

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment

Section B: Living World

Topic: Hot Deserts (3)

Unit content: RAG the following throughout, or at the end of the unit.	R	A	G
Hot desert ecosystems have a range of distinctive characteristics			
The physical characteristics of a hot desert.			
The interdependence of climate, water, soils, plants, animals and people.			
How plants adapt to the physical conditions.			
How animals adapt to the physical conditions.			
Issues related to biodiversity			
Development of hot desert environments creates opportunities and challenges.			
A case study of a hot desert to illustrate:			
1. development opportunities in hot desert environments:			
• mineral extraction			
• energy			
• farming			
• tourism			
2. challenges of developing hot desert environments:			
• extreme temperatures			
• water supply			
• inaccessibility			
Areas on the fringe of hot deserts are at risk of desertification.			
Causes of desertification – climate change, population growth, removal of fuel wood, overgrazing, over-cultivation and soil erosion.			
Strategies used to reduce the risk of desertification – water and soil management, tree planting and use of appropriate technology.			
Unit skills	R	A	G
ICT skills (Word, PowerPoint, Research...)			
Map skills			
High quality literacy skills (can you write with sophisticated fluency?)			
Interpreting data and trends			
High quality evaluation skills (balanced arguments and your own opinions)			
Ability to think synoptically (using content from a range of topics and units)			
Other:	R	A	G
Understand the meaning of common command words like describe, explain, analyse			
P.E.E.L Technique			