

NATURE'S MYSTERIES

Lesson Plan

Desert Quest

Lesson Plan for *Namibia's Fairy Circles*

Grade 3

Objective

To help students use an interactive website to find facts about the three main types of deserts found on Earth.

Things Needed

- *Namibia's Fairy Circles* book
- Access to the "Namibia's Fairy Circles" web page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/natures-mysteries/fairy-circles>
- Desert Quest worksheet (attached)

Before the Activity

Read the *Namibia's Fairy Circles* book as a class, or have students read it on their own. Print out a worksheet for each student, or email the worksheet to students.

Activity

Have students open the "Namibia's Fairy Circles" web page in their internet browsers. Then, have students select the "Explore Links" tab and click on the link to the DK Findout page, "Deserts." Students can also find this page here: <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/deserts/>

Explain that *Namibia's Fairy Circles* describes a strange phenomenon in Africa's Namib Desert. The Namib is just one of many deserts found on Earth. Invite a volunteer to read the paragraph at the top of the "Deserts" web page out loud. Then ask students, "According to this paragraph, what are the three main types of deserts?" (Answer: hot deserts, cold deserts, and coastal deserts)

The Desert Quest worksheet has several questions about these three kinds of deserts. Students should use the DK Findout website to find the answers. They can click on the links to read the text boxes and articles about each type of desert. When students find the answer to a question, they can write that type of desert in the space below the question.



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Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to correct the worksheets, giving students 1 point for each correct answer, for a total of 15 points.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.1, 3.5).



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Desert Quest

1. The Atacama Desert is an example of what kind of desert?
2. The Great Basin is an example of what kind of desert?
3. The Kalahari is an example of what kind of desert?
4. Which type of desert has hot daytime temperatures but very cold nights?
5. Which type of desert has hot, dry summers and freezing cold winters?
6. Which type of desert is kept dry by air blowing in from the sea?
7. Which type of desert covers nearly all of northern Africa?
8. Which type of desert lies along the coast of southwestern Africa?



9. Which type is the large desert that covers southern Mongolia and parts of northern China?

10. Which type of desert is found in temperate regions?

11. Which type of desert is mostly found just north and south of the equator?

12. Which type of desert often gets thick fog?

13. Which type of desert do some scientists say Antarctica is?

14. Which type of desert is the Arabian Peninsula?

15. Which type of desert is often found in plateaus or mountains?



Desert Quest **Answer Key**

1. The Atacama Desert is an example of what kind of desert?

coastal desert

2. The Great Basin is an example of what kind of desert?

cold desert

3. The Kalahari is an example of what kind of desert?

hot desert

4. Which type of desert has hot daytime temperatures but very cold nights?

hot desert

5. Which type of desert has hot, dry summers and freezing cold winters?

cold desert

6. Which type of desert is kept dry by air blowing in from the sea?

coastal desert

7. Which type of desert covers nearly all of northern Africa?

a hot desert (the Sahara)

8. Which type of desert lies along the coast of southwestern Africa?

a coastal desert (the Namib Desert)



9. Which type is the large desert that covers southern Mongolia and parts of northern China?

a cold desert (the Gobi Desert)

10. Which type of desert is found in temperate regions?

cold desert

11. Which type of desert is mostly found just north and south of the equator?

hot desert

12. Which type of desert often gets thick fog?

coastal desert

13. Which type of desert do some scientists say Antarctica is?

cold desert

14. Which type of desert is the Arabian Peninsula?

hot desert

15. Which type of desert is often found in plateaus or mountains?

cold desert

