

Valley Systems (B)

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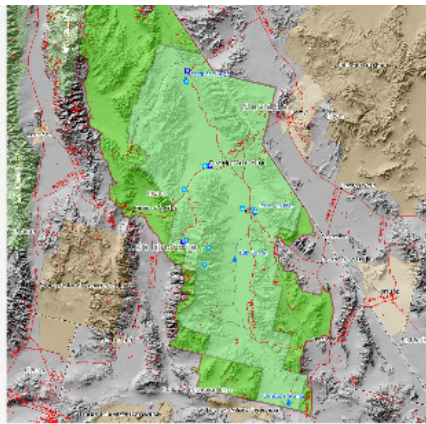
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Environmental Information



Geological Origins

Death Valley lies at the southern end of a geological trough known as Walker Lane, and is bisected by a right lateral strike slip fault system that consists of the Death Valley Fault and the Furnace Creek Fault. Furnace Creek and the Amargosa River flow through the valley. During the middle of the Pleistocene era there was a succession of inland seas, called Lake Manly, located where Death Valley is.

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*Michael Hickey
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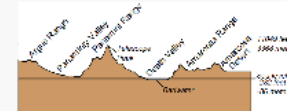
Death Valley has a subtropical desert climate. It has long, extremely hot summers and winter and little rainfall. There are perpetual drought like conditions in Death Valley and there are few clouds. The only precipitation there is development of fog that reaches the ground. The soil is developed out of sandstone and there is some coarse sand. Desert lily and mesquite are the most abundant plants and are in other parts. There are 51 species of native mammals, 39 species of birds, 16 species of reptiles, 1 species of amphibians and 2 species of native fish.

Type of Ecosystem and Endangered Species

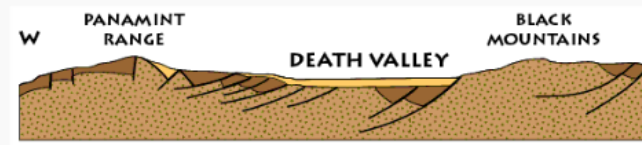
Death Valley is a desert ecosystem, yet it has many unique species of plants and animals. An example of an endangered species is the Death Valley pupfish, which exists nowhere else in the world. Death Valley is one of the hottest and driest places in North America, yet it is home to over 1,000 species of plants; 23 of which are not found anywhere else.

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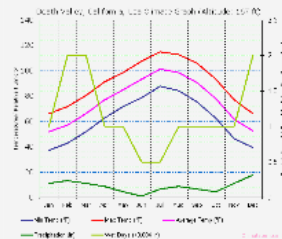
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Natural History

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Death Valley has a subtropical desert climate. It has long, extremely hot summers, mild winters, and little rainfall.

There are perpetual drought-like conditions in Death Valley, and there are few clouds. The only precipitation there is evaporates before it reaches the ground. The saltpan is devoid of vegetation, but there is some Creosote Bush, Desert Holly, and mesquite at the lower elevations and sage in other parts. There are 51 species of native mammals, 307 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles, 3 species of amphibians, and 2 species of native fish.



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Death Valley National Park is currently protected by The National
Park Service, as well as The Death Valley
Natural History Association.

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Why it is Preserved

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Death Valley National Park protects the northwest corner of the Mojave Desert and contains a diverse desert environment of salt flats, sand dunes, badlands, valleys, canyons, and mountains. Open pits and strip mines scarred the landscape, and the public outcry led to it becoming a national park and a biosphere reserve.

Threats to the Area

Although there used to be dangers that severely threatened Death Valley, as of now there are few threats. Mining used to be a problem, as well as hunting of some native species. However, most, if not all species are adapted to the extreme climate of Death Valley, and thus do not need protection from nature. Death Valley is also a biosphere reserve, which means that its natural resources are preserved.

Human History

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Four Native American cultures are known to have lived in the area during the last 10,000 years. The Timbisha tribe of Native Americans inhabited the valley for at least the past 1000 years. The name was given to it by prospectors who had to cross the valley during the Gold Rush. Now, it is a popular tourist location due to its hot temperatures and its extremely low and high points.

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