

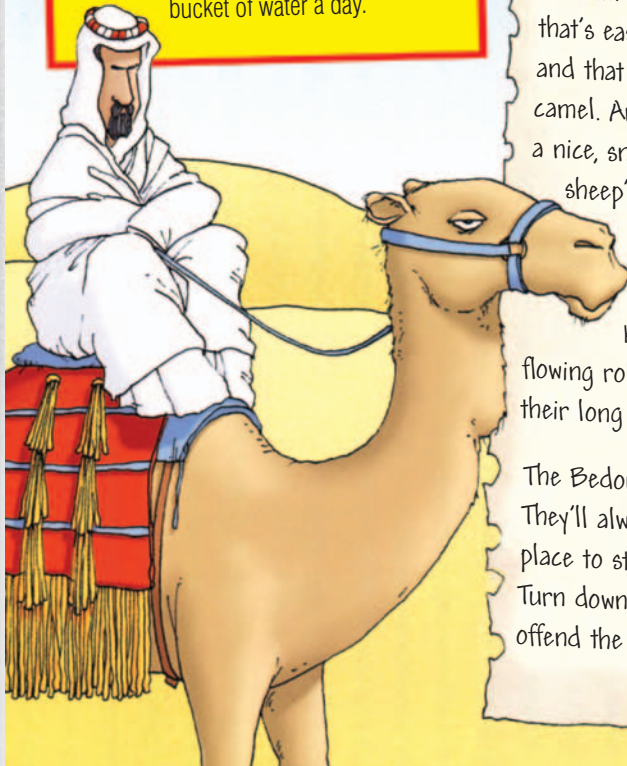
Deadly Deserts

Read this information about living in the desert. Then answer the questions on page 73.

Deserts are such desperate places, it's a wonder anyone lives there at all. But despite the dreadful heat and drought, about 650 million people call deserts home. Hardy, or what? So how on earth do these desert dwellers handle the harsh conditions? A few years ago, Wanda spent some time with the Bedouin people of the Arabian Desert and found out just how they keep their cool.

HORRIBLE HEALTH WARNING

Surviving in the desert is no picnic. Forget tucking into your sand-wiches. In the desert, food takes second place. You can go for weeks without eating but without water, you'd be dead in two days. To stay alive, you need to drink at least a bucket of water a day.



NOTES FROM MY TRAVELS by Wanda

THE BEDOUIN

The Bedouin people mainly live in Arabia and North Africa. Their Arabic name is Bedu, which means 'people of the desert'.



The Bedouin are nomads, which means they're constantly on the move. They shift from place to place in search of food and water for themselves and their animals.

With all that moving, they need a home that's easy to put up and take down and that fits neatly on the back of a camel. And what could be better than a nice, snug tent made from camel's hair or sheep's wool?



When it comes to desert dress, the Bedouin know what to wear. And keeping cool's what counts. Their loose, flowing robes are ideal for letting air circulate and their long headdresses keep the sand and sun out.

The Bedouin are famous for their hospitality. They'll always give guests a meal and a place to stay. But watch your manners. Turn down a cup of coffee and you'll offend the whole family.



1. What is the main problem with living in the desert?

2. Who lives a nomadic life in the harsh conditions of the Arabian Desert?

3. Is food the main priority in the desert? Explain how you know.

4. What do you think the main occupation of the Bedouin people is? Explain why you say that.

5. 'The Bedouin are famous for their hospitality.' Tick the box that you think best describes the meaning of the word 'hospitality'.

rudeness

friendliness

shyness

Now write your own question and answer. Tick the box to show which type of question it is.

literal question

inference question

evaluation question

Your question: _____

Your answer: _____

How did you do?

