



Grades 2-7

The Desert

Unit Study



A Journey Through Learning
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Thank you for purchasing from **A Journey Through Learning**. We hope that you enjoy our unit study entitled **The Desert**. Getting started is easy.

First, take the time to just browse through the pages to familiarize yourself with the layout. In this book, you will find many topics.

Each topic has a(an):

- * information page
- *correlating activity pages
- *vocabulary words

Information Page

Each of the topics has an information page to read to your child.

Activity Page

After the information page has been read, it is time to do the activity that is found right after the information page. Some of these activities are more for fun while others are more challenging. All of them will enrich your child's understanding and knowledge of each topic.

Vocabulary Study

The underlined words are vocabulary words. Read each sentence that contains the vocabulary word very carefully. It is important that your child hear the vocabulary words in context. Ask your child if he/she can get the meaning of the word from listening to the sentence it is contained in. Next, turn to the vocabulary pages in the back of the book. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word and write it on the lines provided. Vocabulary study increases your child's knowledge of the topic!

How Long Does it Take to Complete A Unit Study?

Doing a study guide page and an activity sheet a day, it should take about one month to complete. However, you can expand the study portion and make it last as long as you like! That's the beauty of homeschooling! Do it YOUR way!

Study Choices

Choice #1- Read the first page of the study guide. Then use the internet and fun children's books to learn more about the topic that is covered in that study guide. For instance-our American Indians Unit Study has a study guide page about Geronimo. Dig into Geronimo. There are probably lots of interesting things to learn about him that the study guide does not cover. Spend a day on Geronimo or spend a week! When your child has completed studying that particular topic, it will be time to do the activity sheet for that topic. The activity sheets are found right after the study guide page that it goes with.

Choice #2- Read only the study guide page and do the activity sheet that goes with it. The activity sheets are found right after the study guide page that it goes with. You may choose to do one study guide/activity sheet per day, two per day, two per week, three per week, etc. It doesn't matter. The pace is completely up to you. At one per day, it will take about a month to complete this unit study.

Tips and tricks to go the extra mile!

Supplies Need:

½ inch three-ring binder

8 tabs (if you are using our copywork and/or notebooking pages, you will need to have 10 tabs. Label with copywork and notebooking)

Your study guide and activity sheet pages

1. Label your tabs: Study Guide, Activity Sheets, Book Log, NICK, Biography Reports, Outlines, and Narration pages (Copywork and Notebooking, if using these).
2. Make copies of NICK notes and outline forms and narration forms, put them behind the tabs. Your child can use either the NICK notes form (easier) or the outline form (a bit harder) after any of the study guides. The narration forms also come in two levels. Choose the correct level for your child. These serve as a good way for your child to show what they have learned.
3. Hole punch your study guide and activity sheets and place behind the correct tab. You will read a page of a study guide. Behind the study guide are all of the activities that go with that study guide.



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Websites about the Desert



What Would it be Like to Live in the Desert?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in the desert? The desert can be an exciting, and at the same time, a very dangerous place. There are many different types of deserts- ranging from hot and dry to extremely cold. The desert is also home to a wide variety of plants and animals.

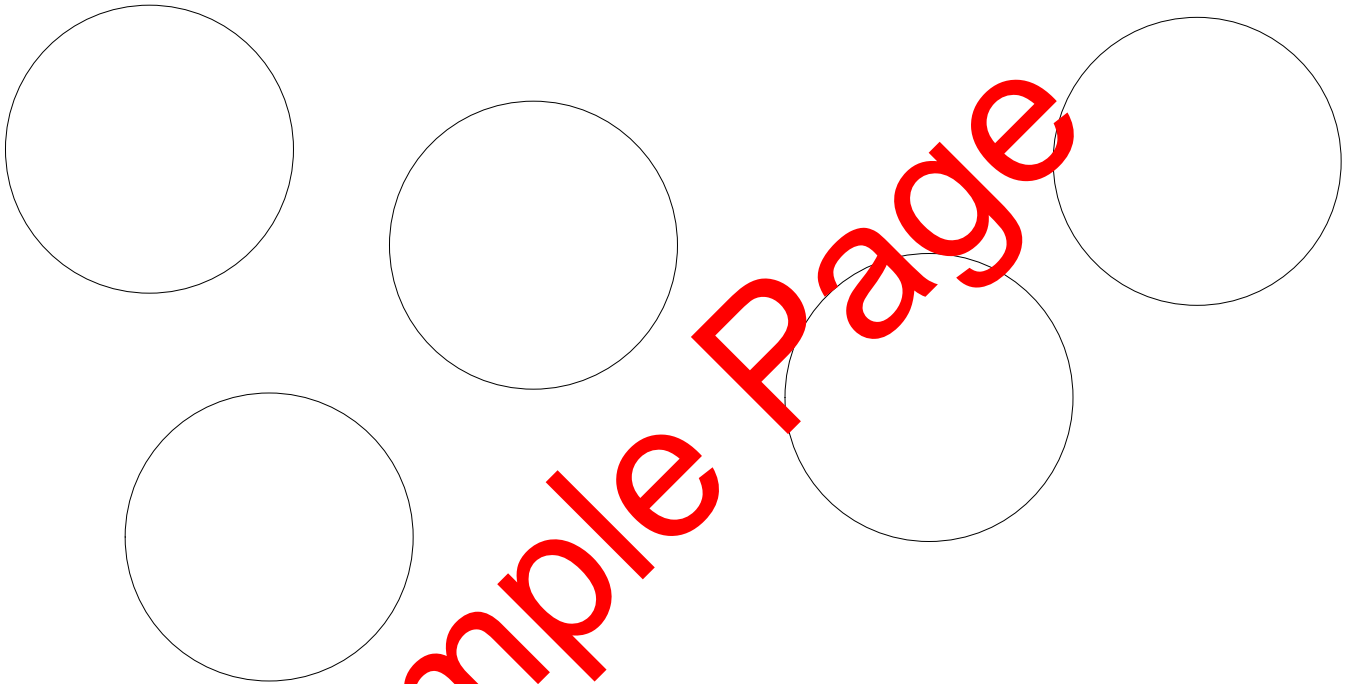
One of the main differences in the desert, compared to other parts of the world, is that the desert receives very little rain throughout the year. The animals and plants that live there must learn to adapt to this type of climate. The desert is often extremely hot during the day. Temperatures can soar above 120 degrees but can become cooler at night as the sun goes down. It is common for the temperature to drop as much as 50 degrees or more. The reason for the drop in the temperature is that there is no evaporation in the atmosphere to block sunlight during the day, which also allows the heat to escape easily at night.

Some deserts, however, are always cold (for example, the Gobi Desert in Asia, and the desert on the continent of Antarctica). Due to the lack of water and harsh conditions in the desert, some animals never drink water; they get their water from seeds and plants. Some animals even live underground during the hottest part of the day to stay cool and out of the hot sun.

Deserts cover about one fifth of the Earth's surface. The rainfall in the desert is usually less than 20 inches a year. The vegetation in the desert is special in that it is specialized for its surroundings. The soil is also filled with an abundance of nutrients. This allows plants to reproduce with very little or no water. Odd disturbances are common in the desert. They can occur as fires, cold weather, and infrequent, but intense rains that cause flooding. Many deserts are found in bands along 30 degrees latitude north and 30 degrees latitude south. This is where the dry air currents blow across the earth. Five continents have deserts including North America, Asia, Africa, South America, and Australia.

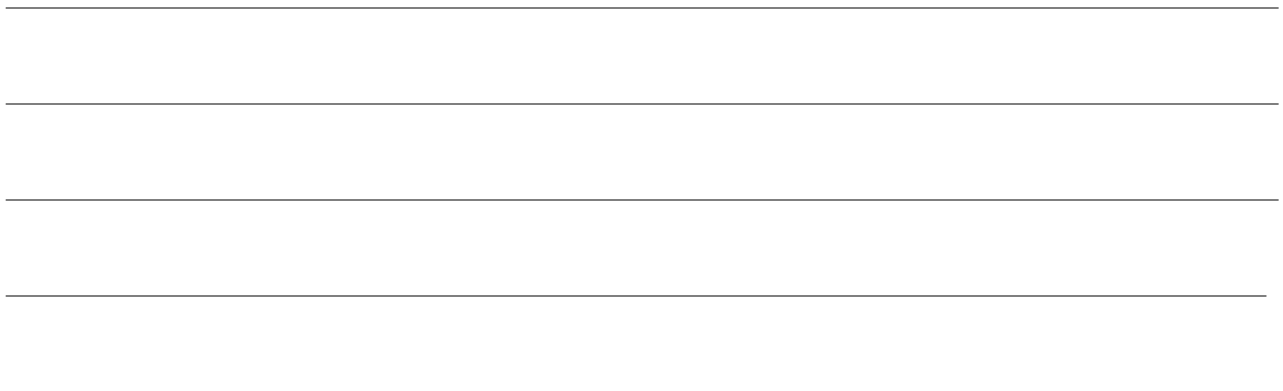
Use with **What Would it be Like to Live in the Desert?** study guide.
Inside the circles, list the 5 continents that have deserts. Then answer
the question below.

The Five Continents
that have deserts are...



Five empty circles arranged in two rows: three in the top row and two in the bottom row. A large red watermark 'Sample Page' is overlaid diagonally across the circles.

What are the
different types of deserts?



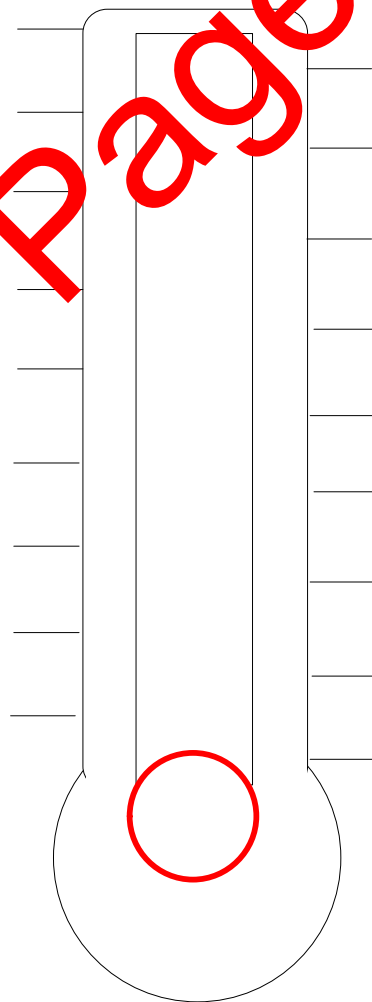
Five horizontal lines provided for writing the answer to the question.

Use with **What Would it be Like to Live in the Desert?** study guide.
Write in the degrees in F and C. Record the daytime temperature in the
desert and the nighttime temperature.

Day Time
Temperature

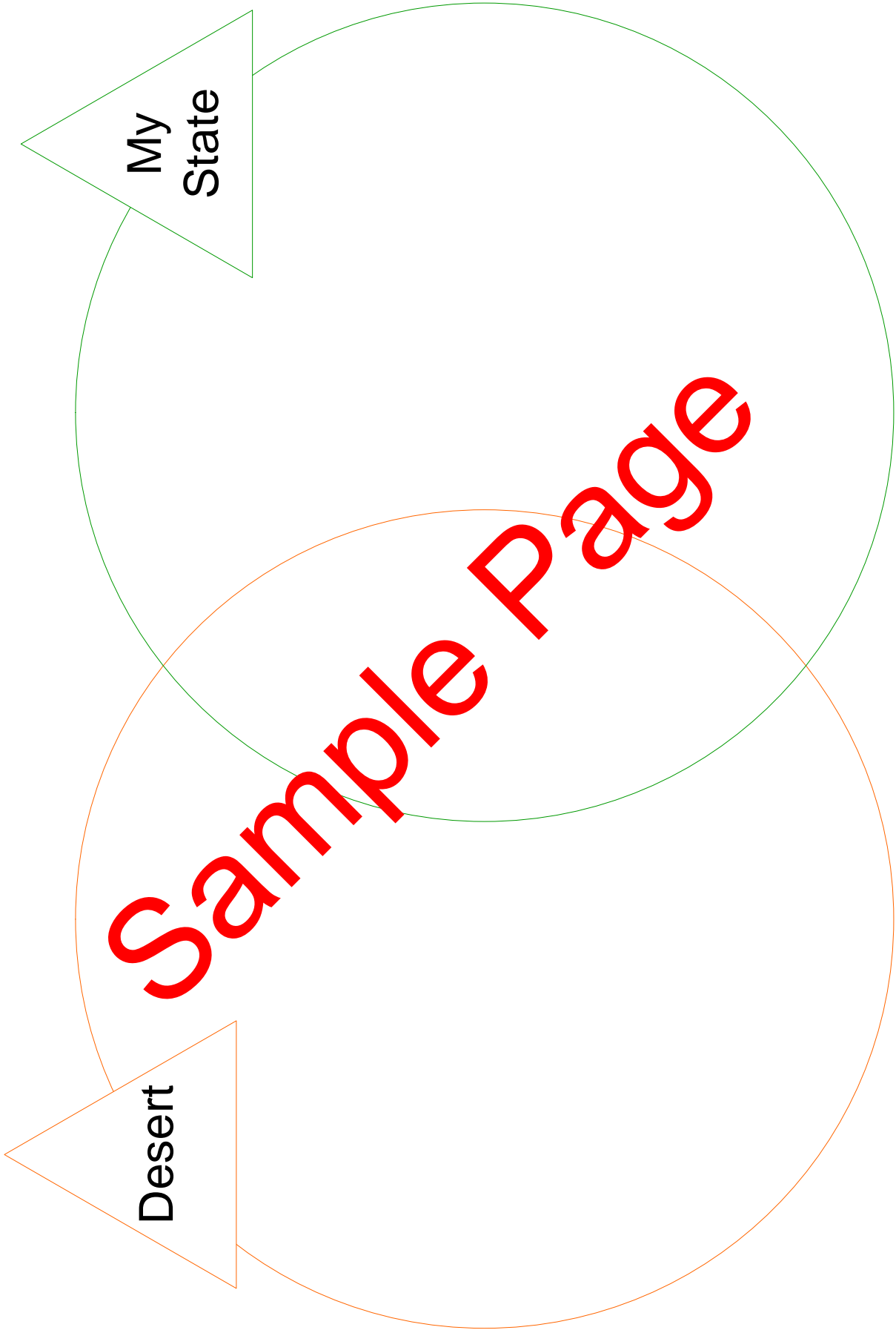


Night Time
Temperature



Sample Page

Use the Venn-Diagram to compare and contrast the desert with the state that you live in. List how they are different in the outer circles, then in the overlapping area, write how they are the same.



Welcome to the Sahara Desert

The Sahara Desert is the world's largest and hottest desert. It is located in North Africa. The Sahara is so large that it could not fit inside of the United States. It is bound by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the east.

The Sahara covers most of Mauritania, Western Sahara, Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Mali and Niger and a small bit of Morocco and Tunisia. About 25% of the Sahara is sand and dunes; the rest is mountains, steppes, and oases.

The temperatures range from over 130 degrees to way below freezing. The Sahara climate is subtropical, but the further south you go, the more tropical it becomes. The Nile and Niger Rivers run through the Sahara, as do many others.

The Sahara has many fertile oases. Oases form from an underground water reservoir. Some oases are even plentiful enough to form a pool of water. Grasses, shrubs, and trees also grow in the highlands, oases, and along riverbeds. The animals found in the Sahara include gerbil, jerboa, deer, hedgehog, Barbary sheep, gazelle, wild donkey, baboon, hyena, weasel, jackal, sand fox, and mongoose. There are also more than 300 types of birds.



Use with **Welcome to the Sahara Desert** study guide. Write about each of the items and draw a picture..

The Sahara Desert

Terrain

Location

Animals

Sample Page