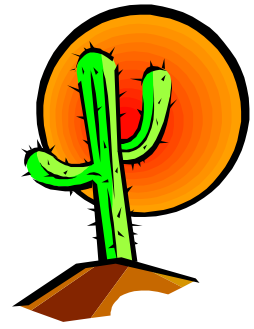


California State Facts

Lesson 6



1. Is Death Valley a forest or a desert?

Death Valley is a **desert**. It is located in the eastern part of central California. It is the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere. On July 10, 1913, the temperature in the valley reached 134 degrees. This is the highest temperature ever recorded in the Americas.

2. How many inches of rain does Death Valley average per year?

Death Valley averages less than **two inches** of rain per year. June is the driest month.

3. What animals were used to pull wagons across the California desert?

Mules were used to pull wagons across the desert. Mules are half donkey and half horse. From 1883-1889, teams of mules pulled borax across the Mojave Desert.

4. Name two products made from borax.

Laundry detergent and **bath soap** are made from borax.

5. How old are female Mojave tortoises when they start having children?

They start having children when they are **20 years old**. In the wild, Mojave tortoises live for about 50 years. They stay in holes in the ground on hot summer days.

6. What are some fun things you can do in Palm Springs?

You can **play golf, swim, shop, and eat in restaurants**. You can also **take the tramway** to the top of Mount San Jacinto and **take pictures** or **hike**.

7. What Indian reservation is in Palm Springs?

The **Agua Caliente Indian Reservation** is in Palm Springs. The Agua Caliente Indians are part of the Cahuilla people. The Spanish gave them their name, which means *boiling water*, because of the hot mineral springs in the Palm Springs area.

8. Do the windmills in Palm Springs use water or wind to produce electricity?

They use **wind**. There are about 3,500 windmills in the San Geronio Pass, which is off of Interstate 10 (I-10). The San Geronio Pass is one of the windiest areas in the world. The windmills are silent, and they produce clean energy for 100,000 homes a year.

9. Where can children in Palm Springs go to play in the snow?

They can go to the **top of Mount San Jacinto**. An aerial tramway goes to the top of the 10,831-foot (3301 meters) mountain. There is snow on the mountains in the winter.

10. Do Joshua trees grow only in the Mojave Desert?

Yes, they do. Joshua trees are yucca plants. They grow to be 15-40 feet high and 1-3 feet around. They have dark green leaves, yellowish flowers, and greenish brown fruit. They bloom from February to late April, but not every year. Joshua trees grow slowly, and can live for 200 years. Joshua Tree National Park is located in Twentynine Palms, California. In the summer, it is often over 100 degrees in the park during the day.