

Year 6 - Geography Home Learning Project: Would You Like to Live in a Desert?

Topic: Would You Like to Live in a Desert?

Many deserts are hot, dry and arid biomes with very little rainfall. However, not all deserts are hot; while all deserts are dry and arid, many are cold. They often have barren landscapes, fascinating plants and animals, and unique physical features such as sand dunes, salt flats and rock formations.



Task 1: Desert Postcard

Choose one of the world's deserts (for example: the Sahara Desert, Mojave Desert)

Imagine you have travelled there and are writing a postcard home.

Your postcard must include:

- ☒ The name and location of your desert
- ☒ A picture of the desert on the front
- ☒ A description of the weather and climate:
 - Very hot temperatures during the day
 - Much cooler temperatures at night
 - Dry conditions
 - Very low rainfall
- ☒ A description of the landscape:
 - Barren land
 - Salt flats
 - Sand dunes, mesas, mushroom rocks or natural arches (if appropriate)
- ☒ Information about vegetation and animal life:
 - Cacti
 - Desert bushes and trees
 - Tortoises
 - Rabbits
 - Snakes

- Other desert wildlife

Success Criteria

- Write in the first person ("I", "we").
- Include geographical vocabulary such as:
 - arid
 - desert
 - climate
 - rainfall
 - barren
 - biome
- Use descriptive language to help the reader imagine the desert.

Example Postcard Opening

Dear Mum and Dad,

Greetings from the Mojave Desert in the south-western United States! The weather here is extremely hot and dry during the day, but it becomes surprisingly cold at night...

Task 2: Desert Expedition Planning Challenge

Imagine that you are travelling from your home to the desert you chose in Task 1.

Part A: Shopping List

Create a shopping list of everything you would need to survive and travel safely in your chosen desert.

Consider:

- Clothing
- Food and water
- Navigation equipment
- Accommodation
- Safety equipment
- Sun protection

Part B: Journey Planner Challenge

Use an online journey planner (such as Google Maps) to plan your journey:

From: Your home address

To: Your chosen desert destination

Then: Plan the return journey home.

Record:

Journey Information	Details
Chosen Desert	
Nearest Town/City	
Transport Used	
Total Distance	
Outward Journey Cost	
Return Journey Cost	
Total Cost	
Total Journey Time	

Reflection Questions

1. Why did you choose this desert?
2. Which part of the journey would be the most challenging?
3. What item on your shopping list do you think would be most important and why?
4. Would you like to live in your chosen desert? Explain your answer using geographical evidence.

Deadline: Thursday, 15th October 2026