

Desertification Vocabulary Chart

Vocabulary Word	What I think it means.	What it means	Picture
Desert			
Desertification			
Drought			
Overgraze			



ELL ADAPTATION

Vocabulary Word	What I think it means.	What it means	Picture
Erosion			
Sahel			
Nomad			
Irrigate			



ELL ADAPTATION

Desertification Boogaloo

I'm desertification and I here to say
I may be dry and that's okay
Every year I receive less than 10 inches of rain
I am spreading into the Sahel and there I will remain.

Sahara, Grasslands, Sahel, too!
Watch me spread, Boogaloo!

I'm desertification and try as you might
You can not stop me to my delight
Erosion of the topsoil will cause you to pause
But, drought and overgrazing will hurt my cause

Top soil, erosion, drought, too!
Overgrazing of the animals, Boogaloo!

I'm desertification and you can see
Many scientists are always trying to stop me
Crop rotation, large boulders keep the sand compact
Water management and land use practices are beginning to impact

Scientists, crop rotation, large boulders, too!
Plants can be grown at the base of sand dunes, Boogaloo!



ELL ADAPTATION

Sahel Yes Ma'am

Is this the Sahel
Is this the Sahel

Yes Ma'am
Yes Ma'am

How do you know?

The Sahel is the steppe grassland region south of the Sahara Desert.

What is happening

The Sahel is slowly disappearing.

How did this happen?

The nomads are overgrazing their animals on the grasslands.

Tell me more?

There has been a drought for many years.

What else has happened?

Wind has caused the soil to erode.

How do you know?

The topsoil the nutrient-rich layer of the soil that helps plants grow is gone.

Then what happens?

The desert is slowly spreading into the grassland.

What is that called?

Desertification!

Is this the Sahel?
Is this the Sahel?

Yes Ma'am
Yes Ma'am



ELL ADAPTATION

Desertification Paragraph Frame

Even though the explorers desired wealth, they did not find the great amount of wealth they expected. In the first place, _____
_____. After that,
_____.

Later on, _____.
At last, _____.

While the Sahel has been suffering from drought for many years, crops and vegetation have begun to die. To begin, _____
_____. Then,
_____. Consequently,
_____.

Because of Desertification, the Sahel has begun to shrink. First was,
_____.
As a result, _____.
Therefore, _____.



ELL ADAPTATION

Directions: Find each of the 10 important sentences in the article “Desertification”. Highlight each sentence in the article, and write the page, paragraph and line number for each of the sentences below, then draw a picture to represent that sentence.

10 Important sentences on Desertification

1. The Sahel is the semi-arid steppe grassland region that lies between the Sahara Desert to the north and the wetter savanna grasslands to the south.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____

2. The Sahel consists of a very fragile belt of grasses, shrubs, and forests that stretches 3,000 miles across Africa.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____

3. Unfortunately, due to rapid population growth and recent droughts, the fragile vegetation of the Sahel is being destroyed by the practice of overgrazing.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____



ELL ADAPTATION

4. Overgrazing occurs when nomadic herders allow too many animals to graze on the land for an extended period of time.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____

5. However the needs of an increased population, combined with land abuse practices (such as cutting down trees and shrubs for fuel), does contribute to desertification, especially in drought-stricken areas.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____

6. Scientific studies on water management and land use practices contribute valuable information about the impact of people on the Sahel.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____

7. In windy areas, the faces of sand dunes can be covered by large boulders or oil to keep the sand from moving.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____



ELL ADAPTATION

8. Plants can also be irrigated and grown at the base of sand dunes.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____

9. More efficient use of water resources and the control of salt levels in the soil can improve land quality.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____

10. Desertification is a complex process of land degradation, involving both natural processes and human activity.

Page: _____ Paragraph: _____ Line: _____



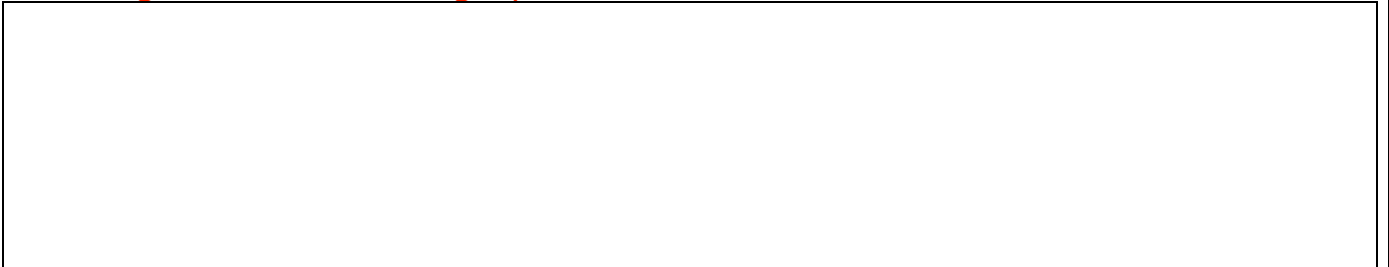
ELL ADAPTATION

Directions: Find each of the 10 important sentences in the article “Desertification”. Highlight each sentence in the article, and write the page, paragraph and line number for each of the sentences below, then draw a picture to represent that sentence.

Answer Key to 10 Important sentences on Desertification

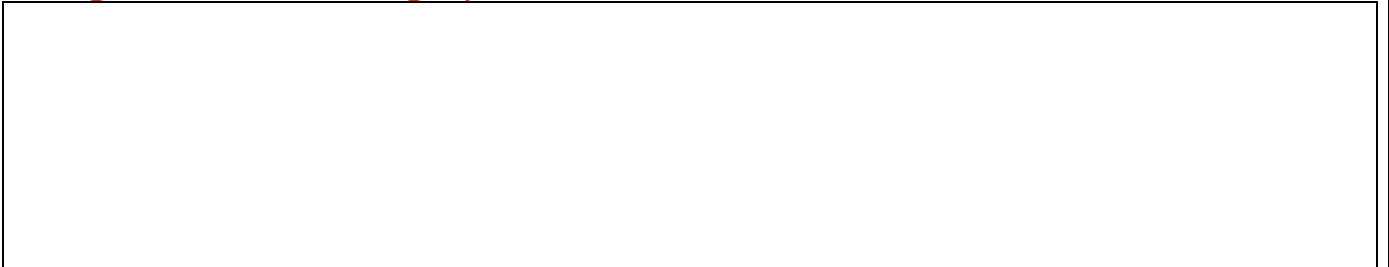
1. The Sahel is the semi-arid steppe grassland region that lies between the Sahara Desert to the north and the wetter savanna grasslands to the south.

Page: 1 Paragraph: 1 Line: 4



2. The Sahel consists of a very fragile belt of grasses, shrubs, and forests that stretches 3,000 miles across Africa.

Page: 1 Paragraph: 1 Line: 5



3. Unfortunately, due to rapid population growth and recent droughts, the fragile vegetation of the Sahel is being destroyed by the practice of overgrazing.

Page: 1 Paragraph: 2 Line: 4



ELL ADAPTATION

4. Overgrazing occurs when nomadic herders allow too many animals to graze on the land for an extended period of time.

Page: 1 Paragraph: 2 Line: 6

5. However the needs of an increased population, combined with land abuse practices (such as cutting down trees and shrubs for fuel), does contribute to desertification, especially in drought-stricken areas.

Page: 1 Paragraph: 4 Line: 3

6. Scientific studies on water management and land use practices contribute valuable information about the impact of people on the Sahel.

Page: 2 Paragraph: 1 Line: 3

7. In windy areas, the faces of sand dunes can be covered by large boulders or oil to keep the sand from moving.

Page: 2 Paragraph: 2 Line: 1



ELL ADAPTATION

8. Plants can also be irrigated and grown at the base of sand dunes.

Page: 2 Paragraph: 2 Line: 4

9. More efficient use of water resources and the control of salt levels in the soil can improve land quality.

Page: 2 Paragraph: 4 Line: 2

10. Desertification is a complex process of land degradation, involving both natural processes and human activity.

Page: 2 Paragraph: 5 Line: 1



ELL ADAPTATION

Desertification True/False Questions

_____ 1. The Sahel is the grassland between the Sahara Desert and the savanna.

_____ 2. The Sahel is made up of grasses, shrubs, and forests.

_____ 3. Due to rapid population growth and drought, the vegetation of the Sahel is being damaged by overgrazing .

_____ 4. Overgrazing happens when nomads have too many animals on a piece of land for too long.

_____ 5. Cutting down trees and shrubs for fuel causes desertification.

_____ 6. Water management and land use practices do not give us any information about people on the Sahel.

_____ 7. Where there is a lot of wind, people can cover the sand with large boulders or oil to keep the sand from blowing away.

_____ 8. Plants cannot be irrigated and grown at the base of sand dunes.

_____ 9. Land can be improved by being careful with the water and salt levels.

_____ 1. Desertification includes natural processes and humans.



ELL ADAPTATION

Desertification True/False Questions ANSWER KEY

 T 1. The Sahel is the grassland between the Sahara Desert and the savanna.

 T 2. The Sahel is made up of grasses, shrubs, and forests.

 T 3. Due to rapid population growth and drought, the vegetation of the Sahel is being damaged by overgrazing .

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