

## Chapter-4 (The Western Desert-I)



# The Western Desert

### Get Set!

Tick (✓) what you find in a desert.

1.



Camel

2.



3.



Cactus

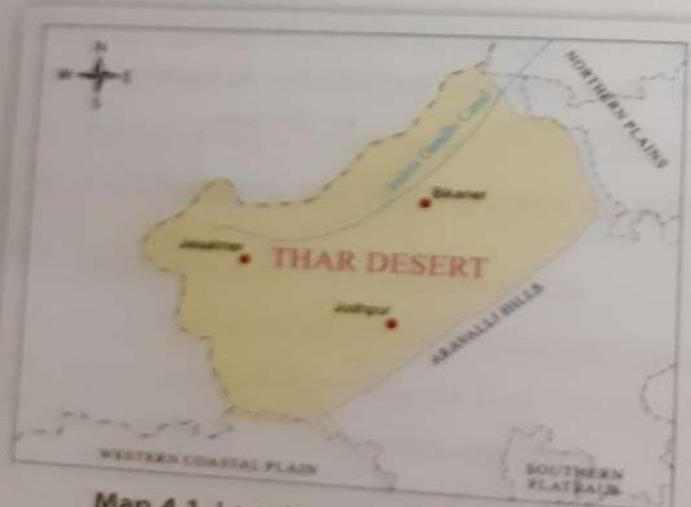
SCAN PAGE

The land to the west of the Aravalli Hills, in Rajasthan, is rocky and sandy. This is the Great Indian Desert, also known as the Thar Desert. It stretches from the

Rann of Kachchh in Gujarat through Rajasthan to the borders of Haryana (see Map 4.1).

### The land

The Thar Desert is covered with a thick sheet of loose sand. At some places, there are small hills of sand called sand dunes. Sometimes strong winds which blow here carry a large amount of sand with them. They can



Map 4.1 Location of the Thar Desert

### FactWise

Sand dunes are also found on Mars. Wind can shift these sand dunes like the ones found in Earth's deserts.

shift the sand dunes.

There are very few streams in the Thar Desert. They mostly remain dry. Luni is the most important river. At some places, oases are found. The land around an oasis is fertile. People grow crops here. Thus, most villages are situated around an oasis.

### Climate

The Thar Desert remains **hot** and **dry** throughout the year. There is very little or no rainfall. In summer, days are very hot and nights are cool. In winter, days are warm and nights are very cold.

### Natural vegetation

A hot and dry climate means that mostly scattered bushes and thorny shrubs grow here. The khejri, kikar and babul trees grow in the eastern part of the desert. Animals such as camels, blackbucks, chinkaras and great



A lush green area surrounding a water source in a desert is called an **oasis**.

Indian bustards are found in this region. The camel is the most useful animal. Can you tell why?

### Water supply

There is always very little water. Village women walk long distances to fetch water. The state government is trying to provide water for domestic use and irrigation. Water from River Satluj has been brought to the desert through the **Indira Gandhi Canal**. Farmers can thus grow wheat, mustard and cotton.

You will find sand dunes, thorny shrubs and camels in the Thar Desert.



**Q.1) Fill in the blanks:-**

- 1) The land to the west of the Aravalli hills, in \_\_\_\_\_, is rocky and sandy. This is the Great Indian Desert also known as the Thar Desert.
- 2) The Thar Desert is covered with a thick sheet of loose sand. At some places, there are small hills of sand called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Sand dunes are also found on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) A lush green area surrounding a water source in a desert is called an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) The land around an oasis is \_\_\_\_\_. Most villages are situated around an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) The Thar Desert remains hot and dry throughout the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7) The Khejri, Kikar and \_\_\_\_\_ trees grow in the eastern part of the desert.
- 8) Animals such as Camels, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and Great Indian bustards are found in the desert.
- 9) Water from river Satluj has been brought to the desert through the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10) We can find sand dunes, \_\_\_\_\_ and camels in the Thar Desert.

**Home Work**

**Q.2) Define sand dunes. Draw and colour it.**

**Q.3) Define an oasis. Draw and colour it.**