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Subject English.

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## PASSAGE PRACTICE

A place without water and vegetation is generally called a desert. It is popularly believed that it is an area of endless sand with no greenery, an area which is dry, hot and without shade. This is a wrongly held belief because it can be a beautiful place which is home to many people, animals and plants. Even the desert blooms with flowers when it rains in the desert. A desert is not just a sandy wasteland but it can have many mountains and even a green land called an oasis. An Oasis develops around a spring or a well. A desert can be hot like that or cool like Ladakh. Mounds of sand are called sand dunes which are blown about by strong winds. Water is required by all living things including plants and animals but desert creatures and plants need less water. Camels, is one such animal which can go on for days without water because they sweat very little. The camels can tolerate high body temperature. Even small desert plants can store water

in their thick stems like that of cactus. They can even absorb water from light rains.

A common feature of all deserts is dryness and variation in temperature. As there is no moisture in the air, the deserts heat up rapidly during the day and cool off rapidly at night. Deserts are a part of nature's plan and they have their own importance so they should not be called useless.

## Questions based on Text

1 How can a Camel stay without water for days ?

2. Why do temperature rise rapidly during the day and fall rapidly at night ?

3 What is an oasis ? Is it of any use ?

4 How are the needs for water of smaller desert animals fulfilled ?

5 Does it rain in the desert ?