



Subject: Endangered Ecosystems – Deserts

Overarching Topic: Endangered Ecosystems			
<p>Why is this topic being studied at this time?</p> <p>How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?</p>	<p>Earth has a wide variety of ecosystems which maintain its function and make it wondrous. Humans are part of these ecosystems and should be living in harmony with other organisms to create a sustainable future and a healthy planet. This unit will enable students to be in awe of our natural world and discover the variety of biomes and ecosystems which exist. They will learn about the incredible diversity of deserts and understand the importance of the goods and services within these ecosystems. Students will identify and evaluate the opportunities of deserts and threats of desertification.</p>		
	Essential	Core	Ambitious
<p>The Big Questions (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an ecosystem and biome? • What is desert? (hot and cold) • Where are deserts found? • What are the main characteristics of a hot desert? • What is a plant/animal adaptation? • How do different indigenous groups live in the desert? • How are there opportunities in the desert? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are biomes distributed globally? • What are the factors affecting the distribution of hot deserts? • How have plants and animals adapted to desert conditions? • How do people survive and thrive in the desert? • What are the most significant opportunities within deserts? 	<p>How can the opportunities within deserts be harnessed to tackle some challenges previously studied e.g. climate change, energy management?</p> <p>Does the development of deserts clash with preserving the cultural identity of indigenous groups?</p>
<p>The Key Skills/ Techniques</p>	<p>The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the essential, core and ambitious knowledge</p>		
	<p>Skill/Technique</p>	<p>How will this skill be developed?</p>	
	<p>Graphical Skills</p>	<p>Use graphs and charts to investigate climate graphs.</p>	

	Map Skills	Use maps to investigate the distribution of biomes and ecosystems globally.
	Exam skills – Use of specific information e.g case studies	Analysis of resources linking to topic content. Extended writing using scaffolding and example answers . Evaluating impacts and viability of desert opportunities.