

THE DESERT

Lesson explanation, Part 1

A desert is generally without water and vegetation. Generally, we think life in a desert is impossible and one cannot survive for long in a desert. We also think it is only an endless stretch of sand where no rain falls and therefore, no vegetation grows. But it is actually not entirely correct. Life in desert can be a beautiful one. A desert is a home to a variety of people, animals and plants that have learnt to live under very hot and dry conditions.

It is true that unlike other climates, the land doesn't receive too much rain or is not always hidden by a cover of grass, plants and trees. But, it is also true that whenever it rains, which is rare, desert flowers bloom and it can be a beautiful sight to witness.

We generally think, that a desert is always a flat, unchanging wasteland of dry sands. No, it is not always correct. Deserts may have mountains and hills too. It may also have an oasis.

What is an oasis?

An oasis is a fertile spot in desert, where water is found and thus trees and plants get a better chance to grow.

There are many type deserts. A desert may not be always hot like the Thar Desert or cold like Ladakh. People in general consider a place to be a desert if it has little or no rain and vegetation.

There are some deserts which receives no rain at all. In such places, strange winds blow raising heaps of sands and depositing them as mounds. Such mounds are called sand dunes. These shift and move endlessly across the desert. Only few plants can survive such dry, shifting sands.