

# 15.12 Review

## 15.12.1 Key knowledge summary

### 15.2 What is a desert?

- Deserts can be hot or cold and are defined by the amount of rainfall they receive.
- Deserts are located on every continent except Europe.

### 15.4 How the climate forms deserts

- Different climate types are responsible for the formation of deserts in a variety of places in the world.
- Latitude and longitude, mountain ranges, ocean currents, hot interiors and polar locations can all contribute to desert formation.
- Climographs can show the distribution of rainfall and temperature in particular places and help define desert locations.

### 15.5 The processes that shape desert landforms

- There are many different landscapes in deserts — sand dunes, cliffs, claypans, alluvial fans and mesas are examples.
- Desert landscapes are formed by a combination of erosion (wind and water and temperature extremes) and deposition.

### 15.6 Characteristics of Australia's deserts

- Australia is the world's driest inhabited continent and over 70 per cent is arid or semi-arid.
- Most of Australia's deserts are located in central and western Australia.
- The deserts in Australia are hot deserts with low rainfall and high temperatures.
- Australian deserts vary a lot — some are sandy, other stony and many have shrubs, trees and intermittent streams.

### 15.8 How did Lake Mungo become dry?

- Lake Mungo in New South Wales is semi-arid.
- Over 40 000 years ago Lake Mungo was a shallow lake teeming with fish and birds and supported large numbers of Indigenous people.
- As a result of a drying climate over thousands of years, Lake Mungo became dry and is now protected for its cultural and landscape importance.

### 15.9 How people use deserts

- There are many indigenous communities around the world who live in deserts.
- Many important minerals are found in deserts, creating important industries in some countries.

### 15.10 Antarctica — a cold desert

- Antarctica is a polar desert where the coldest temperature on Earth was recorded in 2018.
- Antarctica receives so little precipitation that it is drier than the Sahara Desert.
- The Antarctic Treaty was formulated by many countries to protect Antarctica.
- Tourism and scientific research are the main activities in Antarctica.

## 15.12.2 Reflection

Complete the following to reflect on your learning.

### 15.12 ACTIVITIES

Revisit the inquiry question posed in the Overview:

<content to come>

- Now that you have completed this topic, what is your view on the question? Discuss with a partner. Has your learning in this topic changed your view? If so, how?
- Write a paragraph in response to the inquiry question outlining your views.

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## Resources



eWorkbook Reflection (doc-xxxxx)

Crossword (doc-xxxxx)



Interactivity Desert landscapes crossword (int-xxxx)

### KEY TERMS

**blizzards:** a strong and very cold wind containing particles of ice and snow that have been whipped up from the ground

**humidity:** the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere

**intermittent creeks:** a creek that flows for only part of the year following rainfall

**katabatic winds:** very strong winds that blow downhill

**nomadic:** describes a group that moves from place to place depending on the food supply, or pastures for animals

**rain shadow:** the drier side of a mountain range, cut off from rain-bearing winds

**sastrugi:** parallel wave-like ridges caused by winds on the surface of hard snow, especially in polar regions

**treaty:** a formal agreement between two or more countries