

How Do People Survive in the Desert? Questions

Use the Information Sheet about the Bedouin people to fill in the gaps in the text below.

There are approximately _____ million Bedouin people living in North Africa and Asia, including in the Sahara Desert. Life in the Sahara is incredibly difficult because of the _____, _____, _____ and _____ (regularly below freezing because of lack of cloud cover) and _____. The word "Bedouin" means _____ and they have lived in these harsh conditions for thousands of years, adapting to their environment to ensure their survival.

Water

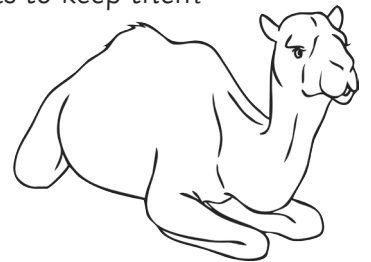
- They plan all journeys carefully so that they are always near an _____: a place where _____ comes to the surface
- They collect _____ water overnight from plants and stones by putting _____ over them and then _____ in the morning
- They look for lines of plants in the desert; this shows a _____ may flow underneath the surface.
- They look out for _____, birds and _____; they only live near water.

Food

- They herd camels, _____, goats and cattle, primarily for _____.
- They are _____: they move around to find the best places for their animals to graze.
- In winter, when there's some rain, they travel deeper into the desert to find places for their animals to _____.
- In summer, when there is very low rainfall, they have to stay near to a _____ source of water.
- They use camels to help them _____ their belongings. Camels are strong and able to _____ on minimal food and water.

Extreme Temperatures

- They wear _____ clothing made from the wool of their animals to keep them warm at night.
- They wear _____ clothes to allow air to _____.
- They wear _____ to keep out heat, cold, wind and sand.



Protection from the Elements

They make long _____ tents from _____. These are _____, provide _____ in the daytime, keep them _____ at night and _____ them from the strong desert winds and sandstorms.

Answer Sheet

There are approximately **four** million Bedouin people living in North Africa and Asia, including in the Sahara Desert. Life in the Sahara is incredibly difficult because of the **lack of water**, **limited food supply**, **extreme heat during the day and cold during the night** (regularly below freezing because of lack of cloud cover) and **exposure to the elements**. The word “Bedouin” means **desert people** and they have lived in these harsh conditions for thousands of years, adapting to their environment to ensure their survival.

Water

- They plan all journeys carefully so that they are always near an **oasis**: a place where **water** comes to the surface.
- They collect **dew** water overnight from plants and stones by putting **cloths** over them and then **squeezing out the water** in the morning.
- They look for lines of plants in the desert; this shows a **river** may flow underneath the surface.
- They look out for **flies**, birds and **mosquitoes**; these only live near water.

Food

- They herd camels, **sheep**, goats and cattle, primarily for **food**.
- They are **nomadic**: they move around to find the best places for their animals to graze.
- In winter, when there's some rain, they travel deeper into the desert to find places for their animals to **graze**.
- In summer, when there is very low rainfall, they have to stay near to a **reliable** source of water.
- They use camels to help them **carry** their belongings. Camels are strong and able to **walk long distances** on minimal food and water.

Extreme Temperatures

- They wear **woollen** clothing made from the wool of their animals to keep them **warm** at night.
- They wear **loose-fitting** clothes to allow air to **circulate**.
- They wear **head coverings** to keep out heat, cold, wind and sand.

Protection from the Elements

They make long **low** tents from **goats' hair**. These are **waterproof**, provide **shade** in the daytime, keep them **warm** at night and **shelter** them from the strong desert winds and sandstorms.