

Biology Desert Biome Worksheet 4-28-11

<http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/msese/earthsysflr/desert.html>

1. What is the defining characteristic of a desert and its typical rainfall amount?
2. Give examples of hot and cold deserts. (not desserts!! ☺)
3. Give 3 factors that help determine where a desert is located.
4. Give examples of coastal and inland deserts.
5. Where on a continent are most coastal deserts located?
6. Explain why the moisture never reaches land in these locations.
7. Where are semi arid deserts located give an example of one.
8. Explain what is meant by the rain shadow effect.
9. Explain how the great Gobi desert has so little rainfall
10. Explain why temperatures are so high during the day in the desert.
11. Explain why the temps are so low at night.
12. Give 2 examples of mammals that live in the desert and where they are located.
13. Give 2 reasons why there are so few large animals in the desert.
14. What is the main adaptation most animals that live in the desert possess?
15. Explain what burrowing is and how it helps these animals.
16. Explain what it means for animals in the desert to be nocturnal.
17. Where do these animals get their water?
18. Explain the function of a salt gland.
19. How do desert animals deal with fat?
20. Give at least 3 examples of plants found in the desert.
21. Explain the function of a taproot.
22. Explain the function of a horizontal root system.
23. Explain what a succulent is and give an example of one.
24. Explain why cacti have spines on them instead of leaves.
25. Explain why some desert plants have glossy leaves.
26. Explain why some desert plants have waxy leaves.
27. Explain the function of a stomata.
28. When do plants open these stomata and why?