

Ch. 8 : India : Climate, Natural Vegetation
and wildlife.

classmate

Date _____

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1) What type of climate is found in India? State its characteristics features.

→ India has a tropical monsoon type of climate.

Its characteristics features are i) high temperature almost throughout the year ii) Dry winters in most parts of the country iii) Seasonal reversal in wind direction during the year.

2) How does the long coastline of India affect its climate?

→ Long coastline of India affect its climate in the following ways -

i) The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal have a moderating influence on the climate of the coastal areas.

ii) The interior parts, which are far away from the seas, have extreme climate.

3) Define the terms 'Kalbaisakhi' and 'mango showers'.

→ Kalbaisakhi - Kalbaisakhi is thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rainfall, common during summer evenings in west Bengal and Assam.

Mango Showers - These are thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain occurring along coastal Kerala, which helps in early ripening of mangoes.

4) Name the regions of India that receive more than 200cm annual rainfall.

→ Regions of India that receive more than 200cm annual rainfall are - The western coastal plain, the western slopes of the Western Ghats and most of the north-eastern states.

5) Why do trees in thorn forests have long roots and fleshy leaves?

→ Trees in thorn forests have long roots and fleshy leaves to conserve water.

6) What is the impact of the monsoons in the socio-cultural unity of India?

→ Monsoon winds and the associated rains provide a rhythmic cycle of seasons that affect people from all walks of life and bind them together.

→ Many festivities revolve around the monsoons and the agricultural calendar.

7) Name a tree found in the tidal forests and mention its characteristic feature.

→ Sundari trees are found in the tidal forest. They have breathing roots.

8) List some valuable products obtained from forests.

→ i) Timber is the major product obtained from forests.

ii) Hardwood trees such as sal, teak, rosewood, sandalwood and bamboo provide us with valuable timber.

iii) Coniferous trees such as pine, spruce, deodar and silver fir provide softwood.

iv) Forests also yield a host of other minor products such as lac, resin, gum, medicinal herbs, fruits, dyes, honey, cellulose, grasses and leaves.

9) State some important measures the Government has undertaken to conserve forests.

→ The Government has launched various forest conservation measures like social forestry, agro forestry, Van Mahotsav and involvement of local communities in protecting the forests.

10) What do you mean by endangered species? Give two examples from India.

→ Species whose numbers have been reduced to a critical level are called endangered species.

Example - Musk deer, one-horned rhino.

11. What is the significance of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act?
 → The Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 aims at protecting the endangered species by banning hunting and trading in wildlife and protecting their habitats.

12. What is a national park? Give any two examples from India.
 → National park is a large natural area where plant and animal species are of special educative interest and are thus, protected.

Example - Jim Corbett National Park; Gir ^{Forest} National Park.

13. Name any two wildlife sanctuaries in India and mention the states where they are located?

→ i) Sariska in Rajasthan.
 ii) Manas in Assam.

14. What is a biosphere reserve? Name any two biosphere reserves in India.

→ A biosphere reserve is a multi-purpose protected area to preserve the genetic diversity of the ecosystem and to promote research on conservation of the environment.

Example - i) Sundarbans in West Bengal.

ii) Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand.

F.1. There are great variations in climatic conditions within the country. Justify this statement with the help of examples.

→ There are great variation in climatic conditions within the country, this is because India has a vast latitudinal extent and varied landforms features. Some places are extremely hot, while some are very cold.

Example - Coastal areas such as Mumbai and Kochi, have moderate climate. This is little difference between summer and winter.

F/2. What are western disturbances? Which part of India is affected by them?

→ The northern India, receives light rainfall during winter, this is caused by the cyclonic storms which originate in the Mediterranean Sea and travel towards India. These winds are called western disturbances.

They cause heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of the Himalayas and sometimes result in a cold wave in northern India. Punjab and Haryana receive rainfall from the western disturbance.

3/ How do the monsoons affect the economy of our country?

→ i) Most of the Indian farmers are dependent on the monsoon rains for their agricultural activities.

ii) Monsoons are uncertain and are erratic in nature. Late arrival or early retreat of monsoon or a less than-normal monsoon reduces crop yields. This raises food prices and also affects agro-based industries.

4/ Explain the role played by forests in protecting our environment

→ i) Forests play a protective role by maintaining the ecological balance. They absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.

ii) They provide the soil with the necessary humus content.

iii) They increase the moisture content of the air through transpiration.

5/ Mention some important measures for conservation of forests.

→ i) Large scale afforestation programmes should be undertaken.

ii) Rampant cutting of trees should be checked.

iii) The practice of shifting cultivation should be stopped.

4. In Goa neither are the summers very hot nor are the winters very cold, while Amritsar experiences extremes of temperature.

→ This is because -

i) Goa is close to the sea, where it experiences the moderate type of climate.

ii) Amritsar is situated far away from the water bodies and the area is landlocked, so they experience extreme of temperature.

5. The Himalayas act as a climate divide.

→ i) They form a barrier against the bitterly cold winds coming from the Arctic region and prevent them from entering India.

ii) They also obstruct the monsoon winds and force them to shed their moisture, thereby causing rainfall.

6. Shimla is colder than Jalandhar although both are situated almost on the same latitude.

→ Because Shimla is higher in altitude than Jalandhar, Shimla is colder than Jalandhar.

7. The western slopes of the Western Ghats are rainier than the eastern slopes.

→ This is because -

i) Western Ghats lie in the windward side of the mountain.

ii) Eastern slopes lie in the leeward sides of the mountain, hence receive less rainfall.

8. Proper water management is very important in our country.

→ India gets sufficient rainfall, but shortage of water still exists. This is mainly because the rainfall is concentrated in some months of a year. In places, heavy rainfall causes floods while scanty rainfall causes droughts. Hence, proper water management is essential for India.

- ↳ Western Rajasthan receives scanty rainfall.
- Western Rajasthan gets very scanty rainfall as the Aravallis lie parallel to the direction of the monsoon winds and thus, do not obstruct them.
- ↳ There has been a huge decline in the wildlife of India.
- Reckless felling of trees, rapid dwindling of forests, loss of natural habitat and poaching have resulted in the decline of ~~our~~ wildlife in India.

Homework -

Q.1; Q.2; Q.3; D; C.