

GEOGRAPHY

Chapter 6: Natural Vegetation and Wild Life



Natural Vegetation and Wild Life

Natural Vegetation

Vegetation growing in a region without any human interference is known as natural vegetation. Natural vegetation differs from region to region as it depends on factors temperature, moisture, slope and thickness of soil.

Natural vegetation is classified into three general categories: **Forests:** These grow in regions of high temperature and high rainfall. **Grasslands:** These grow in regions which receive moderate rainfall. **Shrubs:** These grow in regions having a dry climate.

Forests

The main types of forests are:

Tropical Evergreen Forests (Tropical Rainforests) :

- These are thick forests which grow in regions near the Equator and the tropics.
- Since these regions are hot and receive heavy rainfall throughout the year, thick forests grow here.
- The trees in this region do not shed their leaves at the same time and hence the forests always appear green. This is the reason why these forests are known as evergreen forests.
- As these forests are thick, many trees form a canopy which does not allow sunlight to reach the ground.
- Rosewood, ebony and mahogany are some important species of trees in the tropical evergreen forests.



The Trees in the tropical evergreen forests do not shed their leaves at the same time. Thus these forests always appear green.

Tropical Deciduous Forests (Monsoon Forests) :

- These forests are found in the countries which receive seasonal rainfall.
- Trees shed their leaves in the dry season to conserve water.
- These forests are found in India, Northern Australia and Central America.
- Hard trees such as shisham, neem, teak and sal are found in this region.
- There has been large scale deforestation in these forest regions for timber which is used in construction, transportation and making of furniture.
- Lions, tigers, elephants, monkeys and langurs are largely found in these forest regions.



Elephants in The Tropical Deciduous Forests

Temperate Evergreen Forests :

- These forests are found in the countries located in mid latitudinal coastal regions such as in South-East U.S.A., South China and South-East Brazil.
- These forests have both hardwood and softwood trees.
- Main species of trees here are pine, eucalyptus and oak.



Temperate Deciduous Forests :

- These forests are found at higher latitudes.
- Temperate deciduous forests are found in the coastal regions of Western Europe and in the north eastern parts of U.S.A., China, Chile and New Zealand.
- The trees in this region shed their leaves in the dry season.

- Some common species of trees here are ash, beech and oak.
- Animals such as deer, wolves and foxes and birds such as monals and pheasants are found here.

Mediterranean Vegetation :

- This type of vegetation is found in the west and south west margins of the continents.
- Such vegetation is found in the regions around the Mediterranean Sea in Europe, Africa and Asia. It is also found in the Mediterranean region in California, South-West Africa, south western South America and South-West Australia.
- Summers in this region are hot and dry with mild rain.
- The trees of this region have thick barks and wax coated leaves to help them reduce transpiration.
- Citrus fruits such as oranges, figs, olives and grapes are generally cultivated here. This is the reason why the Mediterranean regions are also known as 'Orchards of the World'.



Mediterranean regions are known as 'Orchards of the World'

Coniferous Forests (Taiga forests) :

Coniferous forests are found in the higher latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere.

- These forests are found at higher altitudes.
- The coniferous trees are tall softwood evergreen trees.
- The wood of this tree is used for making pulp which is used for making paper and newsprint
- These trees are also used for manufacturing match boxes and packing boxes.
- Some common species of trees are pine, chir and cedar.
- Animals such as polar bear, mink and silver fox are found here.



**Coniferous forests are found
on the higher altitudes.**

Temperate Grasslands :

- These grasslands are found in the interior parts of the continents.
- The grass here is short and nutritious.
- Bisons, wild buffaloes, bisons and antilopes are found in this region.



In the temperate grasslands, The grass is short but nutritious.

Thorny Bushes :

- This type of vegetation is found in tropical hot deserts which are usually located on the western margins of the continents.
- As the rainfall is scanty and the temperatures are extremely high, the vegetation cover is scarce.
- Cactus and acacia are some common varieties of plants growing here.
- These plants have waxy leaves and long roots which grow deep into the grounds in order to search for water.



Thorny Bushes have waxy leaves in order to conserve water

Tundra Vegetation :

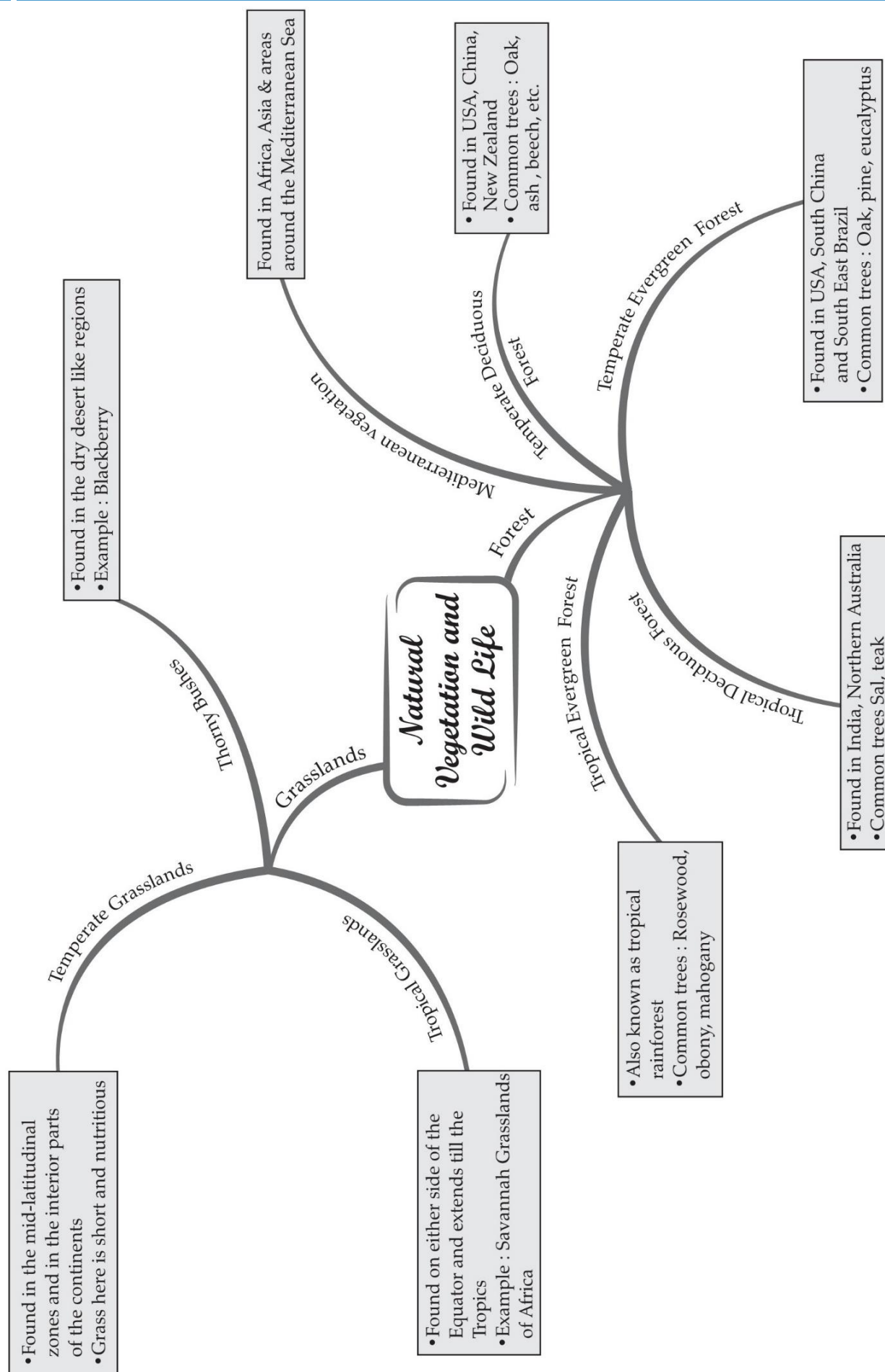
- Tundra vegetation is found in cold desert regions.
- This vegetation is found in the Polar Regions where the climate is extremely cold.
- Mosses, lichens and very small shrubs grow here only during the summer season.
- This vegetation is found in the polar areas of Europe, North America and Asia.
- The animals in this region have thick skin and fur which protects them from the extremely cold climatic conditions.
- Some of the animals found in these regions are seal, musk oxen, Arctic owl, polar bear and snow foxes.



Animals in the tundra regions have thick skin and fur which protects them from the cold climate.

MIND MAP : LEARNING MADE SIMPLE

CHAPTER-8



Important Questions

➤ Multiple Choice Questions :

Question 1. Trees which shed their thick barks and wax coated leaves are called:

- (a) Temperate Deciduous
- (b) Mediterranean
- (c) Coniferous

Question 2. Which one is called Taiga?

- (a) Temperate Deciduous
- (b) Coniferous
- (c) Mediterranean

Question 3. Anaconda, one of the world's largest snakes is found:

- (a) Temperate Deciduous
- (b) Tropical Evergreen
- (c) Tropical rainforest.

Question 4. Softwood trees are found in the forest:

- (a) Temperate Deciduous
- (b) Temperate Evergree
- (c) Coniferous

Question 5. Tropical deciduous forest shed their leaves in

- (a) Dry season
- (b) Rainy season
- (c) Cold season

Question 6. Salima was going to attend the summer camp at:

- (a) Manali
- (b) Dehradun
- (c) Kashmir

Question 7. When Salima's bus was climbing up and up she was surprised to see:

- (a) Changes in the landform
- (b) Changes in the natural vegetation
- (c) (a) and (b) both

Question 8. Natural vegetation is generally classified into:

- (a) Two broad categories
- (b) Three broad categories
- (c) Four broad categories

Question 9. Tropical Grassland Savanna is situated at:

- (a) Campos
- (b) North America
- (c) East Africa

Question 10. Which one is the Temperate Grasslands of Australia?

- (a) Down
- (b) Steppe
- (c) Veld

Question 11. Name the animal found in tropical grasslands?

- (a) Camel
- (b) Giraffe
- (c) Monkey
- (d) Cow

Question 12. In which seasons do plants shed their leaves in temperate deciduous forests?

- (a) Dry season
- (b) Wet season
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of these

Question 13. What are Coniferous forests also known as?

- (a) Tundra
- (b) Mediterranean
- (c) Taiga
- (d) None of these

Question 14. What are the reason for the growth of vegetation?

- (a) Temperature and moisture
- (b) Only temperature
- (c) Only moisture

(d) Dry climate

Question 15. Where did Ebony and Mahogany trees are found?

(a) Tropical evergreen forest

(b) Tropical deciduous forest

(c) Temperate evergreen forest

(d) Temperate deciduous forest

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. Steppe grassland is found in _____.
2. The tropical evergreen forest in _____ is so enormous that it is like the lungs of the earth.
3. _____ one of the world's largest snakes is found in the tropical rainforest.
4. _____ grow in the region of moderate rain.
5. Shrubs grow in the _____.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. Thorny shrubs and scrubs grow in the dry region.
2. The changes in the type of natural vegetation occur mainly because of the changes of climatic condition.
3. Rose wood, ebony, mahogany are common trees of tropical deciduous forests.
4. The temperate evergreen forests are located in the mid latitudinal coastal region.

➤ **Very Short Questions :**

1. How is height of land and the character of vegetation related with each other?
2. Where are shrubs found?
3. Why do trees of tropical evergreen forests not shed their leaves altogether?
4. What is the special feature of tropical evergreen forests?
5. Name the trees found in the tropical deciduous forests.
6. Where are temperate evergreen forests located?
7. Why are only citrus fruits cultivated in mediterranean regions?
8. Mention one special feature of coniferous forests.
9. Name the animals found, in the coniferous forests.
10. Name the animals found in tropical grasslands.

➤ **Short Questions :**

1. The different parts of the world have diversity in climate. Why?
2. Name different type of natural forest?
3. Give the location of equatorial rain forest region.
4. Why are the equatorial forest considered as the lungs of the world?
5. What is tropical deciduous forest?

➤ **Long Questions :**

1. Equatorial forest is not commercially so important. Why?
2. Mention the major features of tropical evergreen forests.
3. Write a short note tropical grasslands.
4. Give cm account of the natural vegetation and wildlife found in the polar regions.
5. Discuss various types of forests.

ANSWER KEY –

➤ **Multiple Choice Answer :**

1. (b) Mediterranean
2. (b) Coniferous
3. (c) Tropical rainforest.
4. (b) Temperate Evergree
5. (a) Dry season
6. (a) Manali
7. (c) (a) and (b) both
8. (b) Three broad categories
9. (c) East Africa
10. (a) Down
11. (b) Giraffe
12. (a) Dry season
13. (c) Taiga
14. (a) Temperature and moisture
15. (a) Tropical evergreen forest

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. Central Asia

2. Brazil
3. Anaconda
4. Grasslands
5. dry region

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True

➤ **Very Short Answer :**

1. With the change in height the climate changes and that changes natural vegetation.
2. Shrubs are found in the dry regions.
3. It is because there is no particular dry season.
4. Thick canopies of the closely spaced trees are found here. As a result sunlight do not reach inside the forest.
5. Sal, teak, neem and shisham.
6. These forests are located in the mid-latitudinal coastal region.
7. It is because people have removed the natural vegetation in order to cultivate citrus fruits.
8. These forests have tall and softwood evergreen trees.
9. Silver fox, mink and polar bear.
10. Elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer and leopards.

➤ **Short Answer :**

1. Due to irregular distribution of land water on the surface, sensitive envelope of gas and different angles at which the rays of the sun reach the earth are the responsible factors of the world's diversity of climate.
2. **Different type of natural forest is:**
 - i. Tropical evergreen forest
 - ii. Tropical deciduous forest
 - iii. Temperate evergreen forest
 - iv. Temperate deciduous forest

- v. Mediterranean vegetation
 - vi. Coniferous forest
3. The equatorial rain forest regions as the name indicates are found near the equator between 0 to 10 degree north and south of the equator. It lies in three continents of Asia, Africa and South America.
 4. They absorb the large amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and exhale a huge amount of oxygen. Hence they are known as Lungs of the world.
 5. These forests are the monsoon forest found in the large part of India, Northern Australia and in Central America. These regions experience seasonal changes. Trees shed their leaves in the dry season to conserve water.

➤ Long Answer :

1. Humans are the one of the major part of natural environment. We have not yet learnt to moderate our activities in such a way to help the environment. Some of the major impact of human include polluting land, freshwater, river, seas, ocean etc. deforestation also led to destruction of habitats of flora & fauna species. Increase desertification of land, altering natural waterways which can increase the risk of flooding. Increased erosion of land as a result of mining or agricultural activities. Mining activity contribute to instability in the earth crust.
2. **Major features of tropical evergreen forests are:**
 - These forests are so dense that thick canopies are developed which do not allow the sunlight to penetrate inside the forest.
 - As there is no particular dry season, the trees do not shed their leaves altogether. This keeps the forest evergreen.
 - Hardwood trees such as rosewood, ebony and mahogany are found here.
3. Tropical grasslands occur on either side of the equator and extend till the tropics. This vegetation grows in the areas of moderate to low amount of rainfall. The grass can grow very tall, about 3 to 4 metres in height. Savannah grasslands of Africa are of this type. Common animals found here are elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer and leopards.
4. Polar regions are extremely cold. Therefore the growth of natural vegetation is very limited here. Only mosses, lichens and very small shrubs are found here. They grow during the very short summer. This is called Tundra type of vegetation. This vegetation is found in the polar areas of Europe, Asia and North America. The animals found here have thick fur and thick skin which protect them from the cold climatic conditions. Seal, walruses, musk-oxen, Arctic owl, Polar bear and snow foxes are some of the animals found in these regions.
5. **Types of forests:**

- i. **Tropical evergreen forests:** These forests are very dense and found in the regions near the equator and close to the tropics. These regions receive heavy rain throughout the year. The trees of these forests do not shed their leaves altogether and therefore they remain green all the time. Hardwood trees like rosewood, ebony and mahogany are found here.
- ii. **Tropical deciduous forests:** These forests are found in the regions which experience seasonal changes. Trees shed their leaves in the dry season to conserve water. The hardwood trees like sal, teak, neem and shisham are found here. Animals like tigers, lions, elephants, langours and monkeys are common in these forests.
- iii. **Temperate evergreen forests:** These forests are commonly found along the eastern margin of the continents. They comprise both hard and softwood trees. For example, oak, pine, eucalyptus etc.
- iv. **Temperate deciduous forests:** Trees of these forests shed their leaves in dry 'season'. Oak, ash, beech, etc. are common trees here. Deer, foxes, wolves, etc. are common animals in these forests.
- v. **Mediterranean vegetation:** It is mostly found in the areas around the Mediterranean sea in Europe, Africa and Asia. Citrus fruits like oranges, figs, olives and grapes are commonly cultivated in the mediterranean regions.
- vi. **Coniferous forests:** They are also called Taiga. They are tall, softwood evergreen trees. Chir, pine, cedar are important variety of trees in these forests. Silver, fox, mink, polar bear are the common animals found here.