

## Kalahari Desert

A desert is any place that gets less than 25cm of rainfall a year. Deserts are part of a land type called drylands. These areas often lose more moisture through evaporation than they get in rainfall.

The Kalahari Desert is in southern Africa. It is located in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. The word 'Kalahari' comes from the Tswana words 'Kgala', which means 'great thirst' and 'Kgalagadi', which means 'waterless place'.



**Area:** 930,000km<sup>2</sup>

**Temperatures:** Up to 45°C on a summer day and down to -15°C on a winter night.

### Wildlife

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles
cheetah lion leopard springbok wildebeest meerkat	secretary bird ostrich giant eagle owl	Cape cobra puff adder gecko



Lions that live in the Kalahari Desert have longer legs and are lighter in colour than other lions. Male lions have black manes.

**Plants:** There are over 500 species of plant that grow in the Kalahari Desert, including the hoodia cactus, camelthorn acacia trees and shepherd's tree.

**Inhabitants:** The San people have lived in the Kalahari for thousands of years. They hunt wild animals for food and get most of their water from plant roots or desert melons which grow in wetter areas.



### Did You Know?

The Kalahari Desert isn't actually a desert as it has too much rainfall – between 15 and 30 cm annually. The Okavango River also flows through the Kalahari Desert.

### Retrieval

1. Give two ways that lions in the Kalahari are different from other lions.
2. Where do the San people get most of their water ?
3. What is the lowest temperature you might experience in the desert ?

### Words in context

4. Find and copy a word which means 'a person who lives in a place'.

### Inference

5. Why do you think that the Kalahari is called a desert even though it does not fit the definition ?