



The ***Las Vegas Tourist Guides Guild***

Takeaways - Geology, Geography, Flora, and Fauna

Know the four deserts of North America

Know that the Mojave Desert is the driest desert in North America

Know the average precipitation in the Mojave and Las Vegas

Know that the Joshua Tree only grows in the Mojave

Know the State Trees

Know that Bristlecone Pines are amongst or possibly the oldest living single organisms on earth

Have a working knowledge of the Life Zones of the Mojave, their elevations and related flora and fauna

Be able to identify at least these plants by sight - mesquite, creosote, Joshua trees, bristlecone pines, pinyon pines (and their seeds/nuts).

Be able to describe some strategies plants use to survive in the desert

Be able to list 10 animals found in the Mojave Desert

Be able to describe some strategies plants and animals use to survive in the desert

Know what the state animal (mammal) is

Know what the state fossil is. Why is this interesting?

You'll need to know your directions, where Las Vegas is located and its relations to regional destinations, both for historical and current practical understandings

Know the tourist destinations that surround Las Vegas

Be able to name the mountains that surround Las Vegas (obviously you'll need to know your directions)

Know what the Keystone Thrust is, why and when it happened, and where you can see it nearby

Know what the Great Unconformity is, including the time periods and how it happened, and two places where it is visible

Have a working knowledge of the key geological time periods (estimated date ranges) and the rocks and mountains that they are associated with



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Know how and of what limestone was created by

Know how and of what sandstone was created

Know the three basic types of rocks

Be able to list some of the rocks of each type of rock. Know what type of rock limestone and sandstone are

Know where you'll find igneous rocks in the Las Vegas area

Know where the Las Vegas Springs came from and a basic idea of how they happened

Know the time period of the formation of the Grand Canyon with a basic idea of how it was created as well as its length and a few facts such as at its deepest it is a mile deep and widest 18 miles wide.

Know what Basin and Range means. Maybe even memorize that great line from American geologist, Clarence Dutton - about an "army of caterpillars crawling northward..."

Know when the the Basin and Range formed

Know what Great Basin means - and at least one river out of the two in the Great Basin that does in fact drain to the sea

Know what desert varnish is and how it was created, and at least two locations where tourists around Las Vegas will see it

Know what an alluvial fan, hoodoo, mesa, and playa are