The Sahara Desert and Mali
Where is it?

- Describe the location of the Sahara Desert
Sahara Facts

- The world’s hottest desert and the largest ‘hot’ desert
- It covers an area roughly the size of the USA
- 1/4 is covered by sand desert, known as ergs
- The remainder consists of gravel-strewn plains, known as reg and area of barren rock, known as hamada
The Sahara today

- The Sahara is currently growing and increasing in area due to human activity.
- The Sahara is spreading southwards, this moving southern border is called the ‘Sahel’.
Where is the Sahel?

- Where is the Sahel?
- List all the countries in which the Sahel can be found
The Sahel

- Average rainfall in the Sahel is between 300-600 mm per year
- If it does rain up to 90% of the moisture is then lost through evaporation
- How can this cause problems in the Sahel?
What is desertification?
Desertification
Desertification

- What is desertification?
- Copy out the flow diagram to show how desertification occurs
- Explain how desertification occurs
- Explain how:
  - the lack of rain since 1969 has led to the Sahel moving southwards
  - population pressures have led to the Sahel moving southwards
Mali

- Using the handout create a mini fact file on Mali

- Describe the location of Mali (refer to neighbouring countries, the Sahara Desert and the Sahel in your answer)

- In what ways is the Niger river important to Mali?

- Suggest reasons why the population of Mali is not evenly distributed

- Describe the climatic conditions within Mali
Adapting to survive

The Sahara is by no means a lifeless environment.

Instead plants and animals have to adapt to survive in such extreme conditions.

How have the Fennec Fox and Acacia Tree adapted to survive in northern Mali?
Exam Practice

For a named hot desert you have studied, describe and explain how plants have adapted to the climate.