



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA
GEOGRAPHY
CLASS – IX
CHAPTER - 5
NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE
(formative assessment - 3)

Q.1. What is Natural Vegetation?

Ans. Natural Vegetation refers to a plant community which has grown naturally without human aid and has been left undisturbed by humans for a long time. This is also known as Virgin Vegetation.

Cultivated crops and fruits, orchards form part of vegetation but not natural vegetation.

Q.2. Differentiate between endemic and exotic species.

Ans. The natural vegetation which are purely Indian are known as endemic or indigenous species but those which have come from outside India are termed as exotic plants.

Q.3. What do you understand by the terms flora and fauna?

Ans. The term flora is used to denote plants of a particular region or period. Similarly, the species of animals are referred to as fauna.

Q.4. Why the natural vegetation of India is undergoing various changes?

Ans. A. Increasing demand for cultivated land.
B. Development of industries and urbanization
C. Over grazing of pastures.

Q.5. Define a biome.

Ans. A very large ecosystem on land having distinct types of vegetation and animal life is known as a biome.

Q.6. Why is there an ecological imbalance?

Ans. Due to constant interference of man in the physical and biological environment, balance between the two has been disturbed resulting in ecological imbalance.

Q.7. What is an Ecosystem?

Ans. All the plants and animals in an area are interdependent and interrelated to each other in their physical environment. This interdependence and interrelationship forms an ecosystem.

Q.8. What do you understand by the term vegetation?

Ans. The assemblage of specific plants living in association with each other in a particular environmental framework is termed as vegetation.

Q.9. Name the four biosphere reserves which are a part of world network of biosphere reserves.

Ans. The Sundarbans in West Bengal, Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand, The Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu and the Nilgiris (Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu).

Q.10. Which is the most dominant vegetation type of India?

Ans. Tropical Deciduous Forest (Monsoon Forest)

Q.11. Name those regions which have natural vegetation in real sense.

Ans. Some inaccessible regions like the Himalayas and the hilly region of Central India.

Q.12. Why the Tropical Evergreen forests are called so?

Ans. There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves, as such, these forests appear to be green all the year round. Therefore, they are known as 'evergreen forest'.

Q.13. Why are forests important for us?

Ans. Forests play a major role in enhancing the quality of environment as they modify local climate, control soil erosion, and regulate stream flow.

Q.14. Distinguish between extinct and endangered species.

Ans. Extinct species of plants and animals are those which have completely disappeared from our forest whereas endangered species are those which are on the verge of extinction. About 1300 plant species are endangered and 20 species are extinct.

Q.15. Define the following:

Ans. 1. National Park: These are the reserved forests where natural vegetation and wildlife are preserved in their natural environment. Eg. Kaziranga National Park
2. Wildlife Sanctuary: These are the portion of the natural forests where hunting and poaching of wild animals and birds are prohibited. Eg. Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary
3. Biosphere Reserve: The forest areas where all types of flora and fauna are preserved in their natural environment.

Q.16. How can you say that India is one of the major biodiversity of the world?

Ans. a. India is rated as one of the twelve mega biodiversity country of the world
b. India has 47000 plant species and 89000 species of animals.
c. India is tenth in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity.
d. India has 15000 flowering plants. They constitute 6% of the world's total flowering plants.
e. India is also rich in non-flowering plants that include fern, algae, and fungi.
f. India has a huge variety of fish in its fresh and marine waters.

Q.17. Name a national park of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. Why are elephants found mainly in Assam, Kerala and Karnataka?

Ans. Uttar Pradesh – Dudwa and Gujarat – Gir

Elephants are found mainly in Assam, Kerala and Karnataka because dense and high vegetation type that is tropical evergreen forests are found here for this herbivore animal.

Q.18. How the thorny plants conserve the moisture in them?

- Ans. 1. Trees are scattered and have long roots penetrating deep into the soil in order to get moisture.
 2. Leaves are in the form of spines in order to check the loss of moisture during transpiration.
 3. Stems of the plants are thick and fleshy in order to conserve the water in them.

Q.19. Write down the natural habitat of various animals found in India.

Ans.

Animals	Regions
Elephants	Forests of Assam, Kerela and Karnataka
One horned rhinoceroses	Marshy lands of Assam and West Bengal
Wild ass	Rann of Kachchh
Camels	Thar desert
Asiatic lion	Gir forest in Gujarat
Tigers	Forests of Madhya Pradesh, Sundarbans of West Bengal and Himalayan region
Yak, wild ox, Tibetan antelope, blue sheep, kian (Tibetan wildass) bear, snow leopard, red panda	In different parts of Himalayas

Q.20. What are the factors influencing the variety of flora and fauna?

Ans. A. RELIEF

- Land : The nature of land influences the type of vegetation. The fertile level land is generally devoted to agriculture. The undulating and rough terrains are areas where grasslands and forests develop and give shelter to a variety of wildlife.
- Soil: Different types of soil provide basis for different types of vegetation. The sandy soil of the desert support cactus and thorny bushes while wet marshy deltaic soils support mangroves and deltaic vegetation. The hill slopes have conical trees.

B. CLIMATE

- Temperature: The character and extent of vegetation is highly determined by temperature. On the slopes of the Himalayas and the hills of the Peninsula above the height of 915 metres, the fall in temperature affects the types of vegetation and its growth and changes from tropical to sub-tropical and alpine.
- Photoperiod (sunlight): The variation in duration of sunlight at different places is due to differences in latitude, altitude, season and duration of day. Due to longer duration of sunlight, trees grow faster in summer. Hence, the southern slopes of Himalayas are covered with thick vegetation as compared to the northern slopes.
- Precipitation: Areas of heavy rainfall have more dense vegetation as compared to other areas of less rainfall. Therefore, the western slopes of the Western Ghats covered with thick forests and not the eastern slopes.

Q.21. What steps are taken by the government to conserve flora and fauna of India?

Ans. 1. Fourteen biosphere reserves have been set up in the country to protect flora and fauna. Four out of these namely the sundarbans, Gulf of Mannar, The Nilgiris and the Nanda Devi have been included in the world network of Biosphere reserves.

2. Financial and technical assistance is provided to many Botanical Gardens by the government since 1992.

3. Project Tiger, Project Rhino and many other eco-developmental projects have been introduced.

4. 89 National Parks, 49 Wildlife Sanctuaries and zoological gardens are set up to take care of Natural heritage.

TYPES OF VEGETATION

S.No.	Type of Vegetation	Climatic conditions	Regions covered	Special Features	Plant Species	Animal Species
1.	Tropical Rain Forests	Found in heavy rainfall areas (more than 200cm) with short dry season	Western Ghats, island groups of Andaman and Nicobar islands, parts of Assam, and Tamil Nadu Coast	It has a luxuriant vegetation from trees to creepers. Forests appear to be green throughout the year.	Ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber, cinchona	Elephants, monkey, lemur, deer, one-horned rhinoceros, birds, bats, sloth, scorpions, snails.
2.	Tropical Deciduous Forest (also known as Monsoon forest). Divided on the basis of water availability	Found in regions receiving rainfall between 200 cm and 70 cm.	These are the most widespread forests of India.	Trees shed their leaves for about six to eight weeks in dry summer.		Lion, tiger, pig, deer, elephants, variety of birds, lizards, snakes, and tortoise.
..... a. Moist Deciduous Areas receiving rainfall between 200 and 100 cm. North-eastern states, along the foothills of Himalayas, Jharkhand,	 Teak is the most dominant species, Bamboos, sal,	

..... b. Dry Deciduous Found in areas having rainfall between 100cm and 70 cm	West Orissa, Chattisgarh, and eastern slopes of Western Ghats. rainier parts of peninsular plateau and the plains of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh Large part of this region has been cleared for cultivation and some parts are used for grazing.	shisham, sandalwood, khair, kusum, arjun, mulberry. Teak, sal, peepal, neem	
3.	Thorn Forests and Scrubs	In regions with less than 70 cm of rainfall	Found in north- western part of the country including semi-arid areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.	Trees have long roots, thick stem and spines to conserve moisture in the arid areas.	Acacias, palms, euphorbias , and cacti.	Rats, mice, rabbits, fox, wolf, tiger, lion, wild ass, horse, and camels.
4.	Montane Forests	In mountainous areas	Temperature decreases with increasing altitude			Kashmir stag, spotted deer, wild sheep, jack rabbit, Tibetan antelope, yak, snow leopard, squirrels,

						shaggy horn wild ibex, bear, rare red panda, sheep, and goats with thick hair
a.	wet temperate type	between height of 1000 and 2000 metres		Trees are evergreen broad leaf	Oaks and chestnuts	
b.	temperate forests and grasslands	between 1500 and 3000 metres	Cover southern slopes of Himalayas, places having high altitude in southern and north-eastern India.	Trees are coniferous	Pine, deodar, silver fir, spruce, cedar	
c.	alpine vegetation	more than 3600 metres above sea level		Trees become short as they approach snowline	Silver fir, junipers, pines, birches	
5.	Mangrove Forests (also known as tidal forests)		In areas of coast influenced by tides; deltas of Ganga, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari, Kaveri	Roots of trees get submerged under water	Sundari (provide durable hard timber) palm, coconut, keora, agar	Royal Bengal tiger, turtles, crocodiles, gharials, snakes

MAP WORK:

Refer to page no. 45 of Geography N.C.E.R.T. – Types of Vegetation in India for identification.