



Deserts

Deserts are extremely dry areas. They get less than 10 inches of rain per year! Often, there are only a few clouds in the sky above a desert. This means the sun bakes the land during the day, and there is nothing to prevent the heat from escaping at night. So deserts are often very hot during the day, and much cooler (or cold) at night.

Although it doesn't rain much in a desert, it does rain. Because it doesn't rain often, sometimes the rain stays on top of the ground. When it rains, the rain often dries up quickly. Without much rain, it's hard for plants and animals to survive in the desert.

Many animals and plants have adapted (changed) to survive living in the desert. For example, cacti have shallow roots that reach out far away from the plant to gather water. The cacti stem can store water for later, like a sponge. The mesquite tree, on the other hand, has very deep roots. These deep roots reach far underground to find water for the tree to survive.

Deserts are very arid, only getting less than 10 inches of rain a year. Animals and plants have adapted to the dry conditions and can survive in the desert.