



Page No: 16

Comprehension Check

1. From the first paragraph

(i) pick out two phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is;

(ii) pick out two phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it.

Which do you think is an apt description, and why?

Answer: (i) Two phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is:

'dry, hot, waterless and without shelter.'

'an endless stretch of sand where no rain falls and, therefore, no vegetation grows.'

(ii) Two phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it:

'a beautiful place'

'home of a variety of people, animals and plants'

I think both the description is an apt in their own way as most people describe it what they saw on television or read over internet while specialists made the conclusion by their interest and experience after living in desert.

Page No: 17

2. The phrases on the left in the following box occur in the text.

Match each of them with a phrase on the right.

(i) an endless stretch of sand	• fertile place with water and plants in a desert
(ii) waterless and without shelter	• not visible because the grass is thick
(iii) an oasis	• nothing but sand as far as one can see
(iv) hidden by a cover of grass	• no water and no shade

Answer:

(i) an endless stretch of sand	• nothing but sand as far as one can see
(ii) waterless and without shelter	• no water and no shade
(iii) an oasis	• fertile place with water and plants in a desert
(iv) hidden by a cover of grass	• not visible because the grass is thick

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