



# Sahara is Older than Thought

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The Sahara desert is twice as old as we thought. Science books say the Sahara is around three million years old. However, a new study from a centre for climate research says it could be seven million years old. Researchers used computers to calculate when parts of North Africa became desert. Their tests showed that global warming seven million years ago dried a lot of the land in what is today's Chad. A sea called the Tethys Sea started shrinking. This cut the number of summer monsoons, which helped make sand dunes in Chad. The scientists say this is how the Sahara started.

The Sahara is one of the best-known and largest deserts. It covers about 10 per cent of Africa. It is very big in Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan and other nations. It stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east. Not everyone thinks the Sahara is seven million years old. A geologist in Germany says more evidence is needed to be sure. He said the new research is just based on numbers. He said: "Nothing you can find in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old". Our knowledge of the Saharan climate starts from 10,000 years ago. That knowledge is "full of gaps".

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New Words or Phrases

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# Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.

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