



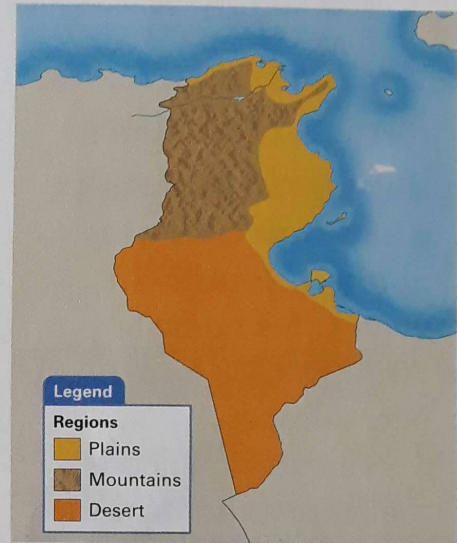
Tunisia's Environment

Most of the people in Tunisia live on the coastal plain. The climate is warm for much of the year. Olives, oranges, and grapes are grown in this region.

Most of Tunisia is dry. Every three or four years, there is a **drought**. Then it is very hard to get enough water. People need water to drink. Farmers need water to grow crops. Hotels and factories use water, too. The government has a plan to get more water. It is building dams and small lakes to collect rainwater. This water can be used during dry times.

- How does the environment influence the way people live and work in Tunisia?
- How do people in Tunisia adapt to and change their environment?

Regions in Tunisia



A woman enjoys a drink of precious water.



In My Own Words

My city, Tunis, is near the sea. Last summer, my family went to visit my mother's cousin. He works as a cook in a big hotel on the beach. The hotel has two swimming pools! Lots of tourists come to Tunisia on vacation.

Ahmed, Tunisia

A cork oak forest looks naked after a harvest.

Northern Sanctuary

Ichkeul National Park is a bird **sanctuary** in northern Tunisia. In winter, it is home to 200 000 birds from all over Europe.

The greylag goose is the emblem for Ichkeul National Park.



A shepherd tends his flock in the mountain region.

Mountain Region

The Atlas Mountains run across northern Africa into Tunisia. The region is mild and rainy, so the mountains are covered with forests.

Cork oaks grow in this region. People remove the bark from the trees every ten years. First, the cork is dried. Then it is made into bottle corks, bulletin boards, and floor tiles.

Between the mountains is the Majardah River, the biggest river in Tunisia. Wheat is grown in the Majardah valley. When there's not enough rain, some farmers irrigate their fields with river water.





Desert Region


The southern region of Tunisia is desert. It is part of the Sahara, the largest desert in the world. It is so dry here that almost nothing can live. But sometimes oases can be found. An oasis is a place in the desert where water bubbles up through the sand.

Tunisia's oases are precious. People live there, tourists come to visit, and different foods grow there, especially the delicious dates of palm trees. Dates also make a refreshing drink. The wood from the palm tree is used for firewood and to make roofs and baskets.

Hot, dry desert winds can make the summer temperature go up to 50°C. In the winter, nights in the desert can be cold.

Did You Know ?

Until about 4000 years ago, the climate of the Sahara Desert was warm, not hot. Its grassy valleys and many trees and rivers were home to all kinds of animals and fish.



Camels are well suited to a desert environment. They can live for up to a week with almost no food or water.