

Student 3 Low Merit

Factors and/or processes

The linear pattern including the deserts of Southern Africa, Australia, Chile and Argentina relates closely to the belt of high pressure systems shown on the climate map [1]. The sun heats the earth more at the equator than the poles and this creates areas of different air pressure. High pressure cells cover the Tropics for most of the year... [2]. The temperatures in the desert (Sahara, Sonoran) are high all year round (35-45°C), with hot temperatures in the day and cold temperatures at night...

Relief creates rain shadow effects with orographic rain leaving dry winds to flow over desert areas. This is a major factor causing the large inland deserts in Central Asia and also the Sahara, so it affects both ends of this northern line [3]. The Atlas Mountains block any moisture laden winds from getting into the Sahara from the north. Orographic rain occurs when air cools as it rises to get over the mountains, the air condenses and it rains. This same process occurs in North America with the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada...Himalayas and Gobi... [4]

Significance to people's lives

People who traditionally live in the desert have adapted their whole way of life to survive. Most people like the Bedouin and Tuareg live in tribes and follow a nomadic way of life. They are always searching for water and they will only live in an area for a short time, then move on to where there is more water and grazing...or wild game... Living in the desert influences their diet, clothing, shelter... [5]

Ancient civilisations mostly lived by an oasis as the desert was too hard to survive in. Tribes like the Bedouin... Their culture is nomadic so they can move when the water runs out. The Bedouin live in tents with thick canvas walls to keep out the dust and sand... The tents can be easily moved on camels when they move to the next location. Tents have been used to protect animals (goats, sheep) from sand storms [5].

Some desert people e.g. the San, rely on desert vegetation like desert melons and plant roots for water while others dig tunnels... [5]