The Giant Desert.

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Date: 4/16/20
Introduction

The Sahara desert is one of the largest deserts in the world. Located in North Africa, it’s about 3,000 miles from east to west and vice versa. The distance from north to south is 800 - 1,200 miles. It’s total area is about 3,320,000 square miles. The area isn’t always accurate because the desert changes in size over time.
**Fact 1 Geography.**

The Sahara desert’s name comes from the Arabic word Sahara which means desert. It’s the size of the entire United States (including Hawaii and Alaska.) The desert covers \( \frac{1}{3} \) of the entire continent of Africa. On the west is the Atlantic ocean and to the east is the Red sea in Egypt near Israel and Jordan. It also spans 11 countries.
The Sahara has many types of landscape. Sand dunes are the most famous type often depicted in movies. These sand dunes can be up to 600 ft tall but they only cover 15% of the entire desert. There are other types such as salt flats, basins, and depressions like the Danakil depression in Ethiopia.
Elevation

The highest point of elevation in the Sahara is the summit of Mount Koussi a volcano Chad. It’s at a height of 11,204 ft. The Qattara depression in Egypt is the lowest point of the desert. It's 436 ft below sea level. The Danakil depression is the second lowest at 410 ft below sea level.
Climate

The climate in northern Sahara is a subtropical and has 2 rainy seasons. The southern part are more tropical have only 1 rainy season. In the Sahara there’s also dust storms from high winds during certain parts of the year. These storms can last for 10 days and have very fast winds. These storms can be seen from space due to their size.
Saharan Life

Even though there is harsh climate, there exists 500 plant species and 70 mammal species. The most well known animal is the camel that went extinct in North America. Their humps can store water and they can survive for several days without.
Civilizations and empires

Throughout history, there were many empires in the Sahara. One of them was the empire of Ghana. It was near the Niger river which provided plants and water allowing people to live there. Their religions were Animism which is the belief in spirits from nature.
More

Sadly, the empire of Ghana collapsed and was replaced by the empire of Mali. It was twice as wealthy as the previous one. It was twice the size of Texas at the height of the empire. Mansa Musa was very famous for being the emperor of Mali.
Famous landmarks in Sahara

There are many famous landmarks within this desert. An example is the great pyramid of Giza.

Another famous landmark is the Sphinx.

It’s also in Egypt next to the pyramids.
Islam is the main religion in the Sahara region. This is because berbers from North Africa were muslims. There was also frequent pilgrimages to Mecca. Today Islam is the primary religion in the Sahara region. Arabic is spoken there too and it’s the main language spoken there. Also 93% of people who live in the Sahara are muslim.
Economy

Berbers or Muslim traders from North Africa came to Ghana and to other empires for trade. The most popular route was the Trans-Saharan route.
How did they do it?

The berbers rode on camels in a **caravan**. A caravan means a group of traders who travel together. They did this for safety. They traveled on camels due to them being able to survive for days without water. They also can walk very far such as 120 miles a day.

To let you know, not this type.
Trade

The most valuable thing traded in the Sahara was salt. It was just as worthy as gold. People had to also trade through silent barter which means to trade with 2 people who don’t speak the same language.

Here’s a song,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vnu8pL8
Conclusion

In conclusion, the Sahara desert is the largest desert in the world. People traded using the Trans-Saharan route. They traveled together on camels. They trade salt which is just as worthy as gold. It’s 3,000 miles from east to west and 1,200 miles north to south. This is the Sahara desert.
Sources

-https://www.britannica.com/place/Sahara-desert-Africa


https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/focus-areas/environment/SDS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vnu8pL8KPs