Deserts Study Sheet

1. arid — Exhausted of moisture; parched with heat; dry; barren.

2. butte — A detached low mountain, or high hill, rising abruptly from the general level of the surrounding plain; -- applied to peculiar elevations in the Rocky Mountain region.

3. cactus — Any spiny succulent plant of the family Cactaceae native chiefly to arid regions of the New World.

4. camel — Cud-chewing mammal used as a draft or saddle animal in desert regions.

5. dunes — A ridge of sand created by the wind; found in deserts or near lakes and oceans.

6. drought — A long period with little or no rain.

7. deposition — Process by which sand is dropped by the wind to form hills or ridges.

8. evaporation — In a desert, this process occurs faster than precipitation.

9. Gobi — Desert located in Mongolia and China.

10. gully — A channel or hollow worn in the earth by a current of water; a short deep portion of a torrent's bed when dry.

11. Irrigation — Supplying dry land with water by means of ditches etc.

12. Kalahari — Desert located in southern Africa.

13. mesa — A high tableland; a plateau on a hill.

14. Nile — This African river has been described as a "fountain of life" in a desert region.

15. nocturnal — Having a habit of seeking food or moving about at night; as, nocturnal birds and insects.

16. oasis — A fertile or green spot in a waste or desert, especially in a sandy desert.

17. precipitation — A deposit on the earth of hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow; also, the quantity of water deposited.

18. rain shadow — Some deserts occur in the _____ of mountains which block moist winds.

19. Sahara — The world's largest desert.

20. sand — Formed as a result of the rapid heating and cooling of rock in a desert.

21. transpiration — Desert plants often reduce their rates of _____ to conserve water.

22. tropics — Most of the world's hot deserts are located here.

23. wind — A major agent in the transportation and deposition of sand in the desert.

24. sand storm — A windstorm that lifts up clouds of dust or sand.

25. erosion — Condition in which rock surfaces are worn away by the action of wind.