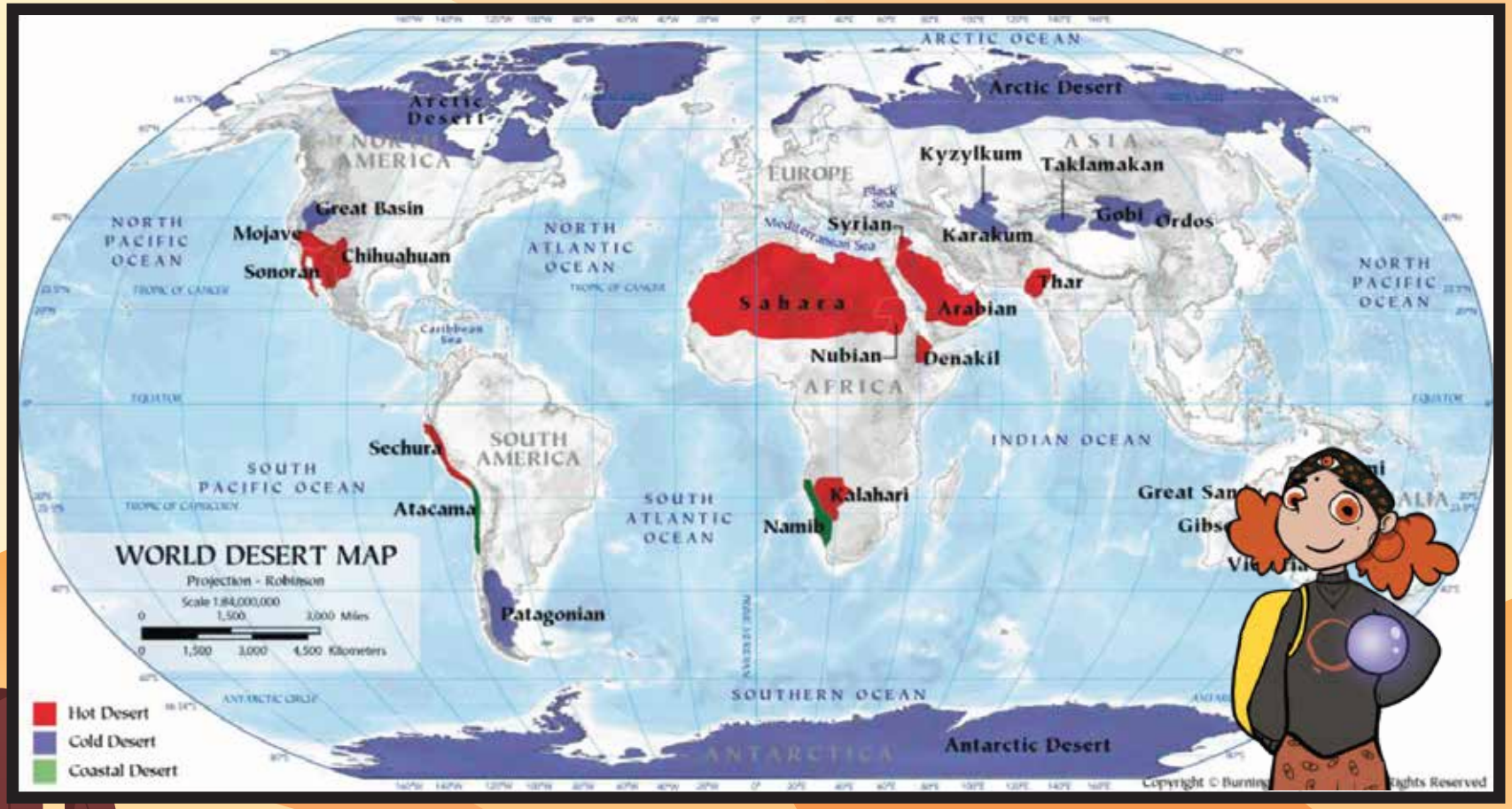
MYSTICLAND IN SCHOOL

Sands and lands of the world

CHAPTER 3



The desert map



Which is the world's largest hot desert?	Which is the world's largest cold desert?	How many coastal deserts can you spot? What are their names?

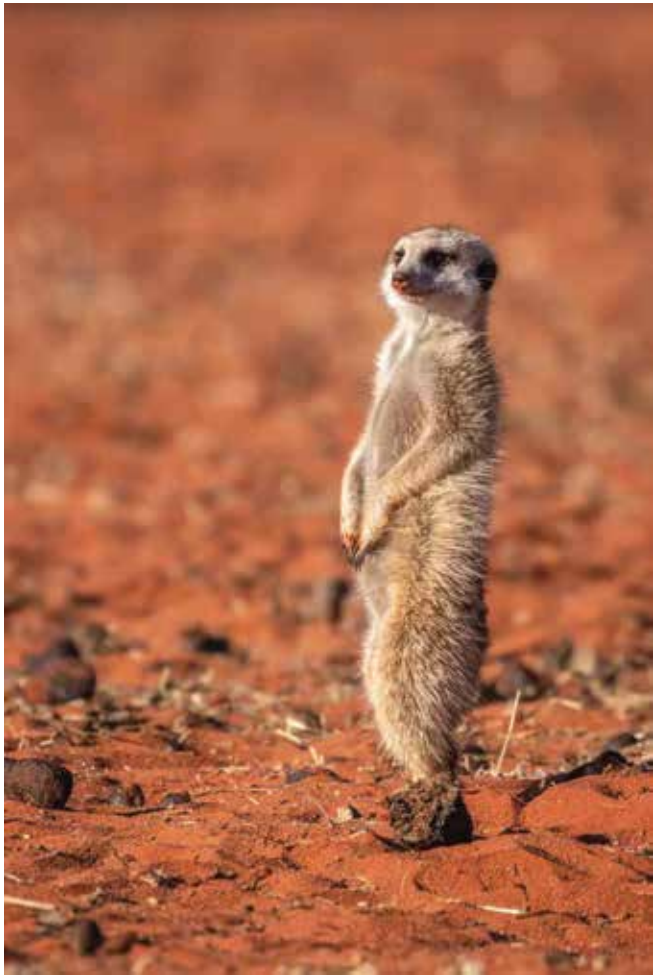
Animals of the desert



An Asian camel
with two humps



An Arabian camel
with a single hump



A meerkat at the
Kalahari desert

Animals of the desert



Is it right to say sand is brown in colour?

NO!

Sand is made up of small pieces of rock, soil, and minerals. Sand particles are called grains. Sand is found all over the world! It is found on beaches, deserts, rivers, lakes, etc.

The colour, shape, size and the feel of the sand differs everywhere. Sand can be white, black, brown, red, orange, and even purple! The colour of the sand depends on what minerals and rocks the sand particles are made of.

White desert - Rann of Kutch, India.



The area has a unique ecosystem where the saltwater and desert conditions support a variety of plants and animals.

Black desert - Karakum, Turkmenistan.





The dark colour of the sand in the Karakum Desert is due to the high concentration of minerals, including iron, which makes it appear darker compared to other deserts. The sand absorbs more heat from the sun, which makes the desert incredibly hot during the day. This causes the temperature to rise quickly and drastically.

Red Desert-
Simpson Desert, Australia.



The sand in the Simpson Desert has a distinct red color due to the high amount of iron oxide (rust), which gives it a rich, reddish-brown hue. The red sand in the desert is fine and powdery, making it look like a vast, endless ocean of red waves.

Sahara Desert, North Africa.



Despite being mostly dry, the Sahara can sometimes experience rain, but it’s extremely rare—sometimes only once every few years! There are ancient petroglyphs (rock carvings) in the Sahara, showing that it used to be a much greener place with lakes and rivers thousands of years ago.

Pfeiffer Beach, United States of America.



The purple sand at Pfeiffer Beach is caused by manganese garnet particles, which are found in the nearby rocks of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Over time, the ocean waves break down these garnet-rich rocks into tiny particles, creating the purple-hued sand.

Papakolea Beach, United States of America.



Papakolea Beach is famous for its green sand, which gets its unique color from the mineral olivine, a green crystal found in the volcanic rock of the area. The beach's green sand is formed when lava from the nearby Mauna Loa volcano cools and breaks down, leaving behind small pieces of olivine in the sand.