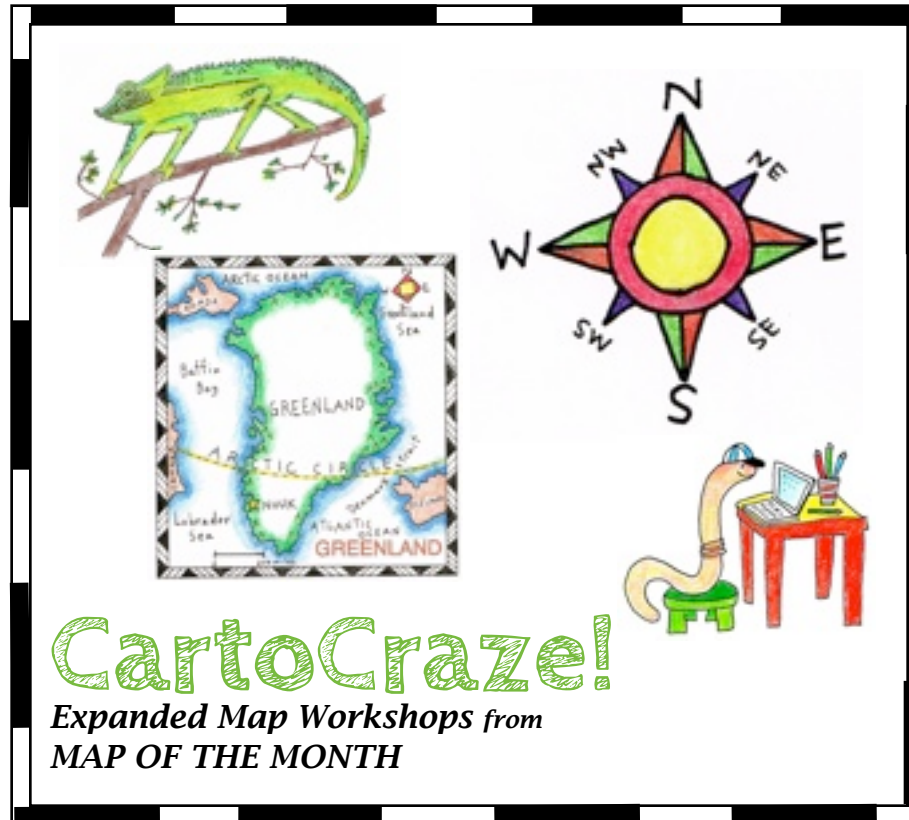


# GREAT SANDY DESERT



**CartoCraze!**

*Expanded Map Workshops from  
MAP OF THE MONTH*

**CartoCraze!**

**Expanded Map Workshops**

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# DESERT

The surface of a desert can be formed of sand, ice, small stones or large rocks.

The definition of a desert is that it receives less than 10 inches of precipitation a year: that precipitation can be either rain or snow.

Deserts are the driest places on Earth. Even though we tend to think of deserts as torrid sand covered locations, these geographic areas can also be bitterly cold.

Humans have always found it challenging to live in desert environments, and have lived at the outer edges of many deserts where agriculture and raising of animals is possible. Often people who live in arid areas are forced to be nomads, moving from place to place to take advantage of seasonal weather. A surprising number of plants and animals have adapted to the harsh inhospitable conditions of both hot and cold deserts.

# DESERT TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

These terms and their definitions will help you to understand some of the aspect of desert areas.

**DESERT** A region that receives very low amounts of precipitation.

**HOT DESERT** A region with very high temperatures, a great deal of evaporation of moisture, and often high winds, conditions that are inhospitable for life.

## COLD DESERTS

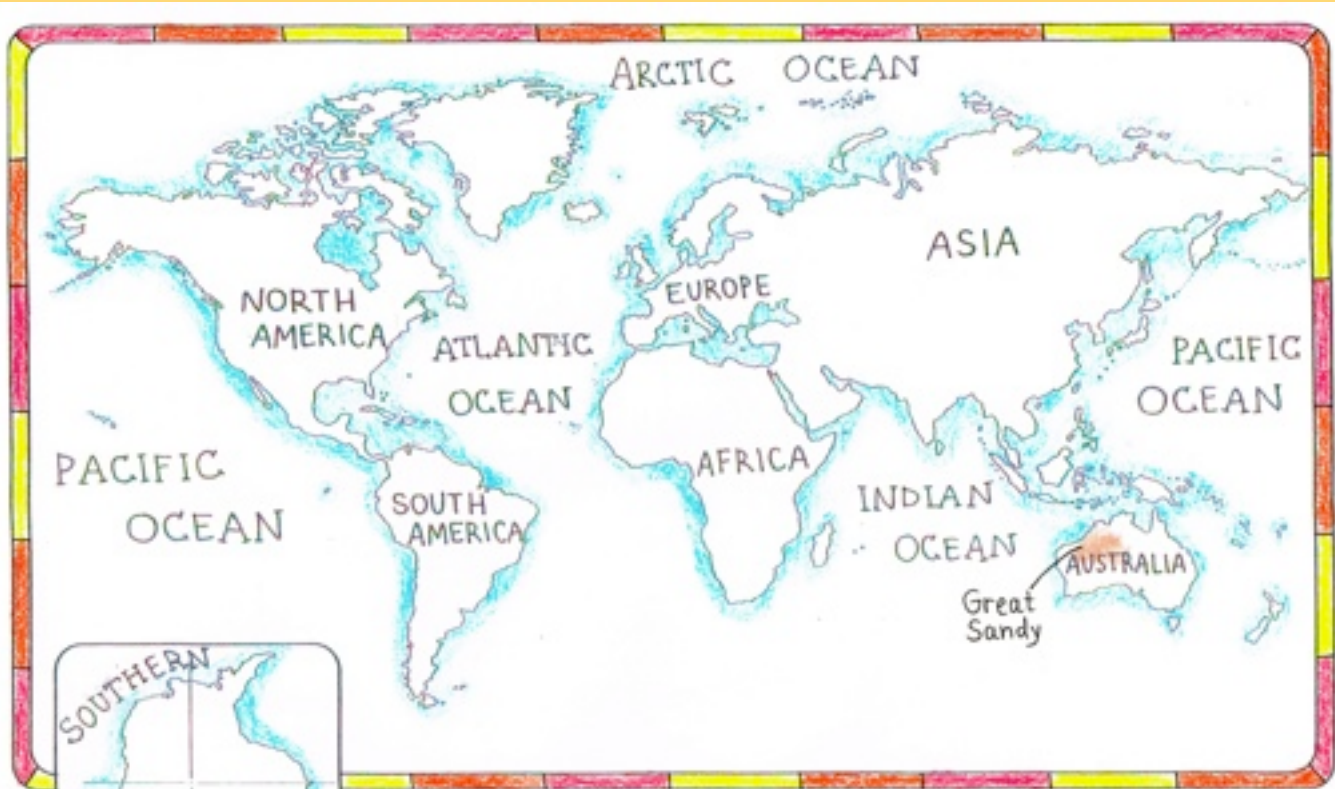
1. A **COLD DESERT** region is often separated from the ocean or body of water by a mountain range which blocks weather systems that produce moisture. The area beyond the mountain range remains very dry. Often this is called a "Rain Shadow" and can affect cold as well as hot deserts.
2. A **POLAR DESERT** has moisture carried away by high winds and there are snow dunes instead of sand dunes.

**SAND** Small dry particles of minerals and rock that are part of many hot deserts which form dunes.

**DUNE** Masses of sand or snow that are moved and shaped by weather, wind and gravity.



The following presentation is an introduction to the **GREAT SANDY DESERT**, one of Earth's great deserts, with some information about mapping, geography, people and animals of its surrounding area.



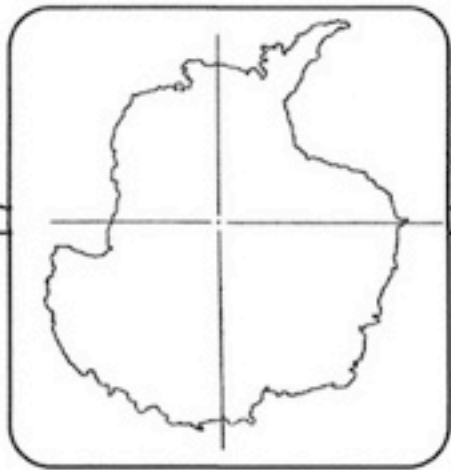
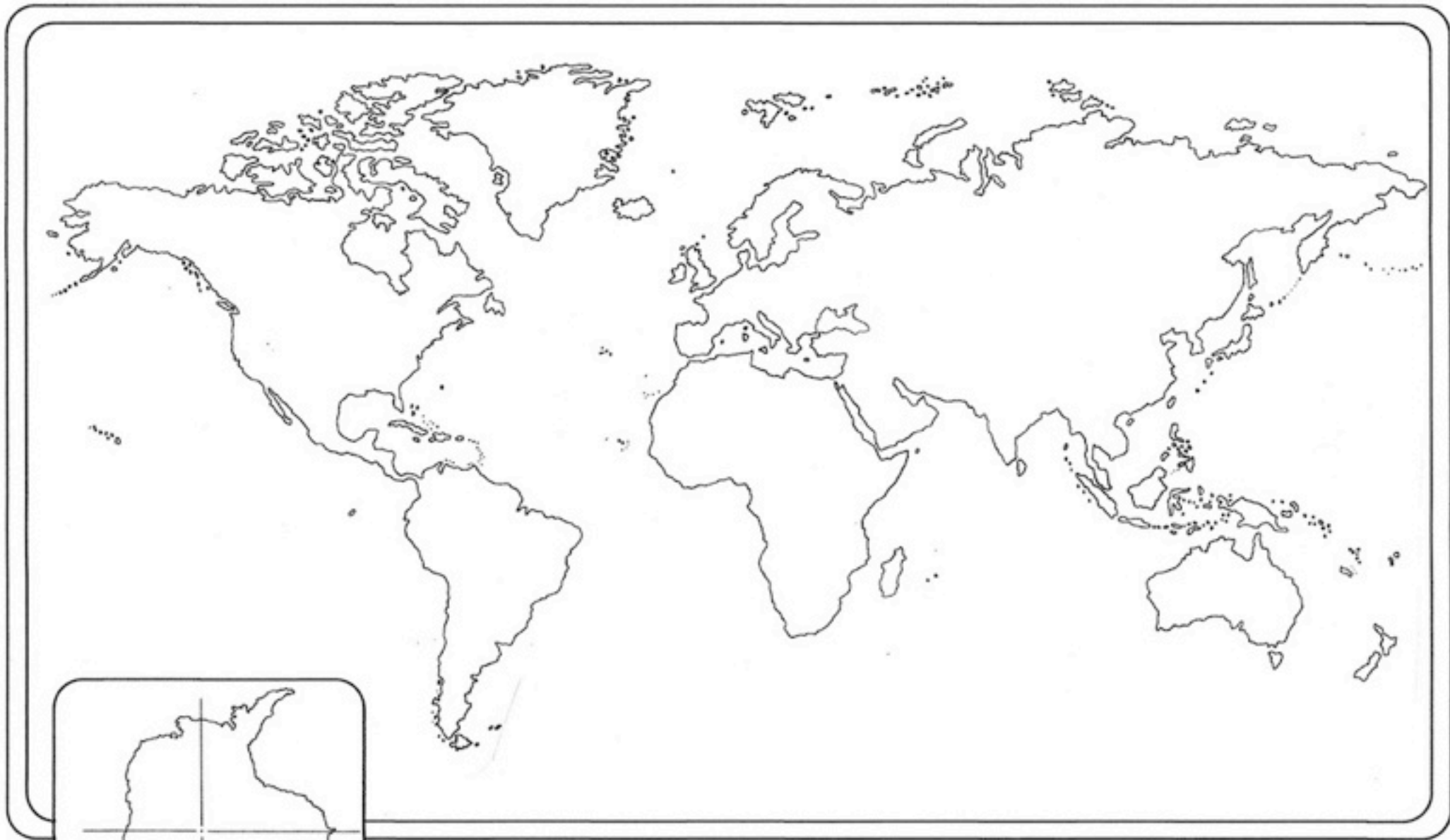
## GREAT SANDY DESERT

The Great Sandy Desert in Australia is the second largest of many deserts on this large continent. It is part of a region that is primarily desert, made up of the Great Sandy Desert, the Gibson Desert and the Tanami Desert.

The Great Sandy Desert covers a large area of 110,000 square miles, which is about the size of the state of Nevada.

Almost one-fifth of the Australian continent is covered by desert, most located in the western plateau region. Vegetation in these deserts is very sparse.

Very few people live in these areas: most of those who do are native indigenous Australians.



DESERTS

# SEEN FROM THE SKY!



The Great Sandy Desert is known for having a special kind of sand dunes that form parallel lines.

This photo was taken by an astronaut from space. It shows the LINEAR DUNES that are formed by winds that are blowing from east to west.



These linear sand dunes in the Great Sandy Desert are typically 25 meters high and roughly 1-1.5 kilometers apart. Can you convert these measurements to feet and miles?

## Scarlet Chested Parrot



The Scarlet Chested parrot, which is found in the Great Sandy Desert, is considered to be one of the most beautiful birds in the world. As their name suggests, these vibrant birds have a scarlet chest, blue head and wings, and bright green and yellow underbellies. These birds are nomadic, meaning they have no permanent home. Since they live in the desert, their bodies can function on small amounts of fluid. The species survives the dry desert conditions by eating succulent plants, which naturally contain necessary fluids. In addition to plants, the parrots eat mostly grass seeds. Due to their spectacular coloring and melodious song, this species is sometimes kept as a pet. Even though these birds have bright plumage, they are difficult to observe in the wild due to their secretive nature. For this reason, the actual number of scarlet chested parrots is difficult to estimate.

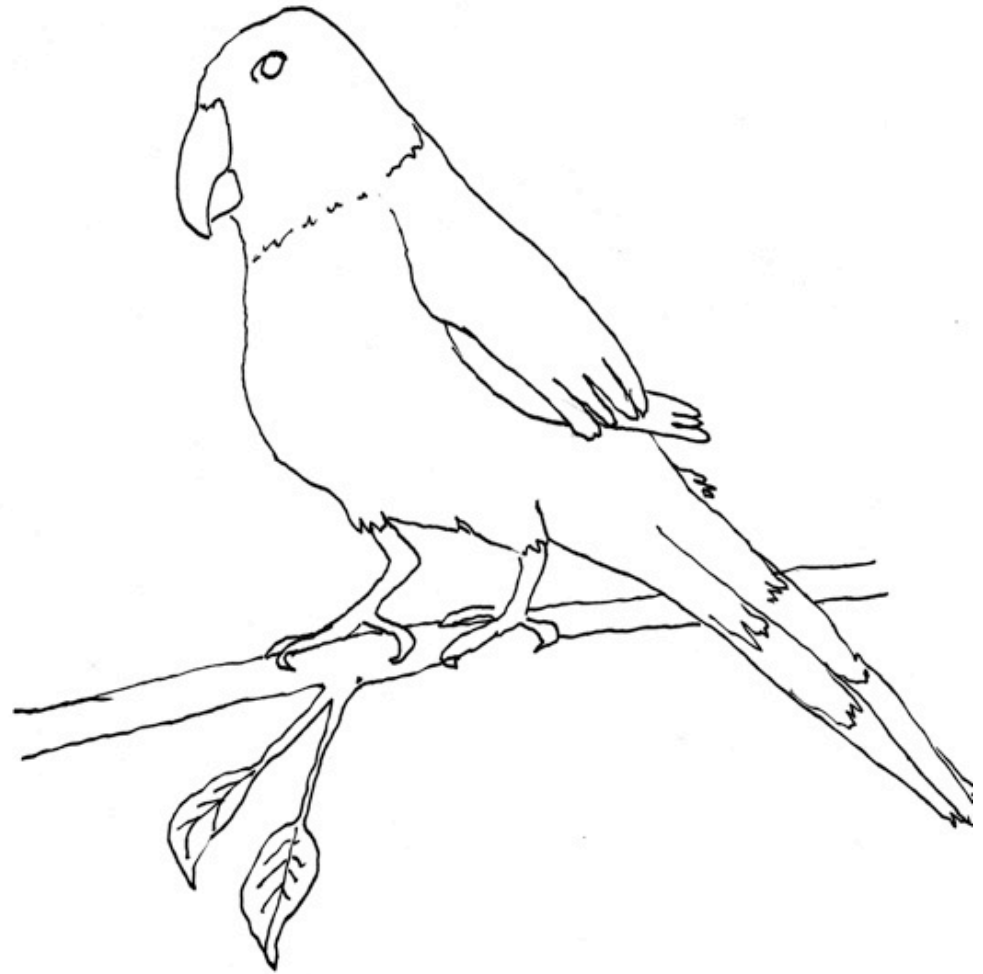
**Scarlet Chested  
Parrot  
SPELLING**

chest  
coloring  
nomadic  
plumage  
domesticated  
secretive  
hollows  
quiet  
feathers  
pets

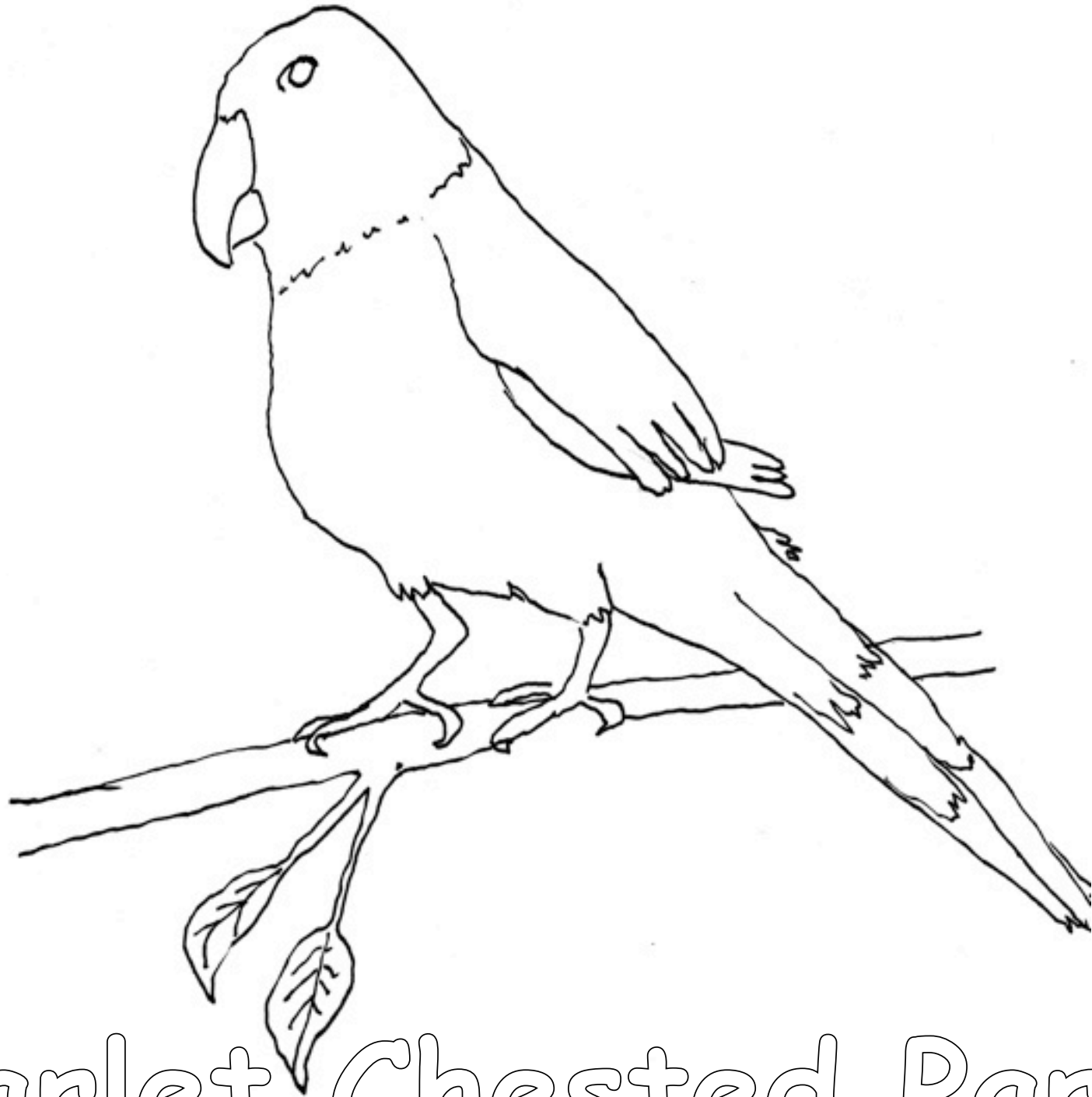


**Scarlet Chested Parrot  
VOCABULARY**

vibrant  
seeds  
plumage  
scattered  
peaceful  
melodious  
twittering  
harvesting  
secretive  
bright  
frail  
hollows  
nomadic



**Scarlet Chested Parrot**



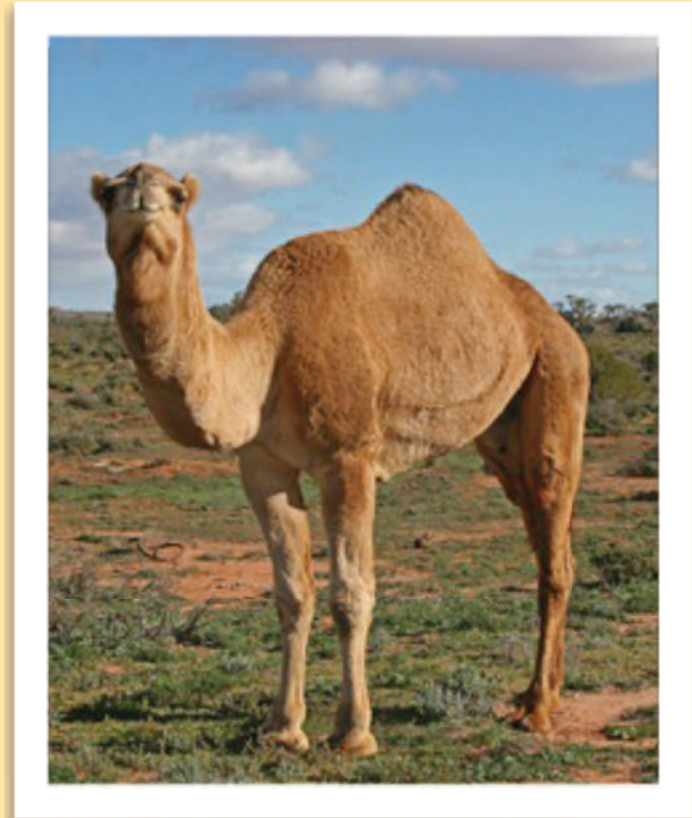
Scarlet Chested Parrot

An Australian prospector riding a camel which held a world record for distance travelled without water (600 miles), in 1895.

Photo: Jjron, [Creative Commons](#)



**Dromedary  
Camels**  
are large!  
Males measure  
from 6 to almost 7  
feet tall, and  
females from 5.5  
to 6 feet in height.



## FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND!

There are many **FERAL** camels found in the Great Sandy Desert: most are dromedary camels like this one. Most dromedary camels were imported from the Middle East in the mid 1800s to help settlers travel across the deserts of Australia and move goods from one place to another. Camels are very good desert dwellers and require very little water to subsist. When more modern transportation became available in the 1930s camels were released into the wild where they have lived on native vegetation.

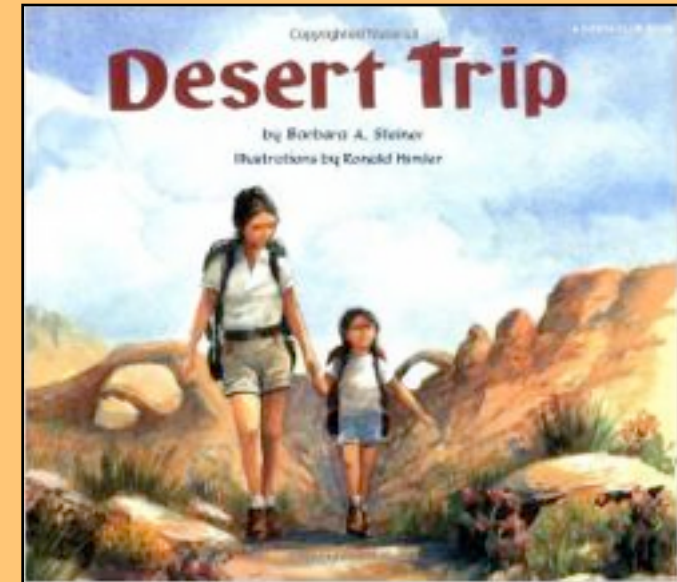
**What does FERAL mean?  
How do camels survive  
with so little water?  
What kind of toes make  
this shape in the sand?**



Photo: Bjørn Christian Tørrissen, [Creative Commons](#)



# DESERT READING!



A girl and her mother plan a walking trip through the southwestern desert of the United States.

## Lloyd Alexander

### The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

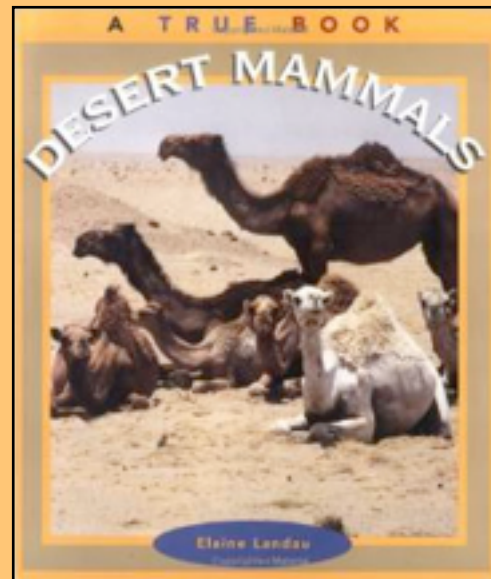
BY THE AUTHOR OF THE CHRONICLES OF PRYDAIN

### The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

by Lloyd Alexander

The young adventurer Carlo Chuchio encounters many curious people while seeking hidden treasure on the Road of Golden Dreams in the desert.

With Baksheesh, the world's worst camel-puller, Carlo leads a caravan through the realm of Keshavar and risks his life for a prize that may not even exist.



### DESERT MAMMALS

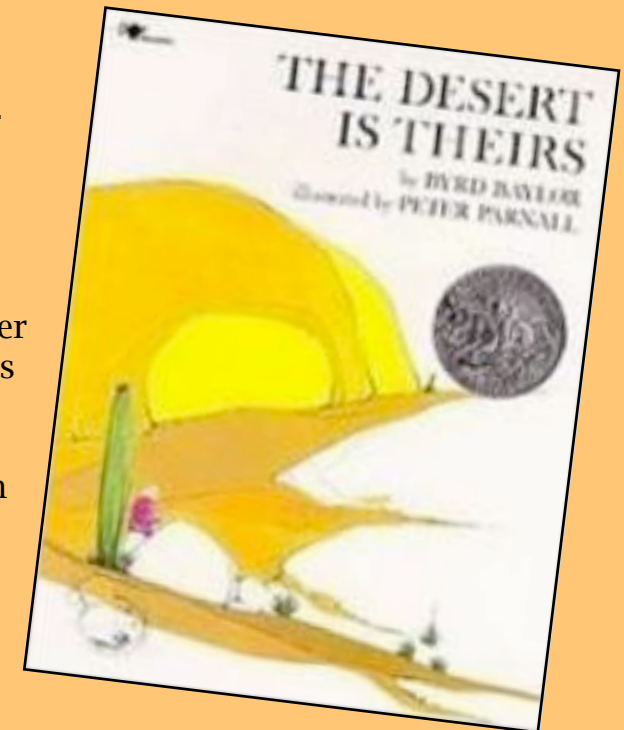
by Elaine Landau

Students can learn more about all the animals that thrive in desert environments.

### THE DESERT IS THEIRS

by Byrd Baylor

A prize-winner that describes the flora and fauna of the southwestern American desert.



# AUSTRALIA

## Places and Geographic Features

Welcome to **Australia**! Australia is the smallest **continent**, totaling about five percent of the land on earth. Australia is an isolated continent, surrounded by water. It is located in the **southern hemisphere** and is called the "land down under" for this reason. Australia lies between the **Indian Ocean** and the **Pacific Ocean**.

Australia is a very flat continent. It is a vast **plateau**, eroded over millions of years. Much of the central and western continent is made up of **deserts** and flat, dry **plains**. The mountains of Australia are much lower than those of other continents. The **Eastern Highlands** divide the dry western areas from the more fertile eastern coast. These Highlands are made up of several small **mountain ranges** of many different heights. They include the mountains of **Tasmania**.

The coastline of Australia stretches for 23,000 miles and includes many long sandy beaches. The **Great Barrier Reef**, off the northeastern coast, is the longest **coral reef** in the world.

In addition to being a continent, Australia is also an independent **country**. The official name is **The Commonwealth of Australia**. The country is divided into six **states** and two **territories**. Many islands are also part of the country, such as **Tasmania** and the **Cocos Islands**. Over seventeen and a half million people live in Australia. The greatest **population** of the country occurs in the southeastern states of Australia, especially the states of **Victoria** and **New South Wales**.

Some words on this page are **highlighted**. Can you define these terms?



## Earthworm's Cartographic Activities

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details on this map of **Australia**. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Be neat when labeling-- use a sharp pencil. Write small, always print clearly. Refer to the **Map Key** for symbols and suggested colors. Colored pencils work best when drawing in details like mountains or rivers. When filling in areas with color, shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

### States and Territories

Locate and label the following states and territories of Australia:  
**New South Wales**  
**Victoria**  
**Queensland**  
**South Australia**  
**Western Australia**  
**Tasmania**  
**Northern Territory**  
**Australian Capital Territory**

### Cities

Label **Canberra**, the country's capital, located in the Australian Capital Territory. Label the state and territory capitals and other cities marked on the map:  
**Kalgoorlie**    **Perth**  
**Albany**        **Broken Hill**  
**Townsville**   **Charleville**  
**Mount Isa**    **Newcastle**  
**Alice Springs** **Broome**  
**Hobart**        **Sydney**  
**Brisbane**     **Darwin**  
**Adelaide**    **Melbourne**  
 Add other cities, if you like.

### Oceans and Seas

With blue, shade along the coastline of the oceans and seas. With capital letters, label:  
**PACIFIC OCEAN**  
**INDIAN OCEAN**  
 With smaller letters, label:  
**Tasman Sea**  
**Arafura Sea**  
**Coral Sea**  
**Timor Sea**  
**Great Australian Bight**  
**Gulf of Carpentaria**  
**Bass Strait**  
**Great Barrier Reef**  
**Shark Bay**  
**Joseph Bonaparte Gulf**  
**Spencer Gulf**

### Rivers

Color and label the following rivers:  
**Murray River**  
**Darling River**  
**Fitzroy River**  
 Draw in and color other tributaries and rivers.

### Lakes

Many lakes are dry for parts of the year. To show this, some are drawn in with dotted lines. With a blue pencil, color the following lakes drawn in on the map. Label them:  
**Lake Eyre North**  
**Lake Eyre South**  
**Lake Moore**  
**Lake Mackay**  
 Draw, color and label other lakes.

### High Elevations

**Mount Kosciuszko** is the highest elevation on the Australian continent (7,310 feet). Using the special symbol in the **Map Key**, locate and label this mountain. Some of the **Australian Alps** have been drawn in as an example. Using the symbol in the **Map Key**, complete this range and label it.

Using the mountain symbol, draw in and label these other ranges:  
**Hamersley Range**  
**Macdonnell Ranges**  
 Draw in others, if you like.

Draw in the mountains on the island of **Tasmania**.

### Tropical Rain Forest

Tropical rain forests cover the Cape York Peninsula; label this area of land. Using the symbols in the **Map Key**, draw in these forest areas.

### Points of Interest

Using the symbol in the **Map Key**, draw in the **Great Barrier Reef**. Label it. Locate **Uluru (Ayers Rock)** on the map and label it.

### Desert

With a light brown pencil, shade these desert regions on the map. Label them:  
**Gibson Desert**  
**Tanami Desert**  
**Great Sandy Desert**  
**Simpson Desert**

Add other deserts, if you like.

**Decoration**  
 To add a decorative touch to your map, color the following:  
**AUSTRALIA** title  
**Earthworm** (our mascot!)  
**Compass Rose**: label North, South, East and West  
**The Kangaroo!**



## Map of the Month

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During the Olympic Games, flags from all the participating countries are displayed. This is the flag of Australia, host of the 2000 Olympics. Color it in the appropriate colors.

The regions in the southern hemisphere known as **Australasia** and **Oceania** span a huge area: 2000 miles from north to south and 2500 miles from east to west. These regions include the continent of **Australia**, the many surrounding islands, including **New Zealand** and **Papua New Guinea**, and the smaller groups of islands of **Melanesia**, **Micronesia** and **Polynesia**.

Australia is home to many unusual animals not found on any other continent. Some of the most famous like the **KANGAROO** and the **KOALA** are marsupials, which raise and carry their young in pouches. Other unique creatures are the **TASMANIAN DEVIL**, the **FRILLED LIZARD**, and the **EMU**. Name others!

