

THE DESERT

Lesson explanation, Part 2

Many different creatures live in desert. And they are adapted to the climatic condition of deserts. Although, all living beings need water to survive, the desert plants and animals have learnt to require much less water than most plants and animals.

The camel which is popularly known as the 'ship of the desert' can drink a lot of water at one time.

Camels are such creatures which can do without water for days together. The reason behind this is, they can stand high body temperature. Camels don't need to sweat like humans. Human beings sweat to keep their body temperature constant. But camels don't sweat. Thus, they can retain the water they drink for long periods of time.

Similarly, the smaller desert animals have also adapted themselves according to the climate of desert. They do not drink water. Rather, they burrow underground during the hot day and come out at night to eat. Even some of them eats other animals and receive moisture from their meat. Or some eat other plants and seeds and get the water from plant juices.

Not only the animals, but the plants too have adapted to the desert life. Cactus plants, one of the common plants to be found in deserts store water in their thick stems. Their roots lie close to the surface to absorb moisture from the ground when it rains. Above all, the major feature of all deserts is dryness and variations of temperature.

Why deserts are different from other places?

In humid climates, the moisture in the air acts like a blanket and protects the earth's surface from hot rays of the sun. But this feature is absent in deserts and thus it heats up rapidly during the day and cools off rapidly at night. And this can be dangerous too. Above all, deserts are an important part of nature's great plan and they shouldn't be looked upon as useless parts of the earth.