

Fascinating Facts About Deserts!



People and Planet

Deserts are places that receive less than **10 inches (25 centimeters)** of rainfall a year! They are found all over the world, on every continent, and cover more than **one fifth** of the Earth's surface!

Deserts are full of wildlife adapted to survive in harsh conditions. **Fennec foxes** are active at night, when it's cooler, **desert tortoises** escape the heat underground and some insects can even **get their water from fog** in the air! Some plants sprout **incredibly long roots** to find water deep underground, and others, like cacti, can **store water** for when they really need it!

Sadly, deserts are threatened by climate change. As Earth's temperature rises, already-hot deserts are becoming even hotter, causing more intense **wildfires** and **drought** that destroy plants, leaving fewer places for desert wildlife to live and hide from the heat.

FUN FACT!

Not all deserts are hot! Polar deserts, in the Arctic and Antarctic, are always cold!



Fennec foxes have huge ears that help them stay cool!



The word 'desert' means 'abandoned place'!

FUN FACT!

Deserts aren't just home to wildlife, they're home to millions of people, too!



Desert tortoise tunnels can be up to 32 feet in length!



Cacti's prickly spines act as tiny umbrellas against the scorching sun!

Did you know?

- The hottest desert in the world is the **Atacama Desert in Chile**, while the coldest is in Antarctica!
- During the day, average desert temperatures can rise to **just over 100°F (38°C)**, while at night, they can drop to an average of around **25°F (-3.9°C)**!
- The biggest hot desert in the world is the **Sahara**, which spans almost **all of North Africa**, while the smallest hot desert on Earth is the **Carcross** in **Canada**!

Luckily, people worldwide are working to tackle climate change, and **you can help**, too!

☐ Quiz your friends!

How much do your friends and family know about deserts? Wow them with your desert fun facts!

☐ Grow your own!

You might not be able to grow a desert, but you can still support nature at home – plant something new and watch wildlife flourish!

☐ Reduce your impact!

Even small actions like turning off a dripping faucet and reducing food waste helps fight climate change.