Hot deserts

Word list

desert
an area of very dry land that is usually covered with sand and is very hot
• Many settlers died while trying to cross the desert. • the Arabian and African deserts • The region is mostly desert.
— often used before another noun • the shifting desert sands • a study of desert plants • stranded on a desert island
[=an island where no people live]

hot desert
Hot deserts are mostly located near the Tropics of Capricorn or Cancer. The average temperature is about 22 °C (72 °F), with a daily range of 40 °C (104 °F) to 7 °C (45 °F) or even lower. The rainfall is very low, especially in winter, and may come in the form of a very occasional heavy downpour.

equator
an imaginary circle around the middle of the Earth that is the same distance from the North Pole and the South Pole
• The city of Quito, Ecuador, lies very close to the equator. • Is it near the equator?

precipitation
water that falls to the ground as rain, snow, etc.
• The weather forecast calls for some sort of frozen precipitation tomorrow—either snow or sleet. • a 50 percent chance of precipitation

sand
very tiny, loose pieces of rock that cover beaches, deserts, etc.
• The beaches are covered with pinkish sand. • a grain of sand • I have sand in my shoe.

frost
1 a thin layer of ice that forms on the ground, on grass, etc., when the air becomes cold
• The grass was covered with frost. • light/heavy frost • Frost formed on the window.
2 the occurrence of weather that is cold enough to cause water to freeze and frost to form
• These plants should bloom until the first frost of the season. • We had an early/late frost. • a killing frost [=weather that is so cold that the frost kills plants]
valley
an area of low land between hills or mountains

camel
a large animal of Africa and Asia that has a long neck and one or two large humps on its back and that is often used for desert travel

cactus
a plant that lives in the desert and that has many sharp points (called spines)

reptile
an animal (such as a snake, lizard, turtle, or alligator) that has cold blood, that lays eggs, and that has a body covered with scales or hard parts

elf owl
a nocturnal bird that lives in the southwestern United States and Mexico. It is the world’s smallest owl.

snake
an animal that has a long, thin body and no arms or legs

lizard
a type of reptile that has four legs and a long body and tail
tortoise

a kind of turtle that lives on land

sub-tropical

relating to or living in an area that is close to tropical parts of the world

• a subtropical [=semitropical] region • subtropical vegetation • a subtropical bird

sub-arctic climate

(also called boreal climate) is a climate characterized by long, usually very cold winters, and short, cool to mild summers.

climate

the pattern of variation in temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind, precipitation, atmospheric particle count and other meteorological variables in a given region over long periods. Climate can be contrasted to weather, which is the present condition of these variables over shorter periods.
Landscapes

- mountain range
- peak
- mountain
- valley
- river
- bay
- peninsula
- waterfall
- cliff
- forest
- lake
- field
- island
- mesa
- plateau
- butte
- desert
- dune, sand dune
- horizon
- the ocean, the sea
- beach
- surf
Plants

**TREE**
- needles
- pine cone
- branch
- trunk
- roots
- twig
- limb
- evergreen

**FLOWERS**
- geranium
- irises
- carnations
- pansy
- orchids
- rose
- daffodils
- morning glories
- lily
- tulips
- poinsettia
- chrysanthemums
- sunflower
- hyacinth
- fuchsias

**HOUSEPLANTS**
- bonsai
- African violet
- palm
- philodendron
- cactus
- fern

**HERBS**
- basil
- rosemary
- cilantro (US), coriander (chiefly Brit)
- dill, dill weed (US)
- sage
- parsley
- oregano
- mint

**YARD**
- bird bath
- arbor
- fence
- hedge
- bush, shrub
- path
- lawn
- garden (US)
- flower bed