy
- Some people live in the desert
- There are desert cities such as Dubai, Kuwait and Las Vegas
- Desertification happens when an area that is already quite dry becomes a desert
- Desertification is caused by over farming, over grazing and climate change

Vocabulary

Barren: an area of land where plant growth may be sparse, stunted, and/or contain limited biodiversity

Erosion: the process of eroding or being eroded by wind, water, or other natural agents

Weathering: wear away or change the appearance or texture of (something) by long exposure to the atmosphere

Arid: having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation

Precipitation: rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to or condenses on the ground

Desertification: the process by which fertile land becomes desert, typically as a result of drought, deforestation, or inappropriate agriculture

Irrigation: the supply of water to land or crops to help growth

Vegetation: plants considered collectively, especially those found in a particular area or habitat



Useful Websites and Videos

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx882hv/articles/zsqnfg8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4crvs-KTBw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjaVm0vs2HY>