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Activity

Quiz: Deserts and desertification

This quiz is marked out of 10. It could be used as a quick review before teaching the topic to see what students already know. Alternatively, it could be a short team quiz, used for fun but as a way of opening up a discussion of these issues. Answers are available to download as a separate document from GeographyReviewExtras.

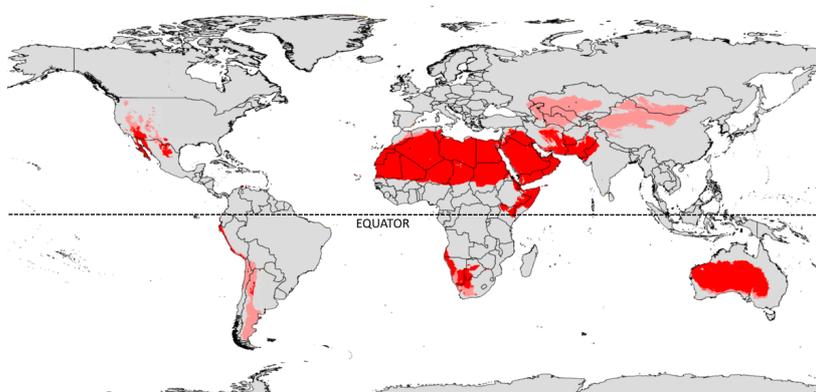
1 Deserts are usually defined as areas receiving how much annual precipitation? (1 mark)

- A 500 mm or less
- B 250 mm or less
- C 100 mm or less
- D 1,000 mm or less

2 Roughly, what percentage of the world's land area is desert? (1 mark)

- A 10%
- B 25%
- C 33%
- D 42%

3 The map below shows the world's deserts (excluding polar ones). What latitude range are most located in?



- A 0–10° North/South
- B 55–65° North/South
- C 20–35° North/South
- D 40–50° North/South

4 Drylands is a wider definition of areas with very low precipitation and high aridity. Roughly how many people live in drylands? (1 mark)

- A 0.5 billion
- B 2 billion
- C 1 billion
- D 1.5 billion

5 Flora (plants) in deserts are adapted to survive in an environment with little available liquid water. What are these plants called? (1 mark)

- A Epiphytes
- B Halophytes
- C Hydrophytes
- D Xerophytes

6 Which continent has the largest area of hyper-arid and arid deserts? (1 mark)

- A Asia
- B Australasia
- C North America
- D Africa

7 The United Nations defines desertification as a type of what? (1 mark)

- A Climate change
- B Land degradation
- C Natural hazard
- D Soil erosion

- 8** Which desert is said to be the fastest expanding in the world (the most affected by desertification)? (1 mark)
- A The Gobi Desert (China)
 - B The Thar Desert (India/Pakistan)
 - C The Sahara Desert
 - D The Atacama Desert (Chile)
- 9** Which of these factors contributes to desertification? (1 mark)
- A Reduced precipitation due to global warming
 - B Deforestation by humans
 - C Over-grazing by sheep, cattle and goats
 - D Soil erosion during periods of heavy rainfall.
- 10** According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) how many people currently live in areas that have experienced some desertification over the last 40 years? (1 mark)
- A 100 million
 - B 250 million
 - C 500 million
 - D 750 million

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