

Questions to be answered when watching BBC video: Planet Earth, Deserts

- 1) What amount of Earth's surface is covered in deserts?

- 2) What is the range between summer and winter temperatures in the Gobi desert of Mongolia?

- 3) What is the main problem for animals living in the Gobi? What is the strategy of the Bactrian camels in coping with this main problem?

- 4) What geographic factor causes the Gobi desert? What specific type of desert is it (the video doesn't actually say but we've discussed this in lecture)?

- 5) Which is the world's largest desert? How does its size compare with the US?

- 6) During sandstorms, how high above the ground does sand travel? How about dust? What unusual rock formations result from the height of sand transport and the resulting sandblasting? (draw a sketch)

- 7) Which is the most arid continent on Earth? What is the rate of temperature rise during the day in Australia?

- 8) What techniques or strategies do kangaroos use to keep themselves from overheating during the day in Australia's deserts?

9) Which desert is the driest in the world? How many years have some parts of this desert gone without any recorded rainfall?

10) What geographic and meteorological factors control the formation of fog in Chile's Atacama desert? How does this influence the presence of life in this harsh desert?

11) In the Sonoran desert of AZ, what is the name of the dominant cactus growing there? How is this plant able to hold up to 5 tons of water?

12) What benefits to other organisms do these cacti provide?

13) What is the cause of most animal death in deserts or what resource do they lack most that often results in death?

14) How quickly do waters recede after a flash flood in a desert?

15) Which desert in North America is considered to be the hottest place on Earth?

16) How long can seeds lay dormant in the ground in Death Valley and then be viable enough to bloom when watered?