



NCERT

Exercises

(Questions-Solutions)

THE DESERT

Textual Exercises

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1. From the first paragraph—

- (i) Pick out two phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is;
 - (ii) Now pick out two phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it;
- Which do you think is an apt description and why?

- Sol.**
- (i) An endless stretch of sand
 - (ii) Waterless and without shelter
 - (i) A beautiful place
 - (ii) A home of a variety of people, animals and plants. The second one is an apt description of a desert. It is because we see people living there. Certain animals and plants are also found there. Though it rains poorly but it does not mean that it is completely waterless and shelter less.

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1. The phrases on the left in the box occur in the text. Match each of them with a phrase on the right.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| (i) an endless stretch of sand | (i) Fertile place with water and plants in a desert |
| (ii) waterless and without shelter | (ii) not visible because the grass is thick |
| (iii) an oasis | (iii) nothing but sand as far as one can see |
| (iv) hidden by a cover of grass | (iv) no water and no shade, |

- Sol.**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| (i) An endless stretch of sand | (i) nothing but sand as far as one can see |
| (ii) waterless and with out shelter | (ii) ho water and no shade |
| (iii) an oasis | (iii) fertile place with water and plants in a desert |
| (iv) hidden by cover of grass | (iv) not visible because the grass is thick |

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1. A camel can do without water for days together. What is the reason given in the text?

- Sol.** The reason is they sweat very little.

2. How do the smaller desert animals fulfil their need for water?

- Sol.** Some of the smaller desert animals eat other animal's arid get the water they need from the moisture in the meat. Others eat plants and seeds and get the required water from plant juices.

3. In a desert the temperature rises during the day and falls rapidly at night. Why?

Sol. In desert lands there is no moisture in the air. This moisture acts like a blanket and protects the earth's surface from the hot sunrays. In absence of this blanket the temperature rises rapidly during the days and falls rapidly at night.

4. Describe a desert in your own word. Write a paragraph and read it aloud to your classmates.

Sol. A desert is an area which is covered with sand. It is almost dry because rainfall is very poor there. Certain plants and animals live there. They have adapted themselves to the life they lead. People who live there lead a very tough life. They face the scarcity of water all through their life. They have to cover a long distance to fetch water. During summer, their life become more miserable. Despite all the inconveniences, they love their native land and do hard labour. The camel is an important animal found in the desert. It can live without water for a long time. Generally it drinks a lot of water at one time. It is called the 'ship of the desert.' The people living in the desert get milk from the she camel.