

MANMADE MARVELS



A Vertical City

Standing gracefully in the desert city of Dubai, Burj Khalifa which was unveiled to the world on 4th January 2010 amidst the Dubai crisis scenario is nothing short of a living wonder. As the world's most prestigious address, Burj Khalifa makes it to the lists of a number of world-firsts.

The first view

Displaying an extraordinary work of art, engineering and craftsmanship, Burj Khalifa – formerly known as Burj Dubai was developed by Dubai-based Emaar Properties PJSC. The construction of the tower began on 21st September 2004 with its completion on 1st October 2009. It was officially opened on 4th January 2010.

What went into the construction of this massive structure?

At over 800 meters, Burj Khalifa has 160 storeys, the most of any building in the world. Approximately

3,30,000 cubic meters of concrete, 39,000 meters/ton of reinforced steel, 103,000 sq. meters of glass and 15,500 sq. meters of embossed stainless steel was used to build the world's tallest building in a span of 22 million man hours.

What amenities does the tower offer?

With a total area of 5.67 million sq ft, Burj Khalifa offers luxurious recreational and leisure facilities featuring 1.85 million sq ft of residential space and over 300,000 sq ft of prime office space. Besides the Armani Hotel Dubai and the Armani Residences, the tower offers four swimming pools, a private library, an exclusive resident's lounge, a 12,000 sq ft high-end dining experience, an observation deck at level 124, Dubai Fountain, the world's tallest 'performing fountain' and Burj Khalifa, the world's highest fine dining restaurant at Level 122.

IMINE MATTERS

Lead

■ Lead is a soft, flexible, bluish-white metallic element, extracted chiefly from galena.

■ It is found in ore with zinc, silver and most abundantly copper.

■ It's name originates from the Greek word 'Protos' meaning 'first' and the symbol 'Pb' originates from the Latin word 'Plumbum' meaning 'lead'.

■ Alchemists believed it to be the oldest metal and associated it with the planet Saturn.

■ Lead was discovered in ancient times and used by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and Chinese.

■ Lead is a bad conductor of heat and is used in the manufacture of glass, rubber, ammunition and paints. Besides, it is also used in containers and pipes for corrosives, radiation shielding and batteries.

■ Plumbism is the medical term for lead poisoning.

■ Major producers of lead in the world are: the U.S., Australia, Canada, China, Peru and Kazakhstan.

■ Main land reserves of lead in India are in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, etc.



WONDERS OF NATURE

Deserts

Desert is a landscape form or region with a minimal amount of moisture or more typically rocky terrains with poor soil development and sparse vegetation. Nearly one-fifth of the earth's surface is covered by these sandy barren lands, which has a minimum annual rainfall of approximately 250 millimeters.

How are deserts classified?

Deserts differ in types according to their geographical location. They are classified into trade wind deserts, mid-latitude deserts, rain shadow deserts, coastal deserts, monsoon deserts, polar

deserts and extraterrestrial deserts. Some of the world's largest deserts are Antarctica desert, Arctic desert, Sahara desert, Arabian Desert, Gobi desert, Kalahari Desert, etc.

How does biodiversity of deserts differ from other landmasses?

The desert biome poses adverse conditions for living beings to survive in harsh climatic conditions. As the atmosphere of the deserts is either hot or cold, the animals require adaptation to fulfill their basic needs. The soil in the areas is saline or alkaline in nature according to their topography.

What kind of flora surfaces the deserts?

Shrub lands and woodlands are found in these arid regions. The plants found are usually cactus, palms, dates, oleanders, etc. Along the Mediterranean lands, olive plants are found in large numbers.

Who are the inhabitants of the deserts?

This landmass is characterized by various desert animals requiring minimum amount of moisture. Xerocoles, Porcupine, Horse, Bighorn Sheep, Cape Hare, Coyotes, Desert Elephant, Iguana, Tortoise, Donkeys, camel, Monster lizards, Hyena, Kangaroo Rats, Rattle snakes, Roadrunners, Sand Cobra, Chameleons, Scorpion, Flamingo, Vultures, Falcon, etc. are found in deserts.

