



UNIQUE STUDY POINT

Chapter 3 The Desert NCERT Questions and Answers

Question 1. From the first paragraph

- (i) pick out two phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is;
- (ii) pick out two phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it.

Which do you think is an apt description, and why?

Answer: (i) The phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is are: endless stretch of sand, hot, dry, waterless, without shelter.

(ii) The phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it are: a beautiful place; the home of a variety of people, animals and plants; the sight can be as rewarding as that of any tropical garden.

Question 2. The phrases on the left in the following box occur in the text. Match each of them with a phrase on the right.

(i)	an endless stretch of sand	fertile place with water and plants in a desert
(ii)	waterless and without shelter	not visible because the grass is thick
(iii)	an oasis	nothing but sand as far as one can see
(iv)	hidden by a cover of grass	no water and no shade

Answer:

(i)	an endless stretch of sand	nothing but sand as far as one can see
(ii)	waterless and without shelter	no water and no shade
(iii)	an oasis	fertile place with water and plants in a desert

(iv)	hidden by a cover of grass	not visible because the grass is thick
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Question 1. A camel can do without water for days together. What is the reason given in the text?

Answer: A camel can do without water for days together because they sweat very little. Camels can stand high body temperature. They don't need to sweat and therefore can retain the water they drink for long periods of time.

Question 2. How do the smaller desert animals fulfill their need for water?

Answer: The smaller animals fulfill their need for water by burrowing underground during the hot day and come out at night to eat. Some of them eat other animals and get the water they need from the moisture in the meat. Others eat plants and seeds and get the water they need from plant juices.

Question 3. In a desert the temperature rises during the day and falls rapidly at night. Why?

Answer: In humid climates, the moisture in the air acts like a blanket and protects the earth's surface from the hot rays of the sun. The absence of this blanket in desert lands causes the desert to heat up rapidly during the day and to cool off rapidly at night.

Exercises

Do the following activities in groups.

Question 1. Describe a desert in your own way. Write a paragraph and read it aloud to your classmates.

Answer: A desert is generally without water and vegetation but it as beautiful as a forest. A desert may be too hot or too cold but plants and animals there have learned to survive in hot and dry and cold condition. Deserts also have a different kind of vegetation.

Question 2. Go to the library and collect information about the lifestyle of people in desert areas— their food, clothes, work, social customs, etc. Share this information with the group.

Answer: The nomads are homeless people in desert areas. They keep shifting to places where they can get food and fodder. Their life is very hard. They use camels for transportation. They eat mainly meat and dates. They weave their clothes from the wool of camel or sheep. Their life style is very simple. They look to the sky for rain water. They have developed their own customs.

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