

Social Studies Success

5
Book

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EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS

Sales & Registered Office :

11/1903, Chuna Mandi, Paharganj, New Delhi - 110055

Post Box : 5720, Phones : 43551877 & 43561877

E-mail : info@goyal-books.com

Website : www.goyal-books.com

Administrative Office :

D-231, Sector 63, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

Phone : 0120-4655555

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Edition : 2020

Price : ₹ 395

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Published & Printed by

Roshan Lal Goyal for Goyal Brothers Prakashan, New Delhi

INTRODUCTION

The series **SOCIAL STUDIES SUCCESS** is a set of five books for students of **Classes 1 to 5**. It is strictly according to the latest **National Curriculum Framework** (NCF) meant for schools affiliated to **CBSE** and other schools affiliated to various **State Education Boards**. Each book in the series is supplemented with **TEACHER'S RESOURCE BOOK, ONLINE SUPPORT** and **E-BOOK** for teachers.

This innovative series opens up new vistas for the students. They are led step by step towards an understanding of themselves, their homes, families and their environment. This knowledge, in turn, leads them to understand the role they have to play in this rapidly changing and ever-shrinking world.

Salient features of the Course Books :

- ◆ **Learner-centred and Activity-based Approach.**
- ◆ **Captivating photographs and illustrations.**
- ◆ **DID YOU KNOW?** : Gives interesting information related to the subject matter.
- ◆ **THINGS I HAVE LEARNT** : Summarises important points in the lesson for easy recapitulation.
- ◆ **KEY WORDS** : Gives difficult words and their meanings.
- ◆ **LIFE SKILLS** : Includes activities and themes to help children lead a productive and fruitful life.
- ◆ **SURF AND LEARN** : Includes various website for enhancing the knowledge of students.

Salient features of other Components :

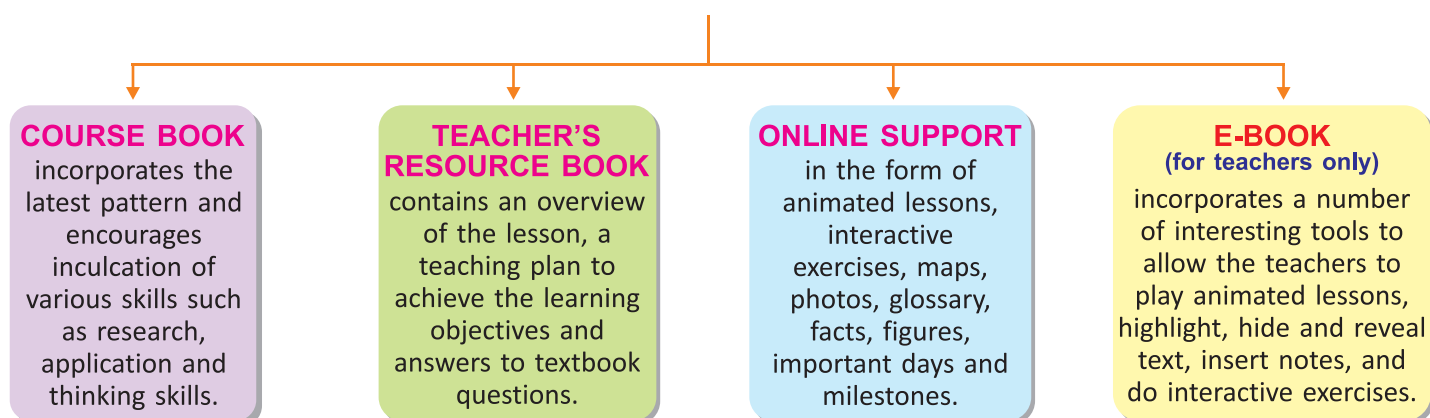
- ◆ **TEACHER'S RESOURCE BOOK** : Contains an overview of the lesson, teaching plan and answers to textbook questions.
- ◆ **ONLINE SUPPORT** : Contains Animated Lessons, Interactive Exercises, Maps, Photos, Glossary, Facts, Important Days and Milestones.
- ◆ **E-BOOK FOR TEACHERS:** Incorporates a number of tools to allow the teachers to play animated lessons, highlight, hide and reveal the text and insert notes.

We hope this series **Social Studies Success** finds favour with teachers and students. Suggestions for improvement are welcome from teachers, students and other readers of the books.

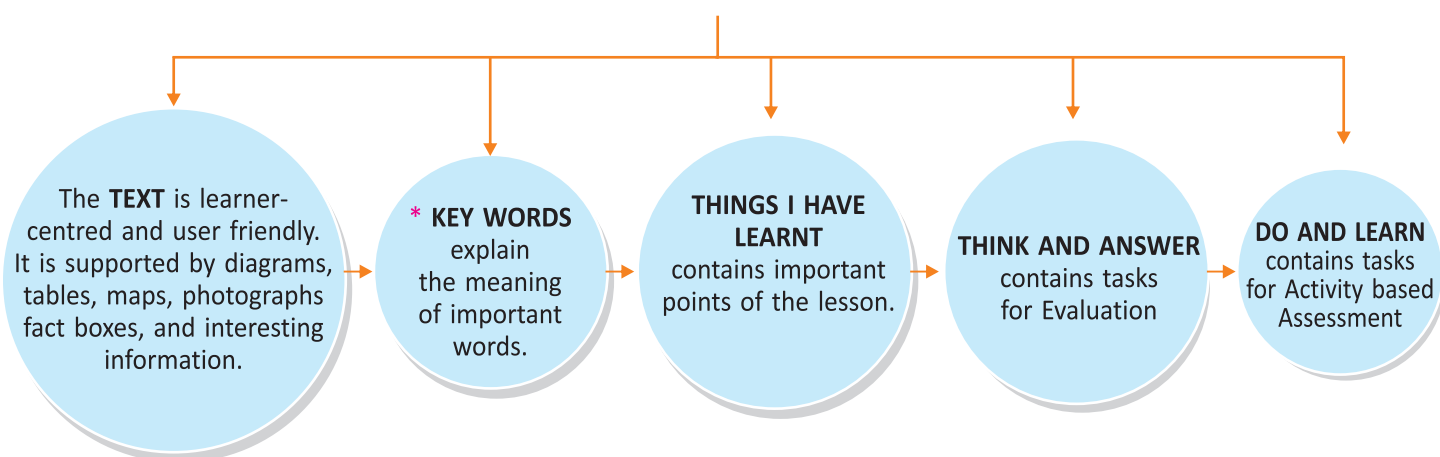
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THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

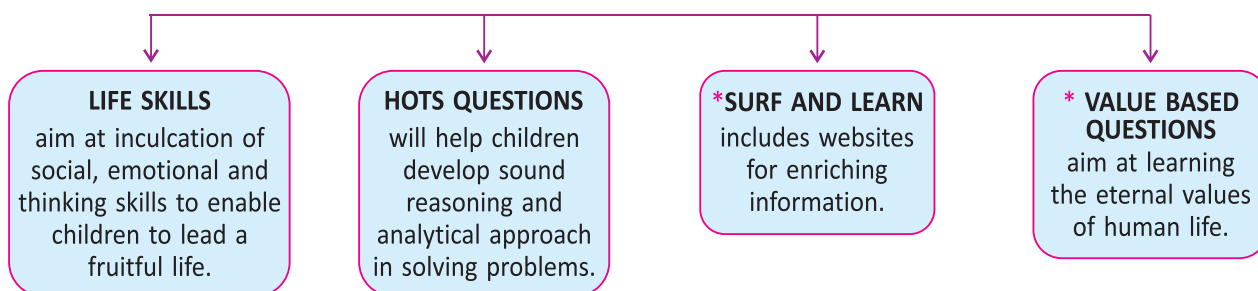
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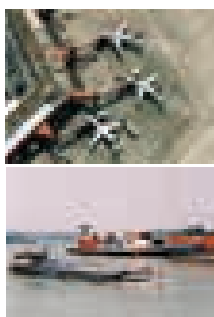
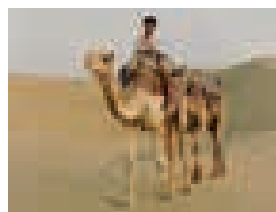
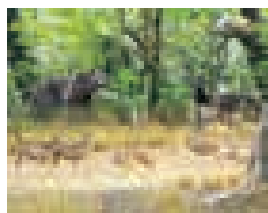
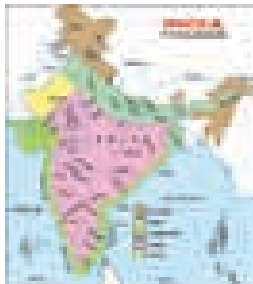


MANY MORE.....



* in Classes 3, 4, 5

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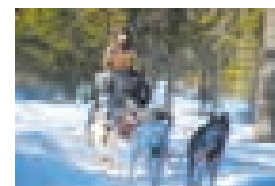


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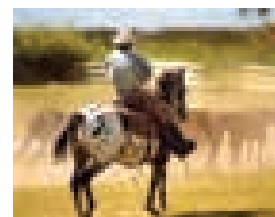
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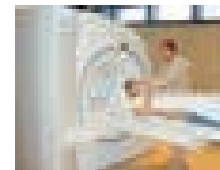


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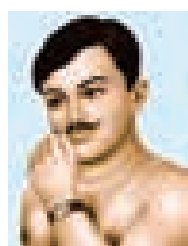


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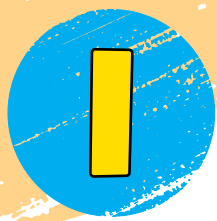
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Globe

In this lesson, we will learn about :

- ◆ Globe — types and uses
- ◆ Latitudes and longitudes
- ◆ Grid

Earth is a unique planet. It provides habitat to human beings, plants and animals.

Shape of the Earth

In early times it was believed that the Earth is flat in shape. Due to this reason, sailors never ventured till the coast for fear of falling off the edge of the flat surface of the Earth. Now, explorers and astronauts have confirmed that the Earth is spherical in shape.

It is slightly flat at the poles and bulges at the equator.

DO YOU KNOW?

The Earth is the only planet to have life on it. It is also called the 'Blue Planet'.

A globe : Look at the picture of the globe. It is a man-made model of the Earth. Globes are of various types and sizes — big ones which cannot be carried easily, small pocket globes and globes like balloons, which can be inflated and are very handy. We can see only half the globe at a time. To see the other half, we have to turn it around. It can be turned around a line passing through it. This line is called an **axis**. This is an imaginary line.

We can see the correct shapes, position and location of all the continents and oceans on the globe. We can even look for countries on the globe.



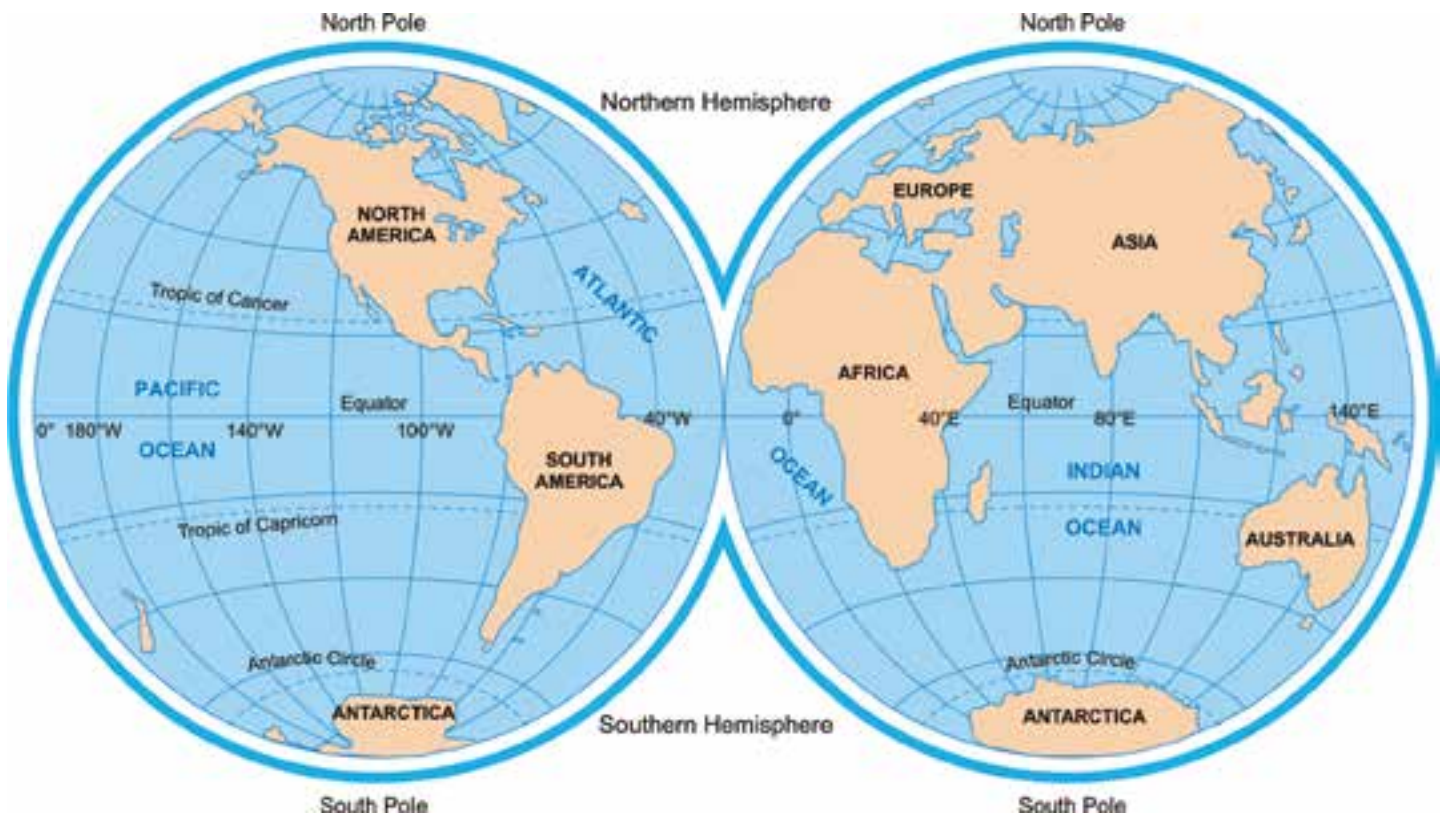
Globe — a model of the Earth.



Pocket Globe



Inflatable Globe



Map of the World showing the Northern and the Southern Hemispheres

Look at the globe and see its two end points. The one at the top is called the North Pole, while the one at the bottom is called the South Pole. The line joining the two end points is called the axis of the Earth. (But remember, axis is an imaginary line.)

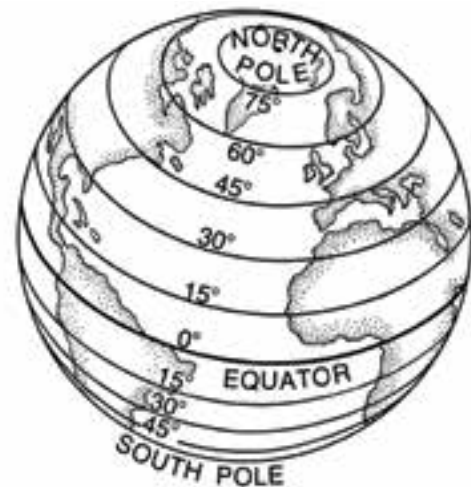
A globe is a model of the Earth

On the globe, the Earth is divided into two equal halves called hemispheres by a line called the Equator. The upper hemisphere is called the **Northern Hemisphere** while the lower hemisphere is called the **Southern Hemisphere**. They are both equal halves.

Lines of Latitudes

There are many other lines that are drawn parallel to the Equator. These are called **Lines of Latitudes** or **Parallels of Latitudes**. The size of these lines goes on decreasing

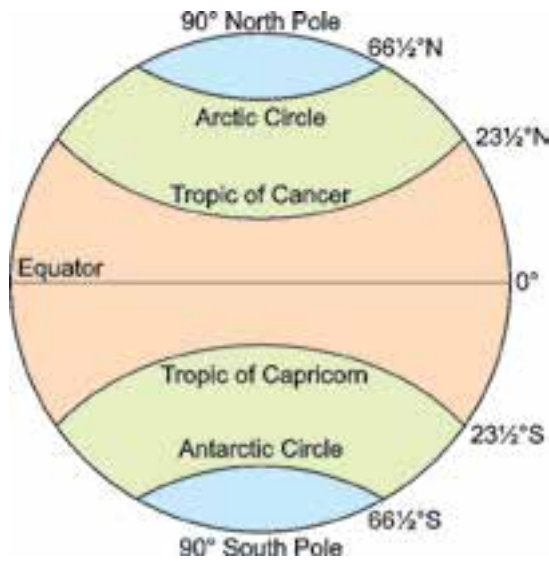
as we go away from the Equator towards the poles. The Equator which is the 0° latitude is the biggest latitude. Some other important latitudes on the globe have been given special names.



Parallels of Latitudes

- | The Tropic of Cancer — $23\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ N
- | The Tropic of Capricorn — $23\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ S

- | The Arctic Circle — $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N
- | The Antarctic Circle — $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S



Important Lines of Latitudes

Lines of Longitudes

The lines that run from the North Pole to the South Pole are all of equal length. Their total number is 360 and are called **Meridians** or **Lines of Longitudes**.



Lines of Longitude

The line of longitude which passes through Greenwich near London in the U.K. is called the Prime Meridian. This base line has a 0° longitude and from it we count 180° eastward

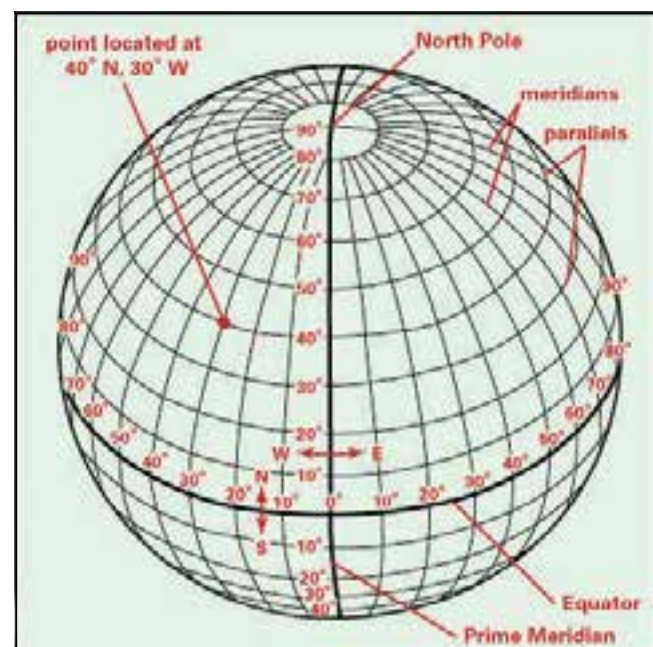
and 180° westward. Longitudes to the east of Greenwich are called East Longitudes (E) and those to the west are called West Longitudes (W).

The Prime Meridian divides Earth into two Hemispheres, the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere. Therefore, the longitude of a place is followed by the letter E for the east and W for the west. It is, however, interesting to note that 180° East and 180° West meridians are on the same line.

Grid

The latitudes and longitudes which intersect each other at right angles form a network called grid. A grid helps in locating places.

Let us take Delhi for an example. The latitude of Delhi is 28° N and the longitude is about 77° E. Delhi will be at the point where the parallel of 28° N and meridian of 77° E intersect. This method is very useful and helps to locate any place in the world on the globe or on the map.



The Grid



KEY WORDS

Grid	— The network of latitudes and longitudes.
Axis	— Imaginary line on which the earth rotates.
Equator	— An imaginary line of latitude located at 0°.



THINGS I HAVE LEARNT

1. The Earth is round in shape. It is slightly flat at the poles and bulges at the Equator.
2. A globe is a small man-made model of the Earth.
3. Axis is a line that joins the North Pole and the South Pole.
4. The Equator divides the Earth into two equal halves — Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere.
5. The lines parallel to the Equator are called Lines of Latitudes.
6. The lines that run from the North Pole to the South Pole are of equal length and are called Lines of Longitudes.
7. The Line of Longitude which passes through Greenwich near London in the U.K. is called the Prime Meridian.
8. The grid helps in locating places.



THINK AND ANSWER

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. The line of longitude which passes through Greenwich is called
(a) Prime Meridian (b) Tropic of Cancer (c) Tropic of Capricorn
2. A globe is a _____ of the Earth.
(a) Model (b) Map (c) Sketch
3. The total number of meridians is
(a) 360 (b) 361 (c) 362
4. The equator is
(a) 0° latitude (b) 0° longitude (c) None of these
5. The Tropic of Cancer is located at
(a) 23½° N (b) 23½° S (c) 66½° N

B. Fill in the blanks. Choose words from the box.

Equator

axis

Greenwich

North Pole

East Longitudes

Prime Meridian

South Pole

West Longitudes

1. A globe can be easily rotated on a line called an _____.
2. The end point at the top of the globe is called the _____ and at the bottom of the globe is called the _____.
3. _____ is an imaginary line that divides the Earth in two halves.
4. The Line of Longitude which passes through _____ in U.K. is called the _____.
5. Longitudes to the east of Greenwich are called _____ and to the west are called _____.

C. Write T for the true and F for the false statements.

1. The Earth is flat at poles and round at the Equator.
2. Inflatable globes are very handy.
3. Axis is an imaginary line.
4. The Equator divides the Earth into two equal halves.
5. The Equator is the smallest longitude.
6. The Lines of Longitude are 360 in number.
7. The Prime Meridian also divides the Earth into two equal halves.
8. The latitudes and longitudes together form a network called grid.

D. Match the following.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Arctic Circle | (a) $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{S}$ |
| 2. Tropic of Cancer | (b) $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{S}$ |
| 3. Antarctic Circle | (c) $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{N}$ |
| 4. Tropic of Capricorn | (d) $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{N}$ |

E. Answer these questions.

1. Who confirmed that the Earth is spherical in shape?
2. How many types of globes are there?
3. Why do we need a globe?
4. What is an axis?
5. Explain the meaning of 'Lines of Latitudes'?
6. Write the names of the four special latitudes that you have learnt.
7. What are the 'Lines of Longitudes'?

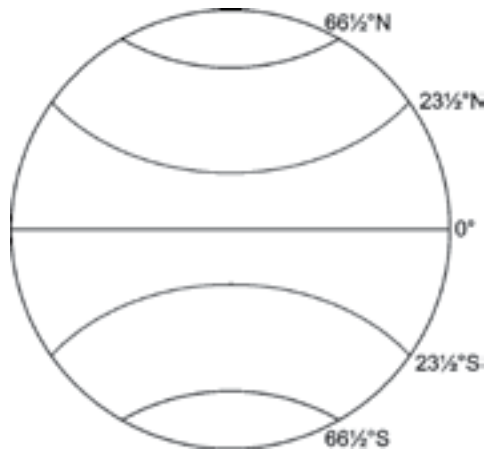
8. Which Meridian divides the Earth into two equal parts? How?
9. How does a grid help us?
10. How will you locate your city on the globe?

[VALUE BASED QUESTION]

[HOTS]



F. Label the Lines of Latitudes given in the picture.



G. With the help of the Globe and maps, find out the latitude and longitude of the following cities :

Delhi, New York, Moscow, Beijing, Kabul, Dacca, Tokyo, London

H. Name the states of India through which the Tropic of Cancer passes.



[http://www.infoplease.com/p/brainpop/latitude and longitude.html](http://www.infoplease.com/p/brainpop/latitude%20and%20longitude.html)



Procure a map of your town. Locate the places of your residence and those of your relatives and friends.

2

Maps : Our Guides

In this lesson, we will learn about :

- ♦ Meaning of Map
- ♦ Types of maps
- ♦ Language of maps

Our Earth is a vast planet and it is so beautiful that we would like to see and know about every part of the Earth. A globe can be useful when we want to study the Earth as a whole. But when we want to study about only a specific part of the Earth as our country, state or town, it is of little help. In such a situation, we use maps. **A map is a drawing of the Earth's surface or a part of it on a flat surface according to a scale.** It can be folded, put into pocket and is easy to carry. Maps give us more specific and detailed information as compared to a globe. Even the smallest area can be enlarged and shown on a map.

There are many **types of maps** available :

- (1) Physical maps which depict physical features like mountains, plateaus, plains, rivers, oceans, etc.
- (2) Political maps which show us different countries of the world and states with their boundaries.
- (3) Thematic maps which focus on specific information such as rainfall, vegetation, etc. Suitable titles are given on the basis of information provided in these maps.

Maps can be bound together in a book called **atlas**. However, maps have their own limitations. Since the surface of the Earth is curved, it cannot be shown accurately on a flat surface like paper.

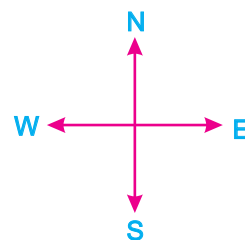
Do You Know?

- ✓ The study of maps is called cartography.
- ✓ The person who makes a map is called 'cartographer'.

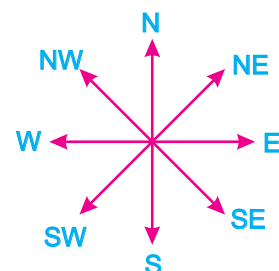
Language of Maps

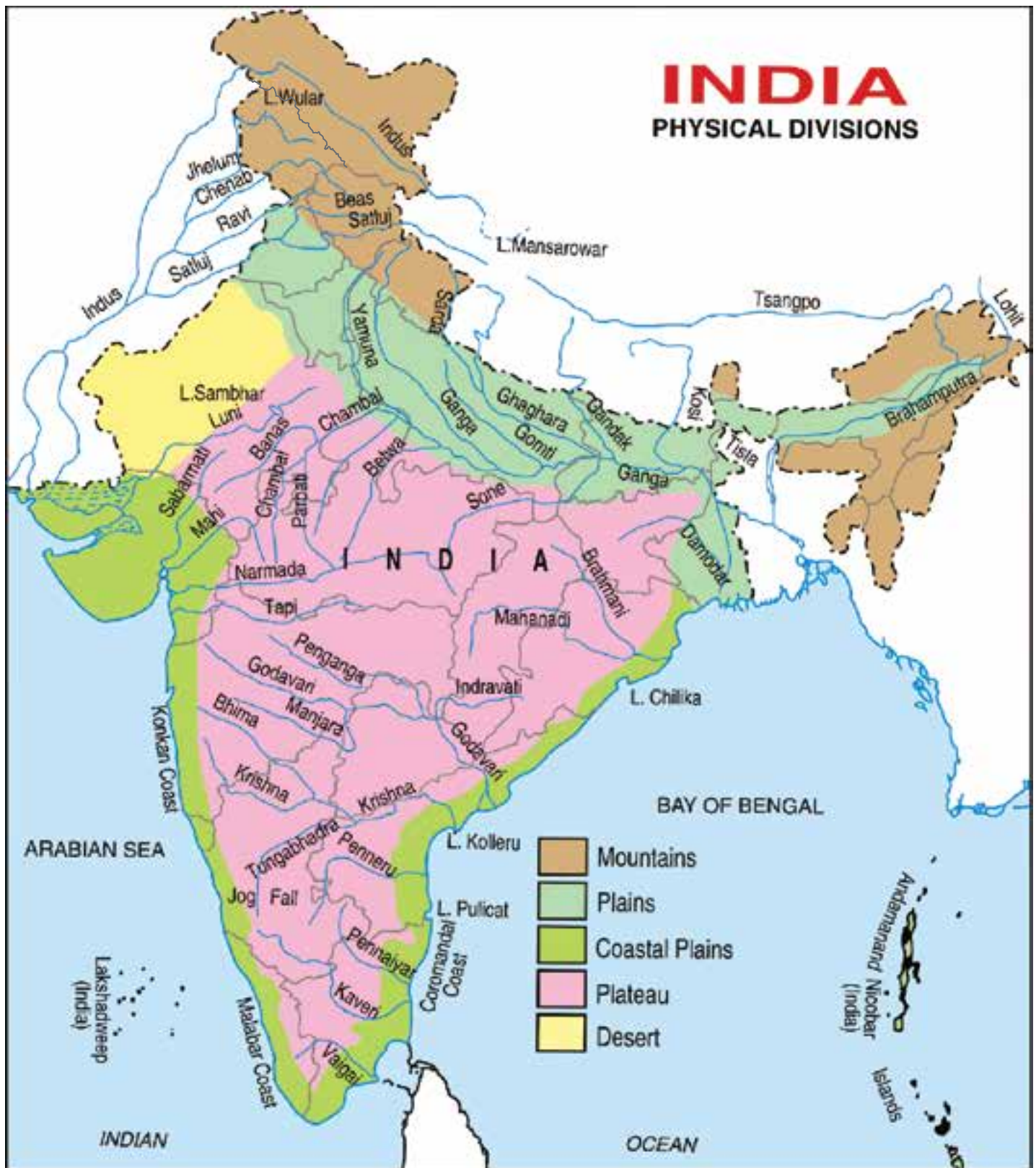
Maps are very handy to carry and they help in learning about the Earth. To read a map correctly and accurately it is necessary to understand the language of a map. Every map has colours, directions, signs, symbols and scale. This is called the **language of the map**.

(1) Directions : There are four major directions which have been universally accepted. They are North, South, East and West. The countries all over the world use the same system of directions. All maps follow the same system of showing directions. The top direction is the North. South is in the direction opposite to the North. To our right is the East and to our left is the West.



Sub-directions : Once you have grasped the concept of directions, it is easy to find the sub-directions. Between the two major directions

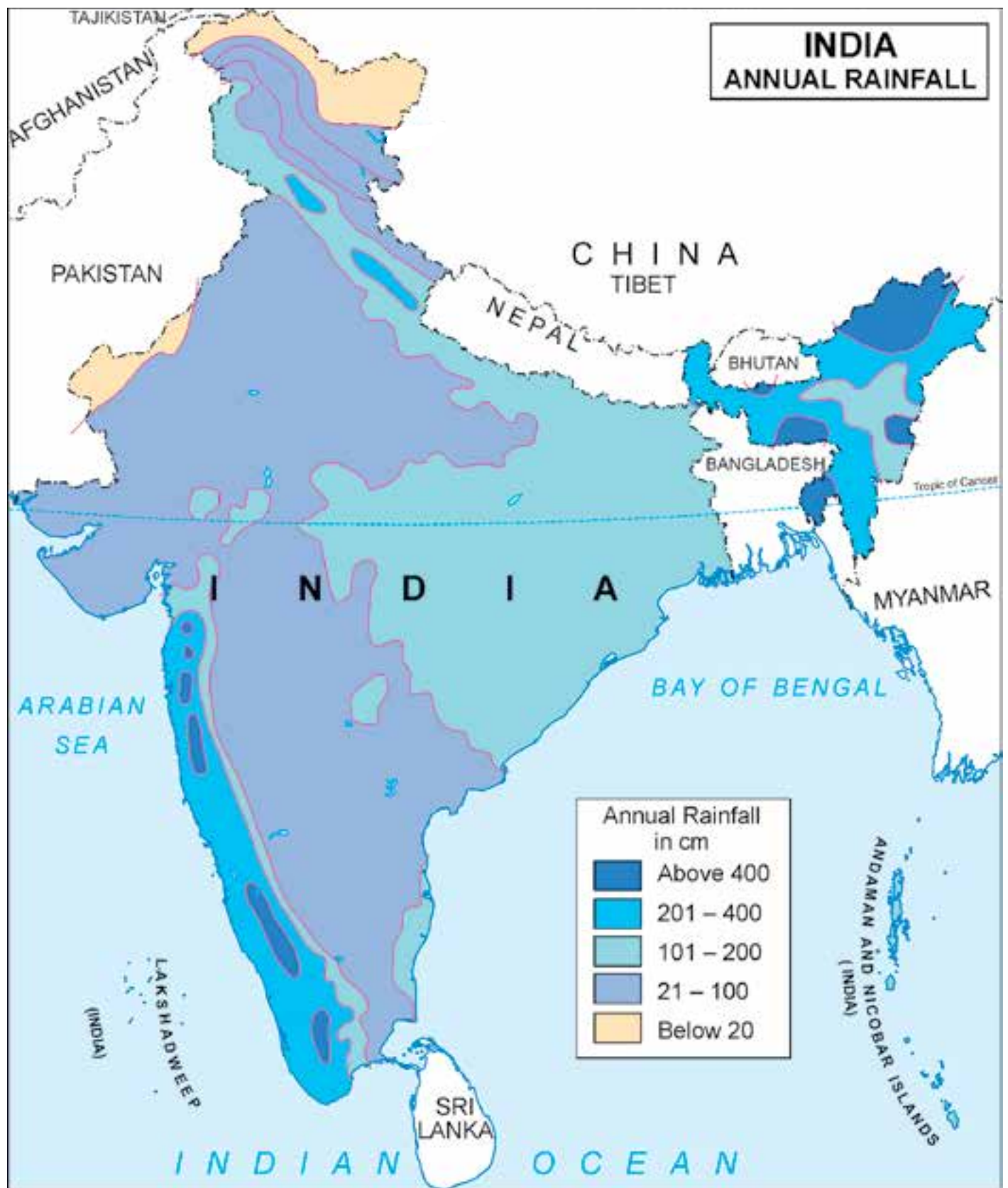




Physical Map of India



Political Map of India



Thematic Map

North and East lies the sub-direction North-East. In the same way between North and West lies the North-West and so on.

There are four major sub-directions, i.e., North-East, North-West, South-East and South-West.

(2) Scale : It is not possible to show the size of each country and city of the Earth on a map.

For example : The actual distance between Delhi and Kolkata is about 1400 km on the ground, but on the map the distance between the two cities is reduced to just a 14 cm. So, we can say that a distance of 100 km is represented by a distance of 1 cm on the map. This is called the scale of the map. Scale can be defined as the ratio between the distance on the map and the distance on the ground. A map without a scale is called a **sketch**.

There are two ways of showing the scale on a map :

- | 1 cm = 100 km which means that a distance of 1 cm on the map represents 100 km on the ground.
- | By means of a line (see the figure). The line is divided into many parts. Each part of the line shows some ground distance. It is marked on the scale.



(3) Conventional Signs or Symbols :

Many types of signs and symbols are used to show various kinds of information on a map.

For example : A metalled road is depicted by two straight lines.

A capital city is marked on a map by a small circle enclosed within a bigger circle.

If we memorise these conventional symbols, they help us to read information given on maps.

(4) Colours : Different colours are used to show various landforms on a map. Maps usually follow the same pattern of colours.

- | Water bodies like oceans, rivers, seas and lakes are shown in blue colour on a map.
- | Green colour depicts plains or lowlands.
- | Mountains and highlands are shown in brown.
- | Plateaus are marked in yellow.

This key is used in every country of the world. See the map showing the scheme of colours used.

International Boundary	----	Dam	=====	Church	✙
State Boundary	Well and Tank	●	Mosque	✕
Metalled Road	=====	Stream	~~~~~	Post Office	PO
Unmetalled Road	=====	Forest	🌲🌲🌲	Telegraph Office	TO
Bridge	⌢	Capital City	◎	Police Station	PS
Railway Line	+++++	Temple	🕌	Rest House	RH

Conventional symbols



KEY WORDS

Map	— A map is a drawing of the earth's surface or a part of it on a flat surface according to a scale.
Language of maps	— Colours, directions, signs, symbols and scale universally used in maps.
Scale	— The ratio between the distance on the map and the distance on the ground.
Sketch	— A map without a scale.



THINGS I HAVE LEARNT

1. A map is a drawing of the Earth's surface drawn on a flat surface according to a scale.
2. To read a map accurately, we should understand the language of a map.
3. Every map has colours, directions, signs, symbols and scale. This is called the language of a map.
4. There are four main directions — North, South, East and West.
5. The scale of a map is the ratio between the map distance and the ground distance.
6. Many signs or symbols are used to express information on the map.
7. Different colours are used to show various landforms on a map.



THINK AND ANSWER

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. A map showing physical features like mountains, plateaus, rivers, etc. is called a
(a) Thematic map (b) Physical map (c) Political map
2. An atlas is a book of
(a) Illustrations (b) Maps (c) Amazing facts
3. Green colour used in a map depicts
(a) Plains/lowlands (b) Plateaus (c) Oceans

4. To know the location of your town/city, which map will you buy?
(a) Thematic map (b) Physical map (c) Political map
5. The distance between two cities A and B is 1500 km, but on a map the distance is reduced to 15 cm. What is the scale of the map?
(a) 1 cm : 100 km (b) 10 cm : 100 km (c) 5 cm : 100 km

B. Match the following.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Blue | (a) Mountains |
| 2. Green | (b) Plateaus |
| 3. Brown | (c) Atlas |
| 4. Yellow | (d) Plains |
| 5. A book of maps | (e) Water bodies |

C. Write T for the true and F for the false statements.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. A map is not drawn to a scale. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. A rainfall map is a thematic map. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The study of maps is called geography. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. A metalled road is depicted by three straight lines. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. A sketch is always drawn to a scale. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

D. Answer these questions.

- How is a map useful?
- Describe the three types of maps.
- Name the four sub-directions.
- What is a scale?
- How is the language of maps helpful in reading a map? **[VALUE BASED QUESTION]**
- You want to know about the climate of a famous hill station. Which type of map will you require? **[HOTS]**

E. What do these symbols represent?

=====:





PO







F. Draw signs and symbols of the following on a chart paper :

- | | |
|--------------|--------|
| Railway line | Bridge |
| Stream | Forest |
| Temple | Dam |



www.mapofindia.com/lat_long

libraries.uta.edu/econ/whatis.shtm



Draw a sketch of your school showing important features such as :

Principal's office, playground, classrooms, auditorium, staffroom, administrative blocks, canteen, etc.

3

Weather and Climate

In this lesson, we will learn about :

- ◆ Difference between weather and climate.
- ◆ Factors affecting the climate of the world.
- ◆ Heat zones of the Earth.

People living in the different parts of the world have different lifestyles. They live in different types of houses, eat a variety of food and wear different kinds of clothes. This difference in lifestyle is due to the different climatic conditions in various parts of the world. Even in our country there is a diversity in the lifestyle which is due to different climatic conditions within the country.

Weather and Climate

Many times the terms weather and climate are used interchangeably. But the fact is that these two are not the same.

Weather is the condition of the atmosphere at a given time and place. It may not remain constant even for a single day. That is why we often describe weather as sunny, warm, cloudy, rainy or cold. The basic factors that determine weather are :

- | Temperature of air
- | Precipitation
- | Wind
- | Atmospheric pressure
- | Cloudiness
- | Humidity

Do You Know?

People who study weather conditions are called meteorologists.

Climate

Climate of a place is the average weather conditions over a long period of time. Different places in the world experience different types of climate. Some regions are hot and dry. In some areas, the climate is cold and the land is covered by snow and ice. In some parts of the world, the climate is neither hot nor cold and there is moderate rainfall.

On the basis of climatic conditions, we divide the Earth into different climatic regions.

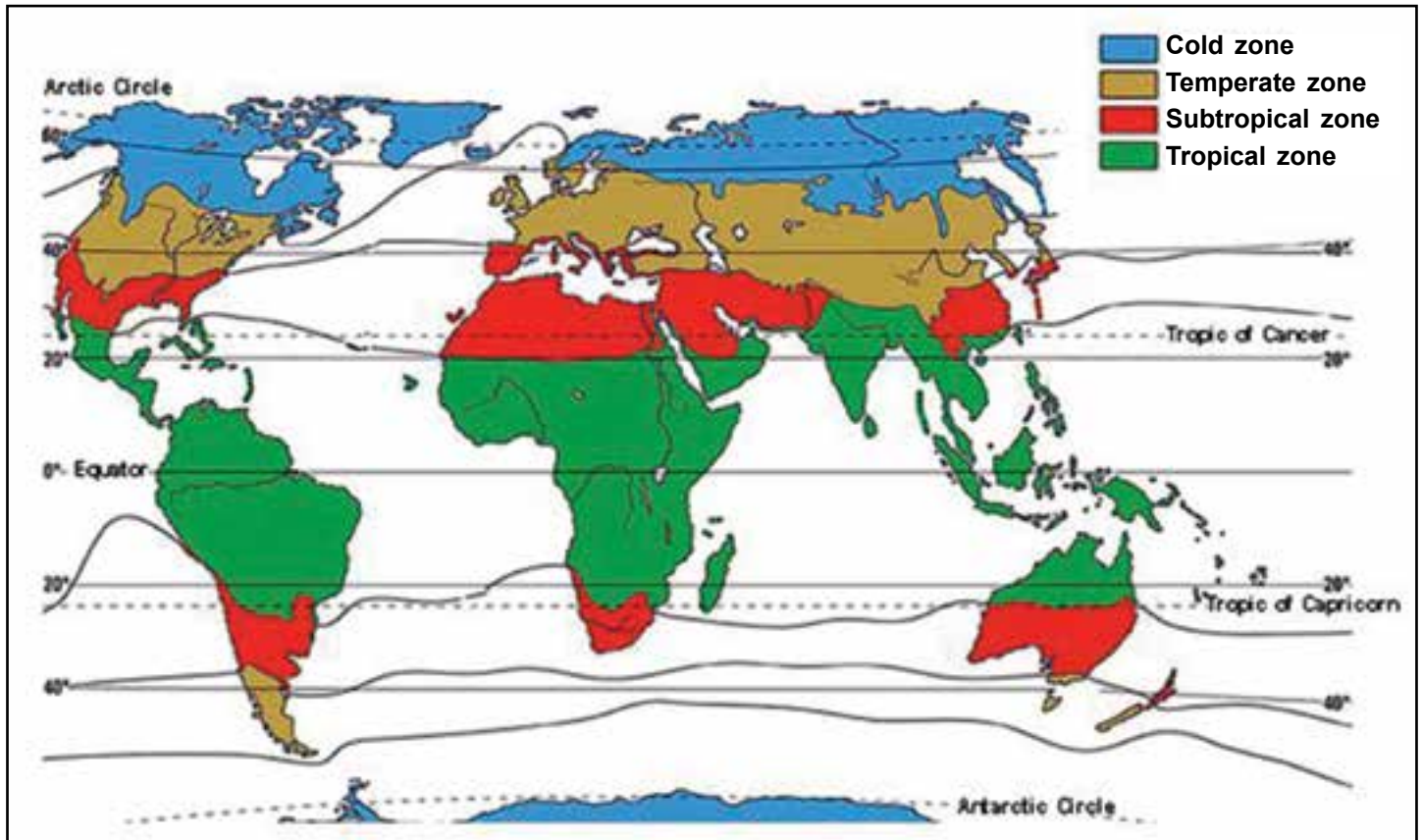
The factors that determine the climate of a place are :

- | Latitude
- | Altitude
- | Winds
- | Distance from the sea
- | Humidity
- | Ocean Currents

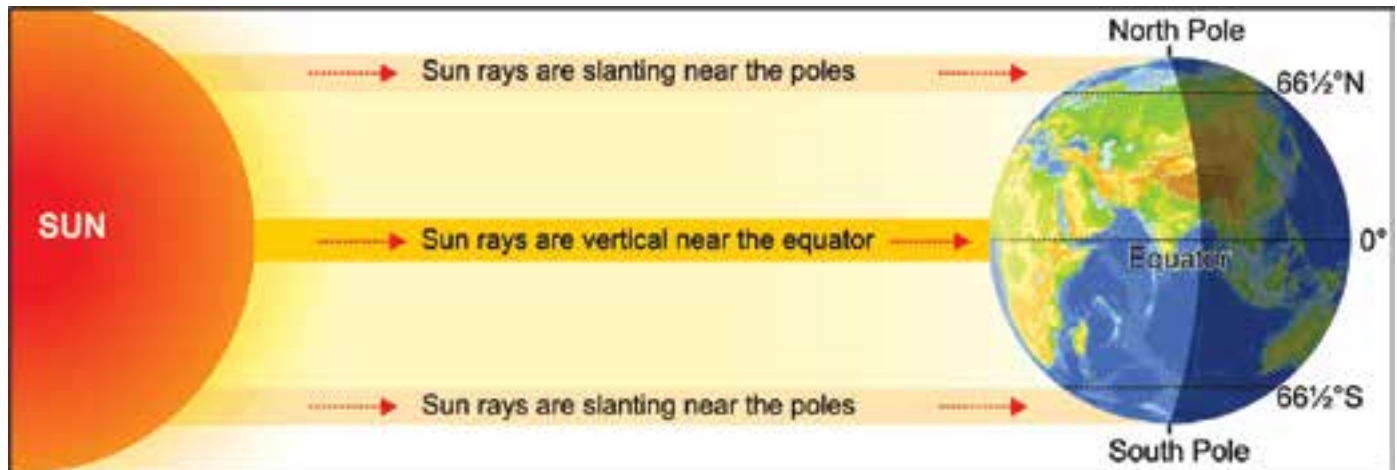
Latitude (Distance from the Equator)

Places near the Equator are hotter than places far from the Equator. Do you know the reason?

WORLD CLIMATIC ZONES



Map of the World showing Climatic Zones



Inclination of the Sun's Rays

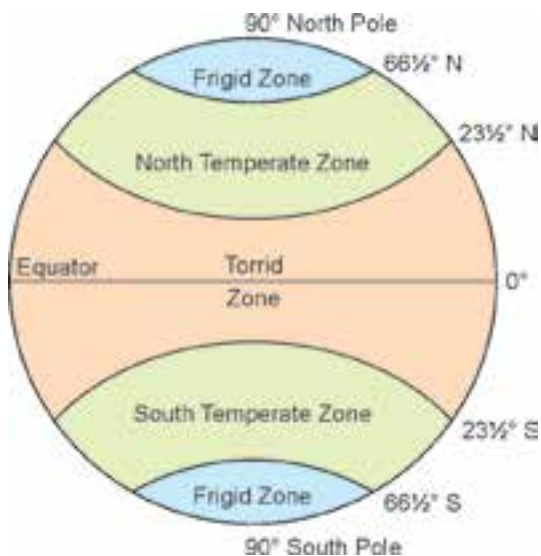
Look at the figure. It shows that the sun rays are falling vertically over the Equator. They are spread over a small area. In the polar regions,

the sun rays are slanting. They are spread on a larger area. Hence, places near the Equator receive more heat and are hotter.

Do You Know?

People who study climate are called climatologists.

Depending upon the amount of heat received, there are three heat zones.



Heat Zones of the Earth

1. Torrid Zone : On both sides of the Equator, the region lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn is called the Torrid Zone.

This zone gets the direct rays of the sun all the year round. Hence, the climate is hot and humid.

2. Temperate Zone : This region is neither hot nor very cold. It lies between the Torrid Zone and the Frigid Zone in both the hemispheres.

3. Frigid Zone : The region lying between the Arctic Circle and North Pole and between the Antarctic Circle and South Pole is called the Frigid Zone. It receives very slanting rays of the sun and is therefore very cold.

Altitude or Height above the sea level

Do you know why people go to hill stations in summer?



Hill stations are cooler because they are located high above the sea level.

The higher we go, the cooler it becomes. It is because temperature falls with height gained. It is cold in the high mountains because mountains are located at a high altitude.

Ludhiana and Shimla are at the same distance from the Equator. But Shimla is cold while Ludhiana is hot in summers. Can you tell the reason? Shimla is located 2150 metres above the sea level, whereas Ludhiana is only 250 metres above the sea level.

Wind

Winds affect the climate of the place they blow to. Winds coming from the hot areas increase the temperature of the place they blow to, while winds coming from the cold areas lower the temperature of the place they blow to.

Distance from the sea

Places situated near the coasts are neither too hot nor too cold. They have a moderate climate. It is called Equable Climate. What is the reason for this? This is because of the land and sea breezes. In the day-time, the sun heats both the land and the sea. Land heats up more quickly than the water. Hence, it is hotter than the sea. As you know, hot air is lighter than the cold air. Therefore, warm air above the land rises. The cool air from the sea comes in to take its place. This is known as **sea breeze**. It cools the land near the coast.

At night, the opposite happens. The land cools down more quickly than the sea. The sea cools down slowly. The air above the sea is warmer and rises. The cooler air from the land blows towards to the sea. This is called the **land breeze**.

Due to land and sea breezes, the weather near the sea is pleasant.



Land Breeze (Night)



Sea Breeze (Day)

Humidity

The amount of water vapour in the air is called humidity. Humidity affects the climate of a place. The winds blowing from sea to land bring a lot of moisture with them. They make the climate in the coastal areas very humid.

Ocean currents

Oceans have warm and cold currents. These currents affect the climate of the coastal areas. Warm ocean currents make the coastal areas warmer whereas cold oceans currents make the coastal areas cool.



KEY WORDS

Weather	— The sum total of the atmospheric conditions at a given time and place.
Climate	— The average weather conditions of a place over a long period of time.
Altitude	— Height above the sea level.
Equable climate	— Neither too hot nor too cold.
Land breeze	— A wind blowing from land to sea at night.
Sea breeze	— A wind blowing from sea to land during afternoon.
Humidity	— The amount of water vapour present per unit of air.



THINGS I HAVE LEARNT

1. The difference in the lifestyle of people varies according to the difference in the climate.
2. Weather is the condition of the atmosphere at a given time and place.

3. Climate is the weather conditions of a place over a long period of time.
4. There are many factors that affect the climate of a place.
5. The temperature decreases as we move from the Equator towards the poles.
6. Places higher than the sea level have a cool climate.
7. Winds modify the climate of a place.
8. The amount of moisture present in the air affects the climate of a place.
9. The Earth is divided into three heat zones — Torrid, Temperate and Frigid.



A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. People who study weather conditions are called
(a) Meteorologists (b) Archaeologists (c) Philanthropists
2. Which of the following factors does not determine the climate of a place?
(a) Latitude (b) Altitude (c) Longitude
3. The Torrid zone lies between
(a) Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn
(b) Tropic of Cancer and North pole
(c) Tropic of Capricorn and South pole
4. Places situated near the coasts have
(a) Extreme climate (b) Equable climate (c) Hot and humid climate
5. Which of the following statements is true?
(a) Land breeze blows during the day
(b) Sea breeze blows during the day
(c) Both land and sea breezes blow during the night

B. Match the following.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Torrid zone | (a) Very cold |
| 2. Temperate zone | (b) Night |
| 3. Frigid zone | (c) Day |
| 4. Land breeze | (d) Very hot |
| 5. Sea breeze | (e) Neither very hot nor very cold |

C. Write T for the true and F for the false statements.

1. The rays of the Sun fall vertically near the Equator.
2. The temperature increases with decrease in height.
3. Winds coming from hot areas bring hot weather.
4. Coastal areas have humid climate.
5. The Torrid Zone is the hottest zone.
6. The Temperate Zone has a moderate climate.
7. The Frigid Zones have extremely hot climate.

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D. Fill in the blanks. Choose words from the box.

Arctic

permanent

down

hot

Antarctic

humid

1. The climate unlike weather is of _____ nature.
2. Cold winds bring the temperature _____.
3. The Torrid Zones have _____ and _____ climate.
4. Frigid Zone lies between _____ Circle and the North Pole and between _____ Circle and the South Pole.

E. Answer these questions.

1. What is the difference between weather and climate?
2. Mention the factors which influence the weather of a place.
3. How does the climate of a region affect the lifestyle of the people?

[VALUE BASED QUESTION]

4. How does the distance from the Equator influence the climate of a place?
5. Why is Shimla cooler than Ludhiana?
6. How do winds influence the climate of a place?
7. Name the three heat zones of the Earth.
8. Differentiate between the climates of Delhi and Mumbai. Mention the factors responsible for the difference.

[HOTS]



F. On an outline map of the world locate, label and shade the following climatic zones:

Cold zone, Temperate zone and Tropical zone.



G. Draw a diagram of the earth. Mark, label and shade all the three Heat zones.

H. Study the weather report of your town/city from newspaper, daily. Collect data for the month. Draw conclusions.



http://www.ecn.ac.uk/Education/factors_affecting_climate.htm.

freepedia.in/factors_affecting_temperature.

http://en_wikipedia.org/wiki/oceancurrent.



You might have seen a colourful bow across the sky, called 'rainbow' during the rainy season. Study the causes behind formation of a rainbow. Name the various colours in it. Explain its aesthetic significance.

4

Democratic Republic of The Congo- Land of Dense Forests

In this lesson, we will learn about :

- ♦ Democratic Republic of the Congo – its location, climate and vegetation.
- ♦ Wildlife in Democratic Republic of the Congo, its minerals and transport system.
- ♦ Life of the people in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Look at the shaded regions in the given world map. They are the **Equatorial** regions of the world. They lie on both sides of the Equator and have hot and wet type of climate throughout the year. Most of these areas have thick evergreen forests. Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa is an important country

which lies in this region. It was earlier known as **Zaire**. It became independent in 1960. Its capital city is Kinshasa.

Democratic Republic of the Congo is the second largest country in Africa with an area of about 23.5 lakh square kilometres. It has Equator passing through it.



Map of the world showing Equatorial Regions

FACT FILE

Capital	: Kinshasa
Currency	: Congolese Franc
Area	: 2,344,885 sq km
Population	
2017	: 82.04 million
Large cities	: Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kananga
Languages	: French (official), swahili, Lingala
Literacy	: 68.8%
Life Expectancy	: 57.7 years
Date of Independence	: 30 June, 1960
Government	: Republic
Economy	: Minerals — <ul style="list-style-type: none">┆ Copper mines┆ Gold mines┆ Diamond mines┆ Cobalt┆ Cadmium, manganese, zinc, uranium, etc.
	Forest — Mahogany, ebony, teak, etc.
	Agriculture— Casava, coffee, palm oil, banana, tobacco, rice, rubber, sugarcane, maize, etc.

Location and Land

Look at the map of Democratic Republic of the Congo. You will see that the Equator runs through its north. It is surrounded by nine countries. The names of these countries are —



Map of Democratic Republic of the Congo

- ┆ Central African Republic and South Sudan in the north.
- ┆ Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi in the east.
- ┆ Republic of the Congo in the west.
- ┆ Zambia and Angola in the south.

One of the most important features of Democratic Republic of the Congo is the river Congo which is the second longest river in Africa. The Congo river is also known as Zaire river. Can you name the longest river in Africa?

The river Congo is called the 'Highway of Central Africa'. The Albert, Kivu, Edward and Tanganyika are the major lakes of this country.



Lake Tanganyika

Climate

Due to its location near the Equator, the temperature is very high throughout the year. It has a hot and wet climate. At noon the temperature is very high and unbearable. Humidity in the air is very uncomfortable. Evenings and nights are cool and comfortable. Kerala in our country has this type of climate.

Vegetation

Hot and humid climate helps the plants to grow faster. The land is covered with extensive equatorial forests. These forests have a large variety of trees and plants in a small area. As a result, these trees compete with each other for sunlight. They are more than 40 metres in height and form a canopy of leaves at the top. These forests remain green throughout the year, so they are called **Evergreen Forests**. There is, dense growth of creepers and climbers which are full of flowers. Many important trees like rubber, coconut, bamboo and oil palms grow here. These forests have a large reserve of hardwood trees like mahogany, ebony, etc. These trees provide raw materials for many industries.



A Forest in Democratic Republic of the Congo

The forests of Democratic Republic of the Congo provide habitat to a large number of animals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc. Hippopotamuses,

gorillas, giraffes, chimpanzees, elephants, monkeys and baboons roam through the forests. These forests have reptiles like snakes and pythons in abundance. The rivers are full of alligators and crocodiles. A special mammal called the **Okapi**, with head resembling a Giraffe and body resembling a zebra is found in the forests of Congo. Thus, Democratic Republic of the Congo looks like a gigantic zoo. It is the natural zoo of the world. But unfortunately, hunting has reduced the animal life in Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Okapi



Rich wildlife in Democratic Republic of the Congo

Life of the People

Democratic Republic of the Congo has a very thin population. Though a number of tribes live here, the Bantu is the largest tribe. Bantu people are tall and have curly hair. Pygmies are a primitive tribe who live in dense forests. They are extremely short statured and live in houses made from twigs, leaves and tree branches. They live by hunting, trapping animals and gathering honey and food. Their population has reduced on account of migration.



People of Bantu tribe



Pygmies – A primitive tribe

Agriculture

The main occupation of people of Democratic Republic of the Congo is farming and mining.

The main crops grown here are cassava, maize, banana and rice. Cassava is the staple food crop. The Cassava plant has long and fleshy roots or tubers under the ground. Its tubers are used to make flour.



Cassava is the staple food of people

Cassava plant can grow to a height of one and a half metre. Cash crops like cocoa, coffee, tobacco and cotton are also grown here.

Industry

Democratic Republic of the Congo is rich in minerals like gold, diamond, cobalt, uranium, coal and manganese. Most of these minerals are exported due to lack of industries. Some industries produce consumer goods. These are located in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.



Democratic Republic of the Congo relies on its rivers and lakes for much of its transportation

Water is an important resource here. It is used for producing hydroelectricity which makes up for shortage of fuels like coal and petroleum. Democratic Republic of the Congo has an underdeveloped transport system. Water transport is important. Matadi is the chief seaport and Kinshasa is an important river port. Roads and railways are also there but

they are not well maintained. People prefer to travel by air.

Democratic Republic of the Congo is now improving day by day. The people have adopted new lifestyles. The money earned by exports of minerals is used for the development of the country.



KEY WORDS

- Equatorial region** — Region lying near equator, both north and south of it.
- Evergreen forests** — Forests containing trees which remain green throughout the year.
- Vegetation** — Natural forests.
- Primitive tribes** — Original inhabitants of a region.



THINGS I HAVE LEARNT

1. Democratic Republic of the Congo is located in the Equatorial region.
2. It has hot and humid climate throughout the year.
3. River Congo flows through Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is also called the Zaire river.
4. The land is covered with very thick forests.
5. It has a large number of animals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc.
6. Democratic Republic of the Congo is very thinly populated.
7. The main occupation of people of Democratic Republic of the Congo is farming and mining.
8. Democratic Republic of the Congo has a poor transport system.



A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

- Which important line of latitude passes through Democratic Republic of the Congo?
(a) Equator (b) Tropic of Cancer (c) Tropic of Capricorn
- Which is the characteristic vegetation of Democratic Republic of the Congo?
(a) Evergreen (b) Coniferous (c) Deciduous
- Choose the incorrect statement.
(a) River Congo is an important feature of Democratic Republic of the Congo
(b) Congo, also called Zaire, is the longest river in Africa.
(c) River Congo is called the 'Highway of Central Africa'.
- The climate of Democratic Republic of the Congo is
(a) Hot and humid (b) Cold and wet (c) Hot, wet and humid
- Which is an important seaport of the country?
(a) Kinshasa (b) Matadi (c) Lubumbashi

B. Match the following.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Cassava | (a) Main Occupation |
| 2. Farming and mining | (b) Largest Tribe |
| 3. Bantu | (c) Short statured |
| 4. Pygmies | (d) Staple food crop |
| 5. Kinshasa | (e) Capital |

C. Fill in the blanks. Choose words from the box.

Kivu

Bantus

Matadi

Albert

thin

Edward

third

Kinshasa

Tanganyika

tropical

- Equatorial regions are also called _____ regions.
- The capital of Democratic Republic of the Congo is _____.
- Democratic Republic of the Congo is the _____ largest country in Africa.
- The four major lakes of Democratic Republic of the Congo are _____, _____, _____ and _____.

5. Democratic Republic of the Congo has a _____ population.
6. _____ are tall and have curly hair.
7. _____ is the chief seaport of Democratic Republic of the Congo.

D. Write T for the true and F for the false statements.

1. Democratic Republic of the Congo became independent in 1965.
2. It has Equator passing through it.
3. The Congo river is also called Zaire river.
4. Kerala in our country has same climate as Democratic Republic of the Congo.
5. There are no trees in Democratic Republic of the Congo.
6. Forests provide raw materials for many industries.
7. Democratic Republic of the Congo is thickly populated.
8. People of Democratic Republic of the Congo live by hunting, trapping animals and gathering honey and food.

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E. Answer these questions.

1. What is an Equatorial region?
2. Name the neighbouring countries of Democratic Republic of the Congo?
3. What is the importance of the Zaire river?
4. Describe the climate of Democratic Republic of the Congo.
5. Why are the forests in Democratic Republic of the Congo called 'Evergreen Forests'?
6. Why is Democratic Republic of the Congo called the 'natural zoo of the world'?
7. Describe the lifestyle of the Pygmies.
8. What is Cassava? Explain.
9. Why is water an important resource in Democratic Republic of the Congo?
10. What type of transport system does Democratic Republic of the Congo have?
11. The climate and vegetation of which state of India is almost similar to those of Democratic Republic of the Congo? How?

[VALUE BASED QUESTION]

[HOTS]



F. On the outline map of Democratic Republic of the Congo, mark and label the following:

1. Zaire river
2. Equator
3. Kinshasa
4. Lakes on eastern side
5. Matadi



G. The wildlife of Democratic Republic of the Congo is interesting, intimidating, amazing and colourful. It is called the “natural zoo of the world”.

Make a project on the wildlife of Democratic Republic of the Congo.



http://enwikipedia.org/wiki/democratic_republic_of_Congo

<http://www.congo-pages.org/qutart/congoquiz.htm>



Imagine you are a member of a Pygmy tribal family living in the dense forests of the Congo. Describe your lifestyle.