Terrain Features

**Terrain features in the hot desert zone**

When we talk about a desert, we imagine endless areas covered with sand stretching across the horizon. Nothing could be further from the truth. Larger desert areas are covered with gravel and solid rocks. Due to the material covering the deserts, we distinguish:

- sandy deserts,

- gravel deserts,

- rocky deserts.

Characteristic of sandy deserts are sand dunes, which are formed by constantly blowing desert winds. On rocky deserts, we encounter extraordinary formations called rock mushrooms, which are created when desert winds hit sand against rock fragments.

**The World of Plants and Animals in Hot Deserts**

There is no dense plant cover in hot deserts. Plants grow there individually or in clumps and can survive even several years of drought. Some cacti, like the prickly pear, store water in their leaves or stems. Tamarisks have developed small, scaly leaves to reduce evaporation.

There are places with lush vegetation in the desert. These places are oases. Plant growth is possible there because groundwater is close to the surface.

Most desert animals spend the day hiding in the sand or burrows. They become active only after dusk when the surface temperature drops significantly.

Animals, like plants, have adapted to survive drought and heat. The dromedary camel draws water from the fat stored in its hump. The desert jerboa maximally utilizes the water from the food it eats and therefore does not need to drink pure water.