

Name: _____

Date: _____



THE DEAD SEA

The Dead Sea is not a sea, but a 50-mile long by 11-mile wide salt lake between Israel and Jordan. We call it a sea because it is salty like a sea or the ocean.

The Dead Sea is the lowest body of water on earth, nearly one-quarter mile below sea level. Water from the Jordan River flows in, but because the Dead Sea is lower than the land around it, no water can drain out. The hot desert sun evaporates the water about as fast as it flows in from the river, leaving behind salt and other minerals from the Jordan River.

People can easily float on the surface of Dead Sea because it more than eight times saltier than the ocean. When swimmers get out of the water, they often have a salty crust left on their skin. Any fish carried in from the Jordan River die instantly when they reach the Dead Sea.

Other salty lakes exist in dry areas around the world. The Caspian Sea in western Asia is the world's largest lake. The Romans thought they had reached the ocean upon finding the Caspian because it was salty. Utah's Great Salt Lake and the Aral Sea in Central Asia are also salty lakes.

Fill in the Blanks

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

THE DEAD SEA

The Dead S_____ is a salty l_____ located between I_____ and J_____. It is the l_____ body of w_____ on E_r_h, nearly _____ miles below s_____ level. Water flows into the D_____ Sea from the J_____ River, but because it is l_____ than the land surrounding it, no water f_____ out.

The hot d_____ sun e_____ the w_____, but leaves behind s_____ and other m_____ carried in from the r_____. The result is water that is s_____ times s_____ than the o_____. Bathers can easily f_____ on the s_____ water of the Dead Sea, but when they get out of the Dead Sea, they have a salt c_____ on their s_____. The D_____ Sea is aptly named because any fish carried in from the J_____ River d_____ instantly.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

*1. What is the dictionary definition of a sea? Why is the Dead Sea not a sea?

*2. What two elements do the Dead Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Aral Sea, and the Great Salt Lake all have in common?
