

# LIFE IN THE DESERT

The Sahara Desert gets fewer than three inches of

**SAHARA DESERT**

rain a year.

**AFRICA**

Atlantic Ocean



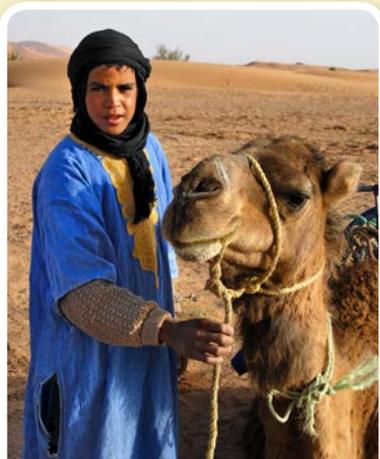
A person stops at an oasis to get water.

Welcome to the desert. *Dry* and *hot* are words that describe this environment. Temperatures are hot during the day. But once the sun goes down, so does the temperature. Don't expect much rain. Rainfall can be as little as a half-inch a year to as much as 15 inches.

The largest desert in the world is shown on the map. It is the Sahara Desert. Look how much land it covers in Africa! This desert is about the size of the United States. People need to find an oasis, or watering hole, in order to stay alive. One people called the Tuareg (TWA-reg) live in the Sahara Desert. They make sure they are never far from water.

## DESERT PEOPLE AT WORK

The Tuareg travel around the desert on camels. Camels can go without drinking water longer than other animals. Some Tuareg now use trucks to move across the sand. The Tuareg people raise goats, sheep, and donkeys. These animals provide the Tuareg with meat, milk, and cheese. Sometimes



Wearing long robes helps keep the boy cool and safe from the hot sun.

families who live near a large oasis can grow crops to eat and sell.

Many Tuareg families live in tents. The tents are made from goat skins and palm mats. Families can pack up their tents

quickly and travel to find food and water.

The hot desert sun can burn skin. The Tuareg wear layers of loose clothing. The layers keep sweat close to the body and this is what helps them stay cool.

## DESERT PEOPLE AT PLAY

Outdoor fun is hard to have in the heat. One indoor activity is making jewelry out of leather. The Tuareg people also have many poets and songwriters. They write about the history of their people and life on the desert.

The desert life is not for everyone. It takes special people to adapt to the desert's harsh geography.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Thousands of years ago the **Sahara Desert** was a green home to animals who loved the water. Then its climate changed.