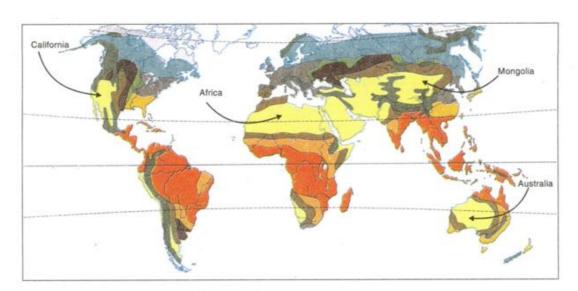
DESERTS



READING

Before You Read

- a) Match the following deserts with marked places on the world map.
 - 1. The Gobi Desert
 - 3. The Mojave Desert
- 2. The Great Sandy Desert
- 4. The Sahara Desert



- b) Work with a partner and say whether the following statements about deserts are true (T) or false (F). Check (\checkmark) the appropriate boxes.
 - 1. There is no water in a desert. 2. Some deserts can be very cold for most of the year. 3. Camels, the most popular desert animals, can be found in all deserts. 4. The humps on camels' backs hold water. 5. Cacti are the most well-known desert plants.

c) Discuss with a partner what happened to the people and places in the following pictures.







Reading Text

Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

Fighting Back Desert Expansion

More than a billion people all over the world are under the threat of desert expansion, but few of them are aware that they themselves cause it and are also its victims. People cut down trees for fuel and farmland. Their herds eat up the grass covering valley floors and hillsides. The climate and soil quality, therefore, are affected and forests are turned into deserts.

Efforts have been made to solve the problem. One common method is called "dune fixation": if a fence is built, it "fixes" sand dunes. This fence will prevent the dune from advancing. In Algeria, people planted a green wall of trees across the edge of the Sahara to stop desert sand from spreading. People in other countries around the Sahara built fences made of brushwood or dead palm leaves for the same purpose. Obviously, the Sahara will become much larger unless something continues to be done to solve this problem.

Similarly, life is a constant struggle for those living near the edges of the Gobi Desert. In some places, many people had to leave their homes when their wells became dry and sand buried their houses and crops. Therefore, governments in nearby areas have had local people plant trees and banned burning firewood for fuel. Even Beijing is threatened by sandstorms every year. Strong winds blow sand and dust from the Gobi Desert into Beijing 30 to 40 days a year, so a green wall of forests has been built to protect the city.

In other parts of the world, other techniques have been used. In Iran, a thin covering of oil was poured on sandy areas to retain water for planting trees, but this method may harm the environment. Other countries built

long canals or pipelines to carry water to desert areas. A particular technique was also used: people made stone lines along the route of rainwater flow to catch up rainwater and prevent topsoil from washing away. However, these techniques are just temporary. Unless people have more effective methods, their homes and land will be lost. The fight against the desert is continuing.

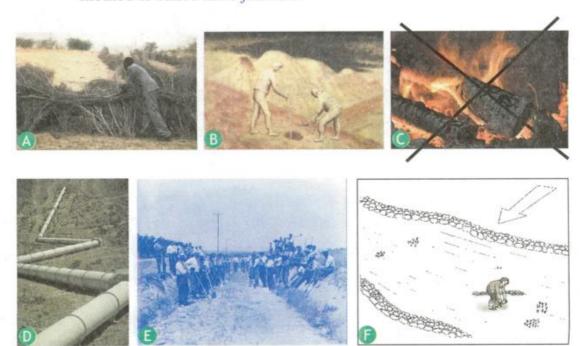
- a) Answer the following questions.
 - 1. What may be the causes of desert expansion?
 - 2. What is "dune fixation"?
 - 3. In what way can Beijing be affected by the Gobi Desert?
 - 4. Which method of stopping desert expansion is harmful to the environment?
- b) The following pictures show different ways of fighting back desert expansion. Find the words and expressions in the text to help you describe them.



Example

(Picture A) build fences, brushwood, dead palm leaves, dune fixation

⇒ People build fences made of brushwood or dead palm leaves. This method is called *dune fixation*.



c) Complete the following summary of the reading text, using no more than three words for each blank.

In many parts o	f the	world, people are suffering desert (1))
They have made	a lot	of (2) to solve the problem. The	ne first way
is (3)	sand	dunes to prevent sand from moving b	y planting
trees or (4)		fences. Another measure is (5)	for fuel
The third way is	(6)_	on the sand so that water can b	e retained
Some other (7)		methods include building (8)	to
water dry areas a	and n	naking stone lines to catch up rainwater	

d) Discuss in groups and answer the questions below.
Do you think some part in Viet Nam may become a desert in the future?

Why or why not?

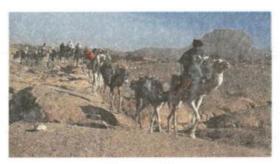
LISTENING

a) Work with a partner and discuss in what ways the animals and fruit in the pictures may help people in the desert survive.



(Picture A) Camels can be used to carry people and heavy things across the desert.

They can also be used as food.



A. camels



B. a goat



C. a sheep



D. dates

- b) You will hear an extract from a lecture on food and water in the desert. Listen and correct the inaccurate information in the following statements.
 - 1. People in Sahara oases live mainly on camel meat.
 - 2. All parts of a date palm can be eaten as food.
 - 3. People in the Gobi Desert make their soup by stewing meat.
 - 4. People may get water from underground springs if they get lost in the desert.

c)	Lis	ten	to	the	first	part	again	and	complete	these	sentences.	
				15			10.0					

1.	Date palms are usually grown in _						
2.	A date is about	in	length.	It	contains	lots	of
3.	The ideal food for travelers in the					65 Ter	
4.	provide meat as	well	as milk	fo	r people l	iving	in,
	the Gobi Desert.						

d) Work in pairs. Tell your partner whether or not you like to live in a desert and give reasons.



Expressing Possibility

a) With a partner, read the mini-dialogue and pick out the words and expressions of possibility.

What (would you do) if you had to cross a desert?

I'd probably not drive a car, but perhaps I'd find a camel and a guide.





Perhaps I'd travel at night to avoid the heat during the day.



Add more words or expressions to this list of useful expressions.

Possibility

- maybe / perhaps / probably ...
- (I) may / might / could / would ...
- b) Imagine that you won a competition and were awarded a tour of the Sahara Desert. Discuss in groups to find some possible ways out of the tricky situations listed below if you were lost in the desert.

The information in the brochure below may help you.

SURVIVAL TIPS

Possible Tricky Situations

You might need to ... 1. make a signal to attract the

- rescue team 2. protect yourself from the
- heat and sunlight 3. find directions - you know
- an oasis is somewhere in 4. reduce body's water loss
- 5. find water

WHAT TO BRING

Sunglasses

A large hat

Light-colored clothes

A cigarette lighter or matches

A mirror

A poncho and some sticks

A knife

A wrist compass

· WHAT TO DO

Find a shelter / make your own shelter. Reduce movements or activities. Look out for animals - they live near water.



Example

- A: What if we got lost in the desert and we needed water?
- B: Perhaps we'd have to look out for animals. They live near water.
- C: We could probably get water from cacti. They contain lots of water; we could use a knife to cut them.

c) In pairs, suggest some things you might want to bring with you if you were going to travel across a desert. Report to your class and explain why these things are necessary for your trip.

Example

Probably we'd bring a lot of cookies. They could help us survive in the desert if we got lost.



Paragraph Writing

- a) The following sentences make up a paragraph about desert plants. Work in pairs and put them in correct order.
 - 1. If desert plants do not have the ability to adjust to such a severe climate, they'll surely die.
 - 2. The third kind grows leaves during the high moisture period of the year, and these leaves fall when it becomes hot and dry again.
 - 3. Desert plants have their own ways of surviving in very harsh conditions.
 - Some others roll up their leaves during the hottest parts of the day to reduce the area exposed to sunlight or wind.
 - 5. Most of them have very small leaves or no leaves at all. This helps them avoid water loss.
- b) This is a rough outline of the paragraph above. Write in the blanks the sentences corresponding to the parts.

Supporting idea 2	
Supporting idea 3	2
Concluding sentence	

- c) Work with a partner. Discuss the ideas you will use to develop each of the topic sentences below into a paragraph. Then make an outline for each paragraph before writing.
 - 1. Life in or near a desert is very difficult.
 - 2. If you want to travel across a desert, you need to bring with you some essential things.



Word Study

Plural Forms of Nouns

a) Look up in the dictionary for the plural forms of the words given and cross out the incorrect plural forms. For some nouns, both plural forms are accepted.

Singular	Pl	ural	Singular	Plural		
1. cactus	cactuses	cacti	2. oasis	oasises	oases	
3. medium	mediums	media	4. criterion	criterions	criteria	
5. crisis	crisises	crises	6. sheep	sheep	sheeps	
7. mango	mangos	mangoes	8. goose	gooses	geese	

b) Find the plural forms of the following nouns. Then make 5 sentences, using at least 2 plural forms of these in one sentence.

deer	child	fungus	potato	
housewife	mouse	thesis	salmon	
ox	man	leaf	aircraft	



These housewives don't like salmon.

Grammar

So, But, However, and Therefore



- Strong winds blow sand and dust from the Gobi Desert into Beijing 30 to 40 days a year, so a green wall of forests has been built to protect the city.
- In Iran, a thin covering of oil was poured on sandy areas to retain water for planting trees, but this method may harm the environment.
- However, these techniques are just temporary.
- The climate and soil quality, therefore, are affected and forests are turned into deserts.
- a) Rewrite the following sentences, using however or therefore.
 - Finding water in the forest is relatively easy, but the search for water can become somewhat tenuous in the desert.
 - 2. North American deserts are very diverse, so they provide a good basis for understanding desert ecology.
 - Much of the water in the Great Basin Desert comes from winter snowfall, but not all of this melts into the ground because some of it evaporates in spring.
 - 4. The Mojave Desert has low winter temperatures, so it is regarded as a cold desert.

0)	Complete the following sentences with so, therefore, but, or however.
	Within the last 100 years, deserts have been growing at a frightening speed. This is partly because of natural changes, (1) the
	greatest desert makers are humans. There are actually four kinds of
	deserts: hot, dry deserts; cold deserts; semiarid deserts; and coastal
	deserts. Yes, there is such a thing as a cold desert. Cold deserts are
	located near the Arctic region of the world. Very few plants or animals
	can survive in these deserts. (2), only a few people live
	there - they are mostly scientists. Hot deserts, (3), are
	homes to many more people and different kinds of animals. Animals
	that live in the desert hide out under rocks or in burrows during the day
	because of the heat. (4) people do not often see them

Unless in Conditional Sentences

Examples

- The Sahara will become much larger unless something continues to be done to solve this problem.
- Unless people have more effective methods, their homes and land will be lost.
- a) Rewrite the if-clauses, using unless wherever possible.
 - 1. People living near the edge of the Gobi Desert will leave their homes if sandstorms are not stopped.
 - 2. If it doesn't rain soon, all the plants and trees here will die.
 - 3. I'll be surprised if he doesn't win.
 - 4. If desert plants do not have the ability to adjust to such a severe climate, they'll surely die.
 - 5. What would you do if you didn't have a job?
 - We don't usually go for a walk after dinner if there is a good movie on TV.
- b) Make up conditional sentences in two ways: with unless and if, using the correct forms of the verbs given in parentheses.

Example

There (not, be) enough water. We (not, plant) vegetables.

- If there isn't enough water, we won't plant vegetables.
- Unless there is enough water, we won't plant vegetables.
- 1. People (not, stop) misusing land. Desertification (can, not, be) controlled.
- A camel (can't, store) fat in its hump. It (die) for lack of food when crossing the desert.
- 3. This forest (become) a desert. The government (not, ban) cutting down trees.
- 4. The size of the world's deserts probably (increase). These young trees (not, be) protected well.
- 5. You (not, be) over 18. You (can't, see) this movie.