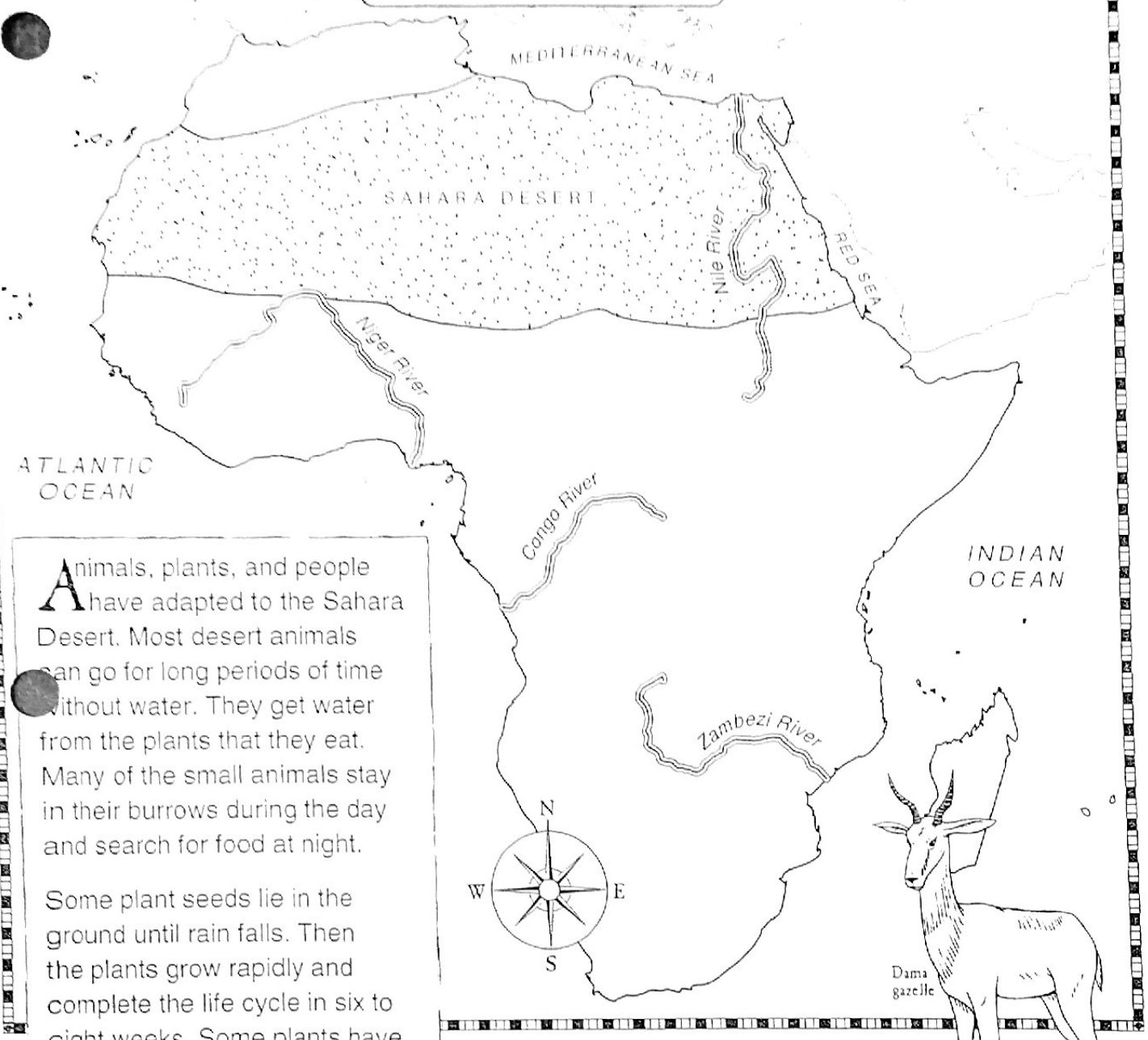
Name

WEEK 26

The Sahara Desert



Animals, plants, and people have adapted to the Sahara Desert. Most desert animals can go for long periods of time without water. They get water from the plants that they eat. Many of the small animals stay in their burrows during the day and search for food at night.

Some plant seeds lie in the ground until rain falls. Then the plants grow rapidly and complete the life cycle in six to eight weeks. Some plants have long roots to reach deep into the soil, and others take moisture from the air through their leaves.

The Sahara has a population of about two million people. Most of the Saharan people are nomads who tend herds of camels, cattle, goats, and sheep. They travel from oasis to oasis to use seasonably available water and pastures.

SAHARA FAUNA & FLORA

Animals	Plants
Addax (antelope)	Acacia
Dama gazelle	Drought-adapted grasses
Desert jerboa (gerbil)	Drought-adapted shrubs
Dromedary (one-humped camel)	
Fennec (fox)	
Monitor lizard	
Scarab beetle	
Vulture	

The Sahara covers an area of Africa that is roughly the size of the contiguous United States.

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Name _____

Daily Geography

The Sahara Desert

WEEK 26

Monday

1. The Sahara Desert covers northern Africa from the Atlantic Ocean to which sea?

_____

2. The Sahara Desert covers 3½ million square miles. Does that mean it is much smaller, roughly equal to, or much larger than the U.S.?

_____

Tuesday

1. Which two physical features help to make parts of the Sahara Desert more livable?

_____

2. Which river flows through the northeastern edge of the Sahara Desert?

_____

Wednesday

1. The Sahara has about 90 large oases. What is an oasis?

_____

2. The Sahara is covered by rocky plateaus, gravel plains, and ergs. What are ergs?

_____

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Name _____

Daily Geography

WEEK 26

The Sahara Desert

Thursday

1. Name two ways plants have adapted to the landscape of the Sahara.

_____

_____

2. Name two ways animals have adapted to the harsh environment of the Sahara.

_____

_____

Friday

1. Name two ways in which most people have adapted to living in the Sahara Desert.

_____

_____

2. The Sahara Desert is considered an ecosystem. Why?

_____

_____

Challenge

The Sahara Desert covers parts of ten countries and one occupied territory in northern Africa. List the countries and territory on the back of the map. Use an atlas, encyclopedia, or other resource to help you.

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