

Some Cold Arid Lands & Features

Cold Deserts of the World			
Name <i>Location</i>	Physical Features	Some Plants & Animals	Special Facts
Atacama <i>Coasts of Peru and Chile</i>	Covered by sand dunes and pebbles. One of the driest areas on earth.	bunchgrass, cardon cactus, tamaruga trees, lizards, llama, Peruvian fox, nesting area for many seabirds	Only a few thousand people (mostly farmers) live in the inland desert areas. Large deposits of sodium nitrate are found in the desert. Sodium nitrate is used to make gunpowder.
Gobi <i>Northern China and Southern Mongolia</i>	Covered by sandy soil and areas of small stones called "gobi."	camel's thorn, grasses, bactrian camel, gazelle, gerbil, jerboa, lizards, onager, wolf	Crossed by Genghis Khan in the early 13th century. Many nomads now settling on government-run farms.

Features of Cold Arid Landforms/Deserts

Great Basin <i>Western United States (Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah)</i>	Covered by sand, gravel, and clay. Many mountains ranges, basins, and large expanses of salt flats.	greasewood, sagebrush, shadscale bighorn sheep, jackrabbit, pocket mouse, poor-will, pronghorn antelope, sage thrasher, side-blotched lizard	Great Salt Lake located here.
Iranian <i>Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan</i>	Covered by coarse gray soil, stony pavement, and salt flats.	grasses, pistachio trees, shrubs monitor lizard, onager, oryx, scorpion	World's largest salt flat located here.

Features of Cold Arid Landforms/Deserts

Namib <i>Coasts of Southwestern Africa</i>	Covered by sand dunes along the coast and gravel farther inland.	aloe, bunchgrass, lichens, welwitschia darkling beetle, fringe-toed lizard, golden mole, jackal, sidewinder, viper, web-footed gecko	Coast of the Namib Desert is world's greatest source of gemstones.
Takla Makan <i>Western China</i>	Covered by sand dunes and rocky soil.	grasses, shrubs bactrian camel, jerboa, long-eared hedgehog, gazelle	The word "Takla Makan" means "place from which there is no return." Crossed by Marco Polo in the 13th Century.

Features of Cold Arid Landforms/Deserts

Turkestan <i>Parts of the Middle East and Southwestern Russia</i>	Covered mostly by extensive stretches of sand dunes.	alhagi shrub, saxaul tree, sedges, thick ground cover desert tortoise, gazelle, gerbil, saiga antelope	Crossed by caravans following silk route from China in Europe in ancient times. The great city of Samarkand, once a cultural and religious center of central Asia, was located here.
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