



LESSON PLAN: LIFE IN THE SAHARA

Name: _____

Date: _____

Research Guide

Directions: Use library resources, the online resources listed below, and other available primary sources to learn as much as you can about topics related to the Sahara region of Africa. Be sure to provide as many details as possible when answering questions as you will be using the information later to create an individual project that you will share with classmates.

Online Resources

- Africa: Explore the Regions: Sahara found at http://www.pbs.org/snet/africa/explore/saharah/sahara_overview_lo.html
- Map: Spreading Deserts Threaten Africa found at http://www.fao.org/desertification/search/doc_dett.asp?id_doc=501
- USGS: Desertification found at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/deserts/desertification/>
- Did You Know: Deserts and Desertification found at <http://www.didyouknow.cd/deserts.htm>

1. Where is the Sahara Desert located?
2. How big is the Sahara Desert?
3. How many countries make up the Sahara region of Africa? List the countries.
4. Describe the topography of the Sahara region.

5. What are the major water sources for the Sahara region? Provide details about these bodies of water.
6. What is the average rainfall for the Sahara region?
7. What is the average temperature for the Sahara region? Include temperature extremes.
8. How would you characterize the weather in the Sahara region?
9. List and describe 3 plants that thrive in the Sahara region. Include details about how these plants can be used by people and animals.
10. List and describe 5 animals that thrive in the Sahara region. Include details about ways these animals affect man in both positive and negative ways.
11. Describe the people of the Sahara region including details about their homes, lifestyle, and occupations.

12. What is the population density of the Sahara region?
13. What is desertification?
14. What are some of the causes of desertification?
15. What are some of the ways to prevent desertification?
16. What are some of the negative effects of desertification on the people, plants, and animals of the northern African countries in the Sahara region? Be sure to provide statistical details and specific examples for each of the effects listed.
17. What is being done to combat/address these negative effects on the people, plants, and animals?
18. What effects, if any, does desertification have on climate?

20. How does desertification impact the supply of water available to people, plants, and animals?