

4. Leh Ladakh video – YouTube app.
5. www.dreamladakh.com>Ladakh

ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

A. Tick the correct option:

1. (b) Tuaregs
2. (b) Scanty vegetation
3. (b) Cold desert

B. Match the columns.

1. (c)
2. (d)
3. (e)
4. (a)
5. (b)

C. Fill in the blanks:

1. Chiru or Tibetan antelope
2. Buddhism
3. 8.5 million sq. km
4. Xerophytic
5. Salt

D. On the world map, mark and label and colour the following.

1. Do it yourself.

E. Short-answer questions:

1. Two main types of deserts found in the world are Hot and Cold deserts.
2. The Sahara Desert covers a very large part of the north of the continent of Africa—an area of about 8.5 million sq. km. It extends from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east.
3. A large oasis located in the Sahara Desert is the Tafilalet cases in Morocco.
4. The two tribes of the Sahara are the Tuaregs and the Bedouins.

F. In the question below, there are two statements marked as (A) assertion and (R) reason. Read the statements and chose the correct option.

1. Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation for (A)

G. Read the case-based paragraph and answer the following questions.

1. (a) 10
2. (d) All of the above
3. (b) Ladakh
4. (b) Monastery

H. Long-answer questions:

1. A large, dry, barren region, usually having sandy or rocky soil and little or no vegetation, water lost to evaporation and transpiration in a desert exceeds the amount of precipitation about 25 cms. Deserts can be cold or hot deserts.

The people in the past in desert areas led a nomadic life migrating from one place to another in search of food and water. Pastoralism was the main occupation of these migratory people.

2. **The Climatic Conditions of Ladakh, a cold desert**—Being a mountainous region the different altitudes cause a wide variation in the climatic conditions of Ladakh. Summer generally starts in June and continues till September. Temperatures, in summers, are moderate (-3°C to 30°C) with little precipitation winter starts in December and continues till March. Temperatures drop to -40°C . Rainfall is as low as 100 cms a year. About two-thirds of the precipitation is in the form of snow.

Sahara, the hot desert—The Sahara is one of the world's driest deserts. Almost all area of the Sahara receive less than 250 mm of rainfall; temperature is exceedingly high due to low humidity and low cloud cover. The temperatures can go up to 58°C , the days are scorching hot, the nights however are cooler due to rapid radiation of heat. The temperatures may fall as low as 17°C . June, July and August are the hottest months. The winter months are cooler due to the bursts of dust laden winds called **Khamsins**.

3. The economy, culture and tradition, food habits, trade and commerce, and agriculture of Ladakh are all shaped by its geography and thus depend its climate to a large extent. Low precipitation does not favour growth of vegetation. Also the growing season in this area is limited to a few months *i.e.* from May to September; yet a wide variety of crops are grown here. Barley is the chief crop grown here and it is the staple food of the people. Other crops grown are wheat, mustard at higher altitudes peas are grown.

A typically Ladakh village has houses for people and also for their animals, agricultural fields, streams and channels, a reservoir or pond, few water mills, at least one school, a charter or stupa, a crematory and a monastery. There is one headman for a couple of villages called *goba*.

Ladakh agriculture is an outstanding example of organic farming as animal waste is used as manure. Cattle dung, shrubs and twigs are used as fuel. In summer, the cattle are taken collectively by a group of villagers called *rarzi* and they bring the cattle back in winter.

Horticulture is an important occupation. Apricots are grown on a large scale for jams and squashes. Dried apricots are eaten and the oil from the seeds are used for cooking. Apples, pears, grapes and walnuts are grown in plenty. Greenhouses have helped for the growing of vegetables.

Yaks, sheep and goats are reared and the Yaks provide milk and its hair is used to make tents as well as it is least of burden.

Ladakh thrives on the tourism. As the people here are mostly Buddhists, monasteries are not only the nerve centre of Buddhist societies but places of tourist interest as well. These monasteries called Gompas keep the rich Ladakh heritage intact through their schools, libraries, museums etc.

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4. Flora and Fauna of Ladakh

A great number of oriental mammals and birds are found in western Ladakh, particularly Dras, Suru, Zaskar and Lower Indus Valley. Central Ladakh is a transition zone and hence both the oriental and central Asian animals and birds are found in this region. Ladakh has a great biodiversity—about 310 bird species and more than 30 mammal species. Many of these are on the verge of extinction. They are now being protected by the government in national parks like the Hemis High Altitude National Park. The snow leopard, lynx, Asiatic ibex, marmot and Argali are the special animals of this park. The other wildlife sanctuaries in Ladakh are the Changthang and Karakoram wildlife sanctuaries.

Some characteristic species of birds found here are swifts, snowcocks and black-necked cranes etc.

Because of its unique location there are a number of plants that are of high botanical and economic significance. Lion's paw, sere and sea buckthorn also known as Leh Berry has great medicinal value and its juice is in great demand around the world.

Flora and Fauna of the Sahara

Only drought resistant plants can survive in the hot desert areas of the Sahara. These Xerophytic plants store water in their roots, stems or fleshy leaves. Many of these plants have small waxy leaves which helps them to minimise water loss due to transpiration. Vegetation here include cactus, date palm and acacia.

The date palm has many uses. The fruit is eaten and the palm leaves are used both as fuel and fodder. Fronds are used to cover roofs and its wood is used to make saddles. Around an oasis fruits such as figs, olives and apricots, and crops like maize, wheat, beans and onions are grown.

The prominent animal species found here are camels, hyenas, jackals, foxes, scorpions, a variety of snakes and lizards.

5. **The economic activities of the Sahara Desert**—Until the discovery of petroleum, the economy of the Sahara Desert was very limited. People led a nomadic life migrating from one place to another in search of food and water. Pastoralism was the main occupation of these migratory people; however, cases of growing date palm and millet in some areas were also noticed. Long distance trade was carried out on camel caravans. Migratory pastoralism is still practised here by the existing nomads called Bedouins and Tauregs. The economy of the Tauregs rests upon animal husbandary. They used to earn money from the export of salt, now they keep sheep, goats and a few cattle, their most valued animal is the camel.

The discovery of oil in Algeria, Libya and Egypt has transformed the lives of the people as well as the landscape. Minerals such as uranium, iron and manganese are mined here. Super highways are being constructed across the desert and modern means of transport used. The desert has become an attractive tourist destination and Tauregs have become tour guides and finding jobs is oil and gas exploration—changing their lives tremendously.

EXTENDED LEARNING

HOTS

- Why do plants in deserts have small leaves:
 - Small leaves or spines are adaptations of desert plants to withstand the dry conditions in the desert.
 - The surface of the leaves are reduced this helps to reduce water loss by transpiration—through leaves.
 - Thus small leaves and spines are beneficial to desert plants to survive.
- Which clothes are worn by people in deserts of the sahara to save themselves from sand laden winds.
 - They wear heavy cotton robes to protect themselves from the sand laden winds and heat. The tauregs wear long Indigo robes and all wear head wrappings.
 - The loose fitting clothes prevents sweat from evaporating quickly and allows the air to circulate, hence helps the body retain fluids.
 - The white robe the bedouins wear is known as a Keffiyeh.