NCERT Solutions for Class 7 English Chapter 3 The Desert

Question 1. From the first paragraph

(i) pick out two phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is;

(ii) pick out two phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it.

Which do you think is an apt description, and why?

Answer: (i) The phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is are: endless stretch of sand, hot, dry, waterless, without shelter.

(ii) The phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it are: a beautiful place; the

home of a variety of people, animals and plants; the sight can be as rewarding as that of any tropical garden.

Question 2. The phrases on the left in the following box occur in the text.

Match each of them with a phrase on the right.

an endless stretch of sand	fertile place with water and plants in a desert
waterless and without shelter	not visible because the grass is thick
an oasis	nothing but sand as far as one can see
hidden by a cover of grass	no water and no shade

Answer:

an endless stretch of sand	fertile place with water and plants in a desert
waterless and without shelter	no water and no shade
an oasis	fertile place with water and plants in a desert
hidden by a cover of grass	not visible because the grass is thick

Comprehension Check

Question 1. A camel can do without water for days together. What is the reason given in the text?

Answer: A camel can do without water for days together. Camels sweat very little. They can withstand high temperatures. They don't need to sweat to keep themselves cool. That's why they don't lose water and thus can store it for a longer time.

Question 2. How do the smaller desert animals fulfil their need for water?

Answer: The smaller desert animals take various measures to fulfil their need for water:

Some of them burrow underground in the day time and come out only at night to eat.

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Some others eat other animals and get the moisture from the meat.

Some eat plants and seeds and obtain plant juices.

Question 3. In a desert the temperature rises during the day and falls rapidly at night. Why?

Answer: Deserts do not have moisture cover. So, the temperature rises during the day and falls rapidly at night.

Exercises

Answer the following questions:

Question 1. Describe a desert in your own way. Write a paragraph and read it aloud to your classmates.

Answer: A desert is a place which is hot and receives less rainfall. It is not entirely dry. Oasis is a green island in the desert where a well/ spring gives water to the plants around. Camels can store water for a long time. Thus, they can survive on deserts for long. That's the reason camel is called the ship of the desert.

Question 2. Go to the library and collect information about the lifestyle of people in desert areas—their food, clothes, work, social customs, etc. Share this information with the group.

Answer: Do it yourself.

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