

The Desert Biome

Deserts, most people think these as barren wastelands, dry and lifeless, but this isn't quite the case. First of all, what is a desert? According to the University of California, deserts are an area of land that receive less than 25 cm of rain per year. Due to this lack of precipitation deserts can easily appear to yield no life, but remarkably life in these harsh environments prevails, and we see some of the most amazing adaptations of plants and animals in the world. Deserts are located in subtropical regions on either side of the equatorial belt. These deserts are what we know to be traditional deserts. There are also cold deserts. This desert is located on Antarctica and contains many of the same attributes and hot deserts, except for the heat of course. Contrary to popular belief even hot deserts can drop to temperatures below freezing at night. This is due to the lack of vegetation to absorb and hold heat as well as the lack of cloud coverage in these areas which allows heat to rise without any barrier to keep it in the lower atmosphere.