1. What is this North American desert which covers large parts of the Southwestern United States with an area of 311,000 square kilometers (120,000 sq mi)? This desert also provides the vital habitat for the only population of Jaguars living within the United States and is also the only place in the world where the famous Saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) grows in the wild.
(A) The Sonora Desert (B) The Atacama Desert (C) The Karakum Desert (D) The Tassili Desert

2. Parts of this desert have not seen a drop of rain since recordkeeping began. Without moisture, nothing rots in this desert and everything turns into artifacts. This desert is a sparsely populated virtually rainless plateau, running from the Pacific Ocean to the Andes Mountains and the landscape is so desolate it is sometimes described as “moon like”. It is, according to NASA, National Geographic and many other publications, the driest desert in the world too. Name this desert.
(A) The Danakil (B) The Atacama Desert (C) The Gobi Desert (D) The Mojave Desert

3. Which desert is the 7th largest desert in the world by area, occupying 673,000 square kilometers (260,000 mi²) located primarily in Argentina with small parts in Chile and is bounded by the Andes, to its west, and the Atlantic Ocean to its east? Much of the precipitation here occurs as snow.
(A) The Peruvian Chilian Desert (B) The Sechura Desert (C) The Patagonia Desert (D) The Bayuda Desert

4. This is the world’s largest hot desert covering some 9 million square kilometers and extending across the territories of 10 countries in North Africa. Its boundaries are the Atlantic Ocean on the west, the Atlas Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea on the north, the Red Sea on the east, and the Sudan (region) and the valley of the Niger River on the south. A critically endangered cheetah species *Acinonyx jubatus* is found here.
(A) The Namib Desert (B) The Rajputana Desert (C) The Australian Desert (D) The Sahara

5. Most of the world’s sand dunes are concentrated in vast sandy areas known as sand seas or ergs. Which desert has the largest of these sand dunes called the Rub al Khali that covers about 600,000 km², an area larger than France? This desert is located in Western Asia stretching from Yemen to the Persian Gulf and Oman to Jordan and Iraq.
(A) The Gran Desierto Desert (B) The Barchans Desert (C) The great Sandy Desert (D) Arabia Desert

6. Name this tropical desert Island in the Indian Ocean that is a part of the Republic of Yemen and is also considered the jewel of biodiversity in the Arabian Sea. One of the most striking endemic plants in this region is the dragon’s blood tree (*Dracaena cinnabari*), which is a strange-looking, umbrella-shaped tree.
(A) Gurbantunggut (B) Wahiba (C) Socotra (D) Gran Desierto
7. This desert in Central Asia occupies about 70% of the area of Turkmenistan and lies east of the Caspian Sea, with the Aral Sea to the north. In the heart of this desert the Darvaza Gas Crater or The Burning Gates give off a glow that can be seen from miles away during the dark night. Name the desert that also shows the presence of the famous Repetek Biosphere State Reserve for the study and preservation of a sand-desert ecosystem.
(A) The Turkmenistan Desert
(B) The Karakum Desert
(C) The Great Basin Desert
(D) The Chihuahuan Desert

8. What is the other name of the Great Indian Desert situated in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent and forms a natural boundary running along the border between India and Pakistan? It is here that hosts the world’s largest camel fair, The Pushkar Fair, the annual five-day camel and livestock fair, held in the town of Pushkar in the state of Rajasthan, India.
(A) The Thar Desert
(B) The Kyzylkum Desert
(C) The Rajasthan Desert
(D) The Pakistan Desert

9. Name this Asia’s largest desert which covers some parts of Southern Mongolia and northwestern China. In spite of the harsh conditions, this desert and the surrounding regions sustain many animals, including black-tailed gazelles, marbled polecats, bactrian camels and Mongolian wild ass.
(A) The China Desert
(B) The Gobi Desert
(C) The Masirah Desert
(D) The Ural Desert

10. Having endured arid or semi-arid conditions for roughly 80-55 million years, this desert is the oldest desert in the world. The largest game reserve in Africa and one of the largest of the world The Namib-Naukluft National Park extends over a large part of this foggy desert. What is the name of this desert?
(A) The Atacama Desert
(B) The Kalahari Desert
(C) The Namib Desert
(D) The Sonora Desert

11. This is a large semi-arid sandy savannah in Southern Africa extending 900,000 square kilometres, covering much of Botswana and parts of Namibia and South Africa. The desert is also home to the famous Kalahari Bushmen, an indigenous tribe that has lived there for more than 20,000 years besides hosting the endemic wildlife like the meerkats. Name this desert.
(A) The Ethiopian Desert
(B) The Somali Desert
(C) The Congo Desert
(D) The Kalahari Desert

12. The largest of all kangaroos, the Red Kangaroo, is found in this desert and the Great Victoria Desert, The Great Sandy Desert and The Little Sandy Desert are all parts of it. Name this desert.
(A) The Australian Desert
(B) The Gurbantunggut Desert
(C) Arava Desert
(D) The Libyan Desert

13. The brilliant white surface crusts in the pictures are almost pure halite or common table salt of the world’s largest salt flat at 10,582 square kilometers (4,086 sq mi) called Salar de Uyuni. It is found in ...
(A) Syria
(B) Bolivia
(C) Eritrea
(D) Chad

14. The most extreme desert region of the largest desert on Earth is the McMurdo Dry Valleys. The harsh winds blow through this valley at speed of up to 320 km (200 miles) per hour with a force capable of evaporating all moisture making this region the earth’s closest equivalent to the surface of Mars. Name this largest desert on Earth.
(A) The Arctic
(B) The Gobi
(C) The Antarctica
(D) The Chihuahuan

15. Since when has the World Day to Combat Desertification been observed to promote public awareness relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought? It is annually observed on June 17.
(A) Since 1992
(B) Since 1993
(C) Since 1994

Answers:
1(A), 2(B), 3(C), 4(D), 5(D), 6(C), 7(B), 8(A), 9(B), 10(C), 11(D), 12(A), 13(B), 14(C), 15(D).

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