

Text box size needs to be 16cm high and 12cm wide to fit in the planners.  
Select the textbox, click on format at the top which is highlighted orange and check the sizes on the right hand side of the screen.

## What can survive in the harsh environment of the desert?



Deserts are one of the most hostile places on Earth and yet are home to plants, animals and people too who manage to survive in these difficult conditions. Receiving less than 25cm of rainfall a year, deserts are barren places - you'll probably have an idea of what a desert looks like in your head but I'll bet you won't believe where the Earth's largest desert is!

Each desert on our planet is amazing in its own way but this term we will be travelling around the world; we'll visit North America and explore the harshness of life in the desert and after that we'll travel to a contrasting biome, the Galapagos Islands, to discover the amazing life that has adapted to survive and thrive in those unique conditions.

During our topic we will be:

- Geographers, finding out about the fascinating world of deserts. What is the climate like? Where in the world are they? Why are they like they are? What can survive in such tough conditions?
- Scientists, finding out about the amazing ways that animals and plants have adapted to their environment.
- Readers, journeying along with an American boy called Stanley whose life is turned upside-down by a miscarriage of justice that sends him deep into the North American desert.
- Community improvers, finding out about how people's religious beliefs affect how they live in their community. We'll be considering how influential people have tried to change their area for the better and we'll think about how we could make our community a place of respect and tolerance.
- Artists, creating detailed sketches of animals and their adaptations. We'll also create portraits of the influential people that we have been focussing on.
- Media experts, discussing the ways that the media can influence people and recognising how we can stay safe when there is a world of information online but where only some of it is reliable.

Useful websites to support your learning:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/deserts/> - desert presentation with subtopics to explore.  
<https://sciencetrek.org/sciencetrek/topics/deserts/games.cfm> - interactive desert habitat and adaptation activities.

We'll be doing lots of other work too, including working on our own targets in class.

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