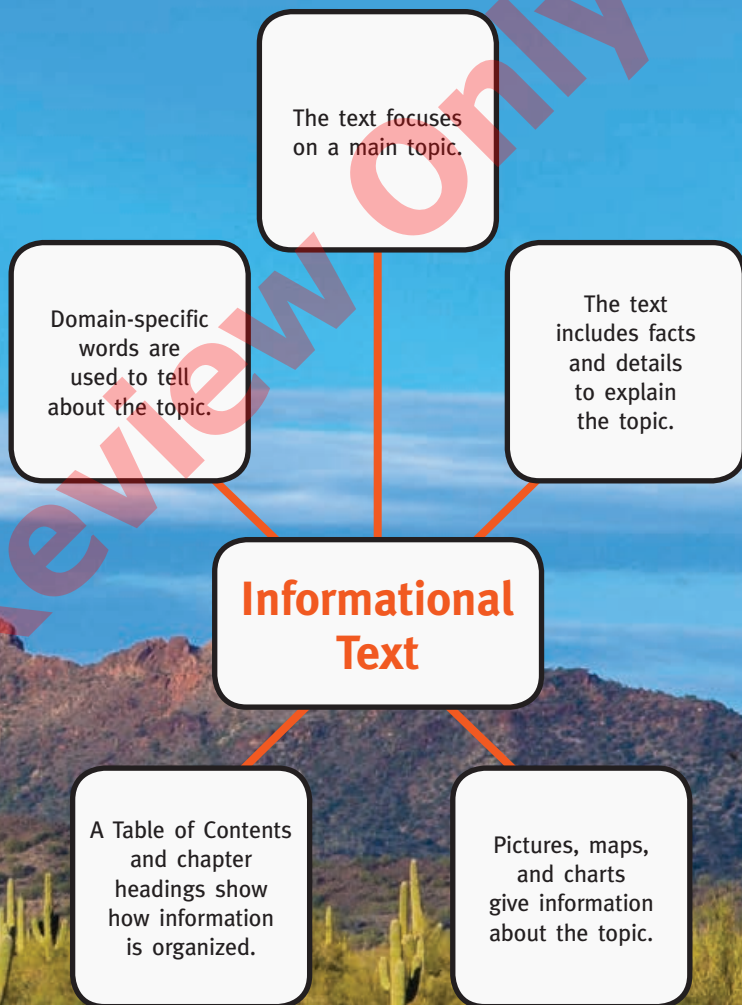


The Sonoran Desert

Level **K/20**
Lexile® **600L**

Informational Text

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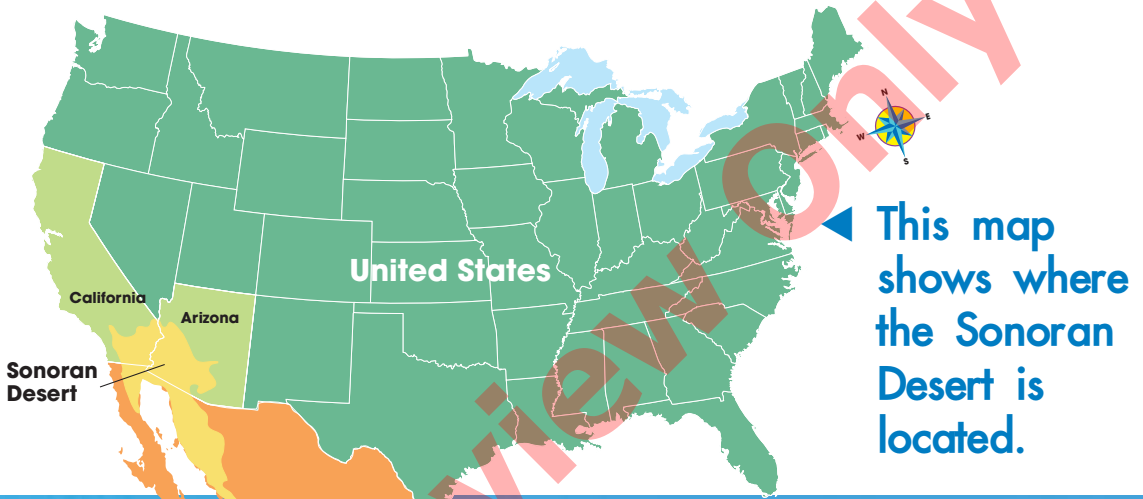
What Is the Sonoran Desert?

The Sonoran Desert is a very large desert. It covers an area of about 100,000 square miles. The desert **extends** along the border between Mexico and the United States.

In the United States, the desert spans the states of California and Arizona.



The Arizona cities of Phoenix and Tucson are in the Sonoran Desert. So is Palm Springs, California.



The Sonoran Desert is the hottest desert in North America. Its temperatures differ widely between day and night. It is very hot during the day. The average high temperature there in June and July is around 38°C (100°F).

▼ The sun heats the sand in the desert.



It's very cold in the desert at night.
The average low temperature there
in December and January is around
4°C (39°F).

- It can get very cold in winter.

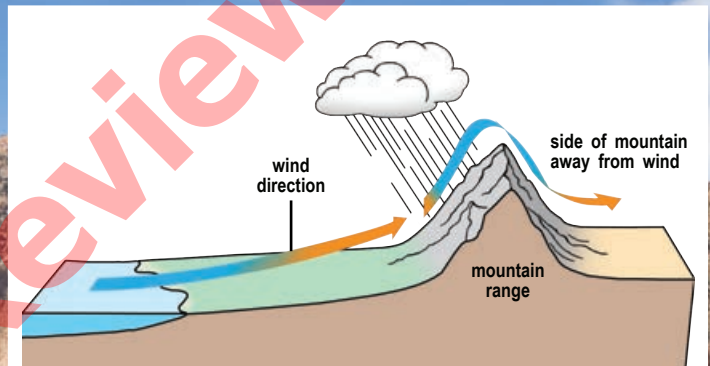


There is a dry season in the Sonoran Desert. The dry season is caused by the high mountains that separate the Sonoran Desert from the Pacific Ocean.

- ▼ It may not rain for months during the dry season.



The moisture in the air from the Pacific Ocean cools as it goes up the mountains. The water in the air is lost before it gets to the desert. The land becomes very dry. This is called a rain shadow.



▲ This shows a rain shadow.

There are two rainy seasons in the Sonoran Desert. Light rain falls in the winter during December and January. Heavier rain falls in the summer, and lasts from July into early September.

▼ It can rain in the desert.



A wide variety of plants grow during the two rainy seasons. Some plants have beautiful flowers. The desert fills with color.

- Flowers bloom in desert plants after it rains.

