TIME FOR KIDS

Survival!

DESERT



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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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DESERTED!

The heat beats down from the sun like a weight. It presses on your head and shoulders. You are sleepy from the hot rays and so very thirsty. Licking your cracked lips, you wish you had packed a **canteen**. Your mouth and throat feel **parched** and dry as you swallow. Your skin is tight as you move. These are signs that your body is shutting down. You need water fast, but all you see is sand, the blazing sun, and prickly shrubs!

Lost and alone in the **desert**, seemingly far from help, you wonder how you got into this situation. And you need to know what you can do to survive.



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About one-fifth of Earth's land is desert. These areas get very little rain or snow, and the air is very dry most of the year.

Deserts can be found on every continent.

It isn't common for people to be stranded in a desert, but it does happen. Maybe you are in a car driving through a desert, and the car breaks down. Maybe you are hiking in a desert and become lost. Or maybe you are the victim of **foul play**!

When traveling through, to, or near a desert, a smart person goes prepared—just in case.



Whenever you travel, it is always a good idea to be prepared for emergencies.

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Emergency!

Planning for desert survival starts at home. Take emergency supplies with you. Better safe than sorry! Supplies should include an emergency kit. Such kits usually include basic medical supplies, **flares**, and **reflectors**. These are some of the most important items to include in your kit.











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DIG DEEPER!

Deserts Around the World

No two deserts are exactly alike. What is most threatening in one desert may not be a threat in another. A key to your survival is preparation.

Gobi Desert

Traveling on foot across a desert can be dangerous! But every year, trained athletes gather for the Gobi March. It's a 155-mile **trek** across one of the harshest deserts in the world. Some athletes collapse during the race from **heat exhaustion.**



Syrian Desert

Dust storms occur in deserts around the world. Sometimes they come on so quickly, there isn't time to find shelter. The dust can blind travelers. In some cases, a dust storm can lift over a mile into the air.



The Australian Outback

The Australian Outback is home to some of the world's deadliest snakes and spiders. One bite could send you to your grave. But when treated by a doctor, most bites aren't deadly.



Namib Desert

Morning fog is something we usually see near water. The Namib Desert is special. Cold ocean currents and strong winds form dense clouds of fog. They drift inland over the desert. The moisture in the fog helps some species survive. How would you use it to survive in the desert?

