

# The **NATURAL** **ENVIRONMENT** of **AUSTRALIA**

POWERPOINT



# Five Senses Graphic Organiser

I can see...



I can hear...



I can smell...



I can touch...



I can taste...





# Sounds of the Desert



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# Climate Zones Around the World

Climate is the weather that a particular place experiences over a long period of time. Climate zones are based on temperature and rainfall. Here is a simple breakdown of the world's main climate zones.

**Polar** – very cold and dry all year round.

**Continental** – long, cold winters with shorter summers.

**Temperate** – cool winters and mild summers.

**Tropical** – hot, humid and wet all year round.

**Arid** – very hot and dry all year round.



# Climate Zones in Australia

The continent of Australia can be divided into three main climate zones – **arid (hot and dry)**, **tropical (hot and wet)** and **temperate (cool)**.

The arid zone covers 70% of the continent. This land is classified as arid or semi-arid.

The tropical zone is located in the far north of the continent.

The temperate zone is located in the south-east, south and south-west of the continent.





# The Arid Climate Zone in Australia

Arid climates are very hot and dry. Australia is the driest inhabited continent on the planet (with Antarctica being the driest continent).

In the arid climate zone, the dry air and clear skies can cause large ranges in temperature between day and night. Ranges as great as 15-20°C are not uncommon. Rainfall is less than 500 millimetres per year.

The most common vegetation types found in Australia's arid climate zone are deserts and semi-arid grasslands.



# Plants in the Australian Arid Zone

Despite the dry conditions, Australia's deserts and semi-arid grasslands support a wide range of plant life. Over time, the vegetation in these areas has adapted to the natural weather pattern of long dry periods, followed by heavy downfalls of rain.

Native grasses, shrubs and trees can grow successfully in semi-arid areas where water is more readily available. Some of these native plants include spinifex grass, tussock grass, broad-leaved herbs, acacia (wattle) trees and mulga trees.



# Plants in the Australian Arid Zone



Spinifex  
grass



Mulga tree





# Animals in the Australian Arid Zone

Many animals live in the arid and semi-arid regions of Australia. Over millions of years, these animals have developed clever ways of avoiding the hot sun and seeking out the water they need to stay alive.

Some animals which can be found in Australia's arid zone include:

- reptiles (monitor lizards, thorny devils, burrowing snakes)
- amphibians (desert spadefoots, burrowing frogs, salamanders)
- birds (pigeons, wrens, galahs, budgerigars, emus)
- mammals (kangaroos, camels, bandicoots, hopping mice, bilbies).



# Animals in the Australian Arid Zone



Burrowing frog



Thorny devil

