

# Review of Deserts

succulent	halophytes	xerophytes	ephemeral
phreatophytes	convective	radiative	conductive
reflective	endothermic	exothermic	

1. Describe the characteristics of deserts in terms of: precipitation, temperature, wind, light intensity, soil quality.
2. What are the 3 deserts of California and where are they found?
3. Compare the climate and vegetation of the California deserts.
4. Plants follow a general pattern from upslope where soil is less alkaline and larger in particle size to downslope where soils are finer, but more alkaline. Describe the general gradient in terms of types of plants along this gradient.
5. List the environmental stresses of living in a desert and describe plant and animal strategies for coping with these.
6. Compare/contrast drought tolerators and avoiders.
7. Describe water conservation strategies by plants and animals.
8. Why are deserts considered to be “food-poor” ecosystems? What strategies do animals living in deserts have for coping with this general lack of food?