Sahara  
   
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The Sahara (, ) is a desert spanning across North Africa. With an area of 9,200,000 square kilometres  
(3,600,000 sq mi), it is the largest hot desert in the world and the third-largest desert overall, smaller  
only than the deserts of Antarctica and the northern Arctic. The name "Sahara" is derived from Arabic:  
■■■■■■■■, romanized: ■a■■r■ /s■a■a■ra■/, a broken plural form of ■a■r■' (■■■■■■■■  
/s■a■ra■■/), meaning "desert". The desert covers much of North Africa, excluding the ferti