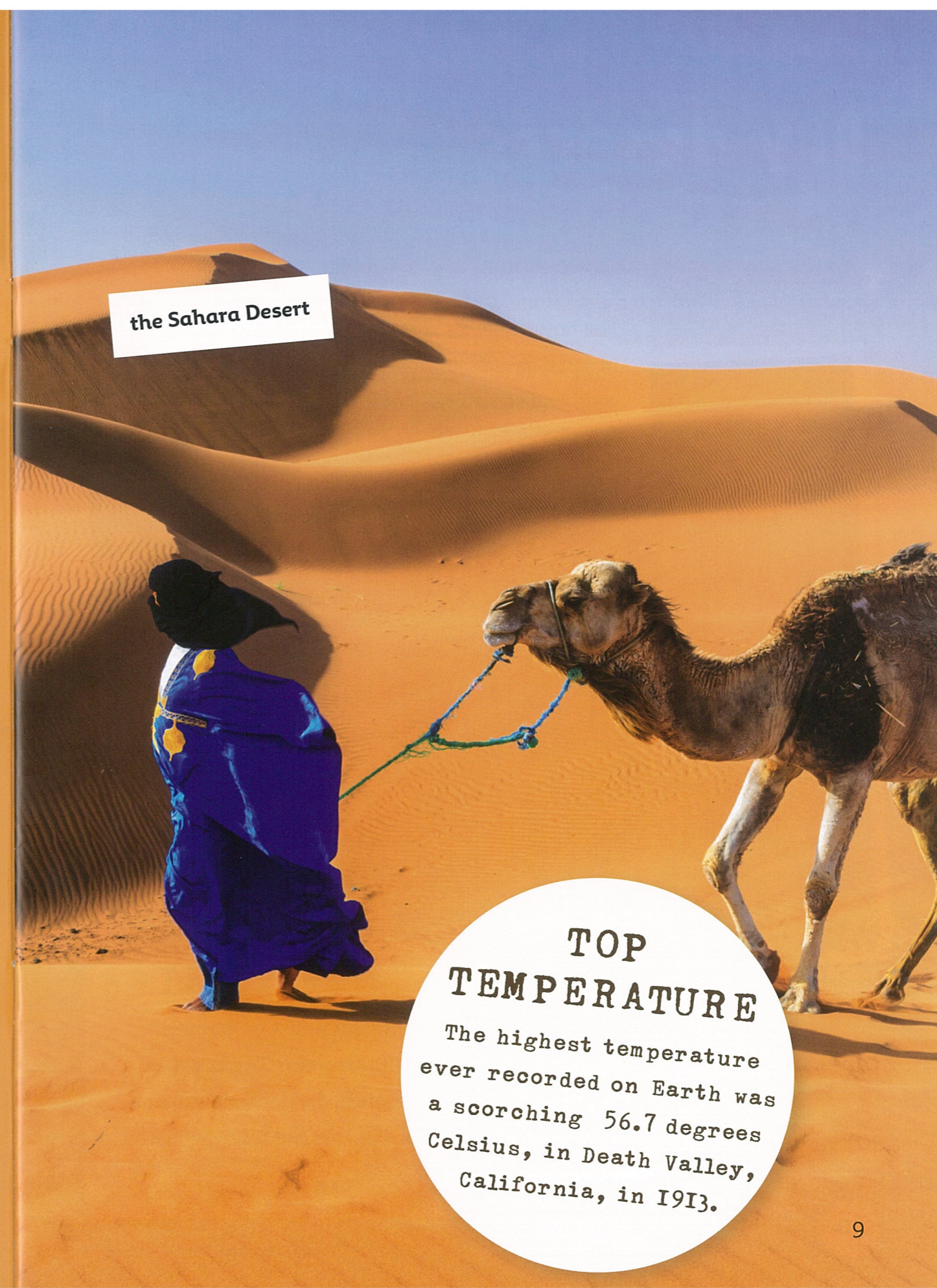
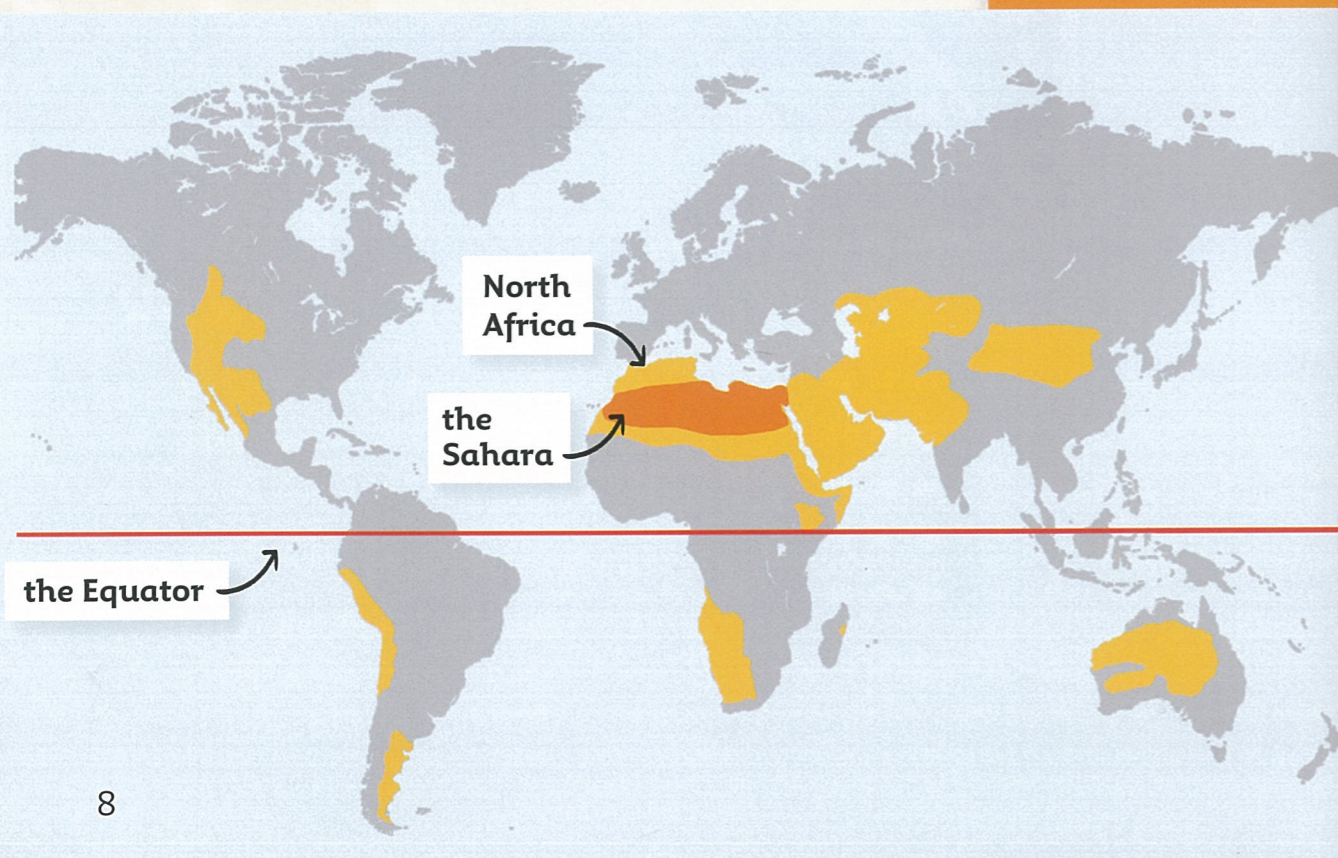


# Hottest and driest

Many parts of the Earth get very hot, too. They are places on and close to the **equator** – an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth. This is where the Sun shines strongest.

There are many **deserts** close to the equator. The Sahara is a huge desert that stretches right across North Africa, north of the equator. People living in the Sahara have to protect themselves from the heat. They wear loose, light-coloured clothes that keep off the Sun's rays, but let air circulate to keep them cool.



# Floods

When heavy rain falls every day, as it does during a monsoon, streams and rivers can't carry away the rainwater fast enough. The rivers fill up and then overflow, and water floods the land alongside the rivers. This means that farmland, villages and towns can be under water, sometimes for weeks or months, ruining crops and homes.



## SOMERSET FLOODS

In late 2013 and early 2014, a record amount of rainfall fell in southern England. A low-lying area of land called the Somerset levels was badly flooded, and hundreds of people had to leave their homes. The water took months to drain away.

## FLASH FLOODS

Flash floods happen when it rains extremely heavily in one place. The streets can be dry one minute, but deep under water a few minutes later. The rain water can flow very fast, bursting into homes and washing away cars.

