



G.D.GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SRINAGAR

Subject: Social Science

Aspect: Supported

Topic: Life In Desert

Date:15-11-2021

Name:

Grade/Sec.: VII.....

Learning Objectives: know about

- Hot cold deserts
- The Sahara Desert
- Ladakh

The Sahara

It is the **world's largest desert** and has **an area of 8.54 million sq km** touching eleven countries: **Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia** and **Western Sahara**.

Including **vast stretches of sand**, the Sahara also has **gravel plains**, and **elevated plateaus with bare rocky surfaces** that could be up to 2,500 metres high.

Climate

- The Sahara has a **scorching hot** and **parch dry climate** with a **cloudless and clear sky** and a **very short rainy season**.
- The moisture in the desert evaporates faster than it accumulates, so days are extremely hot. Those high temperatures heat up the sand and the bare rocks, which, in turn, radiate heat and make everything around them hotter.
- Nights in the desert might be freezing cold, with temperatures dropping to zero degrees.

Flora and Fauna

- Vegetation mostly includes **cactus, acacia, and date palms**. There are also some oases, i.e., **green islands with date palms** surrounding them.
- Animals found in the Sahara are **camels, hyenas, jackals, foxes, scorpions**, and many varieties **snakes** and **lizards**.

People

- Despite its harsh climate, the Sahara is inhabited by many groups of people such as the **Bedouin** and the **Tuareg**.

- They rear animals like **goats, sheep, camels, horses**, etc. for **milk, hide**, and **flesh**. The hides are used to make **leather for belts, slippers**, and **water bottles**, and hairs for **mats, carpets, clothes**, and **blankets**.
- They wear heavy robes to protect themselves from dust storms and hot winds.
- People live around the oasis in the Sahara and in the Nile valley where water is available, and they grow date palms.
- Crops such as **wheat, rice, barley** and **beans** are also grown in the Sahara, and the world-famous Egyptian cotton is grown in Egypt.
- The discovery of oil in Algeria, Libya, and Egypt, and of minerals like **iron, phosphorous, manganese**, and **uranium** have transformed the economy of the Sahara to a great extent.
- The cultural landscape of the Sahara is changing rapidly, with gleaming glass-cased buildings rising above mosques and superhighways criss-crossing ancient camel paths. Trucks are replacing camels in the salt trade and the Tuaregs guide tourists in the desert.
- Many nomadic herdsmen are moving to and settling down in the cities to find jobs in oil and gas companies.

After studying the above important points write the same in your geography notebooks.