



Geography Knowledge Organiser:

Map skills and desert biomes



Overview



This topic explores why we need maps and how to use them effectively. We look at world maps and local OS maps. We explore one of the main world biomes of deserts and plant/animals adaptation to it as a contrast to the earlier rainforest work.



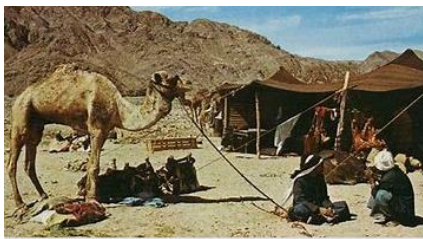
Human geography (people)



How we have divided the world into continents and named the oceans

Using maps (compass points, scale and grid references 4 and 6 figure)

Locating deserts and understanding something of the wonders of this biome
Human adaptation to desert life



Physical geography (nature)



Desert biomes.

These include hot and cold deserts (e.g. Antarctica)

Animals and plants have adapted to the lack of rainfall and extremes of temperatures.

Many animals are nocturnal and need little water. Plants tend to be tough and again require little water.



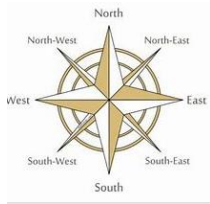
Main skills and or fieldwork



Locational map skills e.g. using an atlas, google earth, digimaps, compass points, keys and scale.

7 continents are...Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Africa, Oceania/Australasia

Oceans = Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic and Southern



Other key vocabulary



latitude/longitude/Equator	lines that help us locate places on a world map
Prime Meridian	the first line of longitude that creates Greenwich mean time
hemisphere	half the globe
compass points	North, NW, South, SW, East, SE, West, SW
time zones	these tend to follow lines of longitude and enable places to have daylight in the day time!
adaptation	how plants/animals are suited to their environment
precipitation	rain and snow
nomads	people whose homes are movable during the year



Big questions/ideas



Why do we need maps?
Why do we have time zones?
How do we use maps effectively?

Could we survive for long in a desert?
How do plants survive?
How do animals survive?



Curriculum links and further research



- ❖ Christian Value...sense of wonder in the natural world
- ❖ English – writing a postcard to describe the desert and explain how cleverly adapted the plant and animal life is there
 - ❖ RE – appreciating our planet
 - ❖ Maths – statistics and grid references
 - ❖ Music – desert nomads music

Why not watch these videos?

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/clips/zrtmhyc> = camels

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nifct_F2s0&list=PLcvEcrsF_9zLVcanJ7oMpg_VAH52iqZqsV&index=12&t=0s = penguins

OR visit the fabulous National Geographic kids website
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/>