

Social Studies Success

4
Book

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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.

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- u **SURF AND LEARN :** Includes various website for enhancing the knowledge of students.

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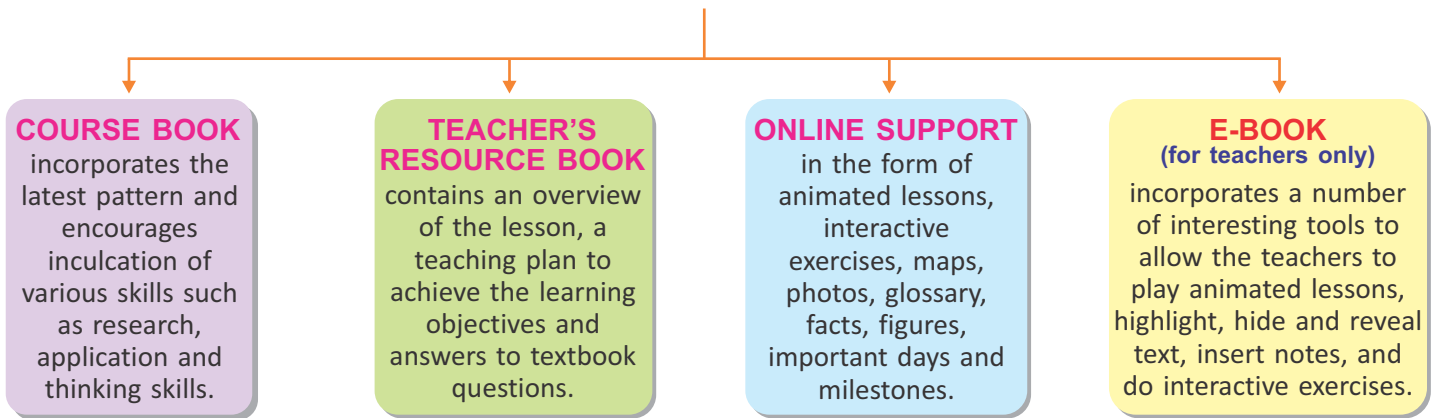
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We hope this series **Social Studies Success** finds favour with teachers and students. Suggestions for improvement are welcome from teachers, students and other readers of the books.

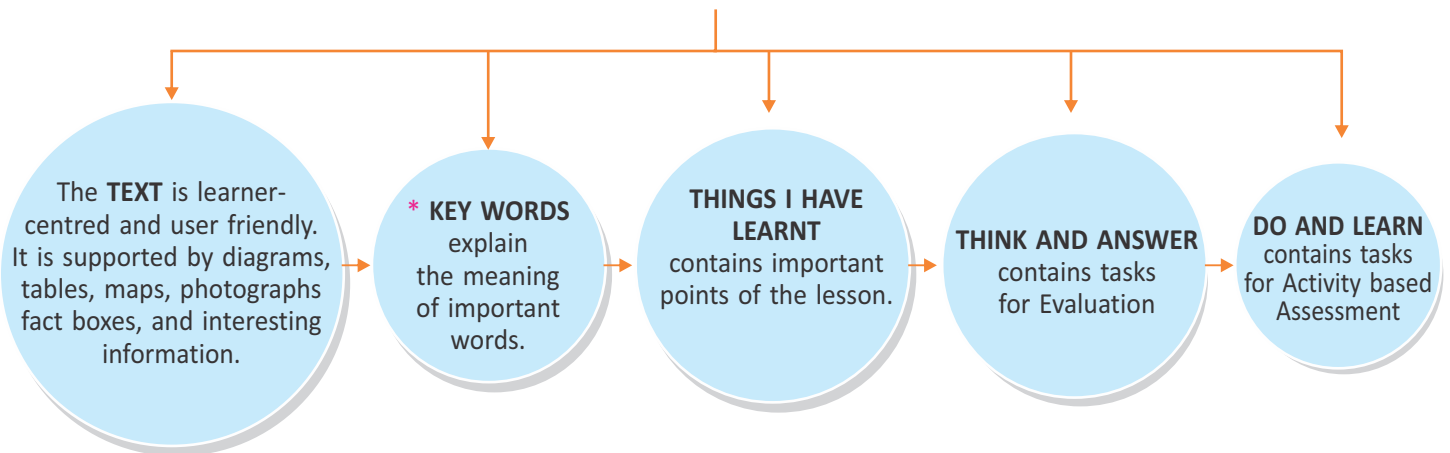
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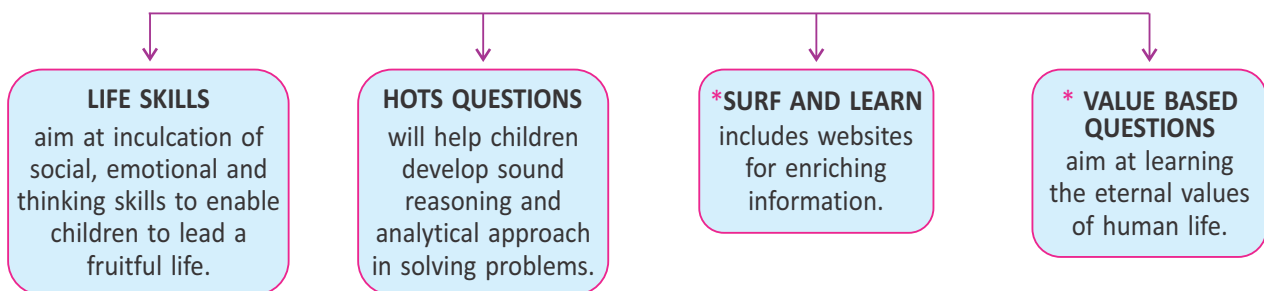
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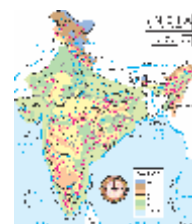


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Physical Features of India

In this lesson, we will learn about :

- F Location of India
- F Its neighbouring countries
- F Physical features and Physical divisions of India

We live in India which is the seventh largest country in the world. It has the second largest population in the world. The population of India is above 125 crore. It forms a large part of the Asian continent. The mountains and seas separate it from the rest of Asia. It is

bounded in the north by the great Himalayas. It is surrounded by three water bodies — the Arabian Sea in the west, the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Indian Ocean in the south. The Indian Ocean is named after our country.



Map of India with its neighbouring countries

India has several countries as her neighbours. China, Nepal and Bhutan are to her north, Bangladesh and Myanmar lie to the east and Pakistan and Afghanistan to the west. To the south lie Sri Lanka and Maldives. In shape, India is broad in the middle and narrows towards the south forming a triangular shape. It lies in the north of the Equator. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the middle of India.

Look at the given map. You will see two group of islands.

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal.
2. Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea.

There are 28 states and 9 union territories in India. Delhi is the National Capital Territory.

Physical Features

The land surface of India varies from place to place. It is not the same everywhere. It has high mountains, a big plateau, large plains, a desert, lakes, rivers, etc. These are called the **Physical Features**.

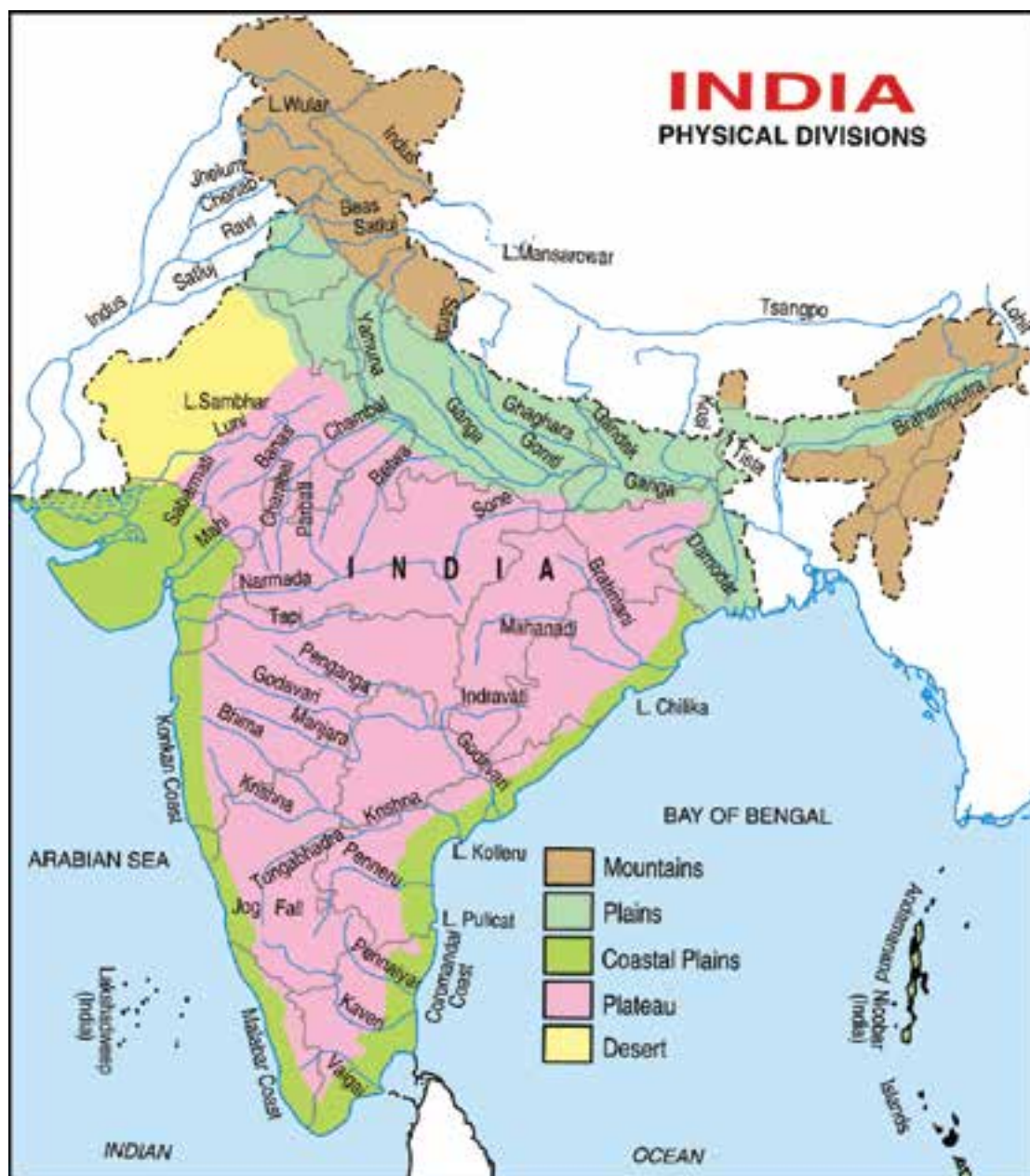
The climate of the country also varies from region to region. Some places have hot climate while others have cold climate.

The area of land which is similar in features,

climate, natural vegetation and general way of life is called **Physical Division**. India has five main physical divisions.

1. The Northern Mountains
2. The Northern Plains
3. The Great Indian Desert
4. The Southern Plateaus
5. The Coastal Plains.

We will read about each one of them in the following lessons.



Map of India — Physical Features



KEY WORDS

- | **Peninsula** — A large area of land surrounded by water on three sides.
- | **Island** — An area of land surrounded by water on all sides.
- | **Coastal plains** — Flat and level land along the sea.



THINGS I HAVE LEARNT

1. India is the seventh largest country of the world.
2. It has the second largest population in the world.
3. It is a part of the Asian Continent.
4. The five major physical divisions of India are : the Northern Mountains, the Northern Plains, the Great Indian Desert, the Southern Plateaus and the Coastal Plains.



THINK AND ANSWER

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. Area wise India is the _____ largest country in the world.
(a) Fifth (b) Sixth (c) Seventh
2. Which large water body is in the west of India?
(a) Arabian Sea (b) Bay of Bengal (c) Indian Ocean
3. India lies on which side of the equator?
(a) East (b) North (c) South
4. Which important imaginary line passes through the middle of India?
(a) Equator (b) Tropic of Cancer (c) Tropic of Capricorn

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

1. The population of India is 150 crores.
2. India is surrounded by water bodies on all four sides.
3. The Indian Ocean is in the west of India.
4. Pakistan lies to the west of India.

☐
☐
☐
☐

C. Match the following columns.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Himalayas | (a) Middle |
| 2. Indian Ocean | (b) East |
| 3. Bay of Bengal | (c) South |
| 4. Arabian Sea | (d) West |
| 5. Tropic of Cancer | (e) North |

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

Equator Himalayas second Andaman and Nicobar Islands Indian Lakshadweep

1. India is bounded in the north by the _____
2. India lies to the north of the _____
3. _____ and _____ are the two groups of islands in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea respectively.
4. India is the _____ most populous country in the world.
5. The _____ Ocean is named after our country.

E. Answer these questions.

1. Describe the shape of India.
2. Name the neighbouring countries of India.
3. How many states and union territories are there in India?
4. What are the five physical divisions of India?
5. Why is Indian Ocean named after India?
6. Why is India called a peninsula?

[VALUE BASED QUESTION]

[HOTS]



F. On a big chart paper draw an outline map of India. Shade the physical divisions in given colours:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Northern mountains | — Dark brown | Southern plateaus | — yellow |
| Northern plains | — Dark green | Coastal plains | — Light green |
| Indian desert | — Light brown | | |



www.all-indiatravel.com/india/physical-features-india.html.



Make a colourful collage on the five physical divisions of India. Take help from the Internet.

2

The Northern Mountains

In this lesson, we will learn about :

- ✦ Extent of the Himalayas
- ✦ Importance of Himalayas
- ✦ Life of people living in the mountains.
- ✦ Greater Himalayas, Middle Himalayas and Shiwalik Hills
- ✦ Different states lying in the region

The Northern Mountains include the Himalayas and the Karakoram ranges. The Himalayas are the highest mountain range in the world. The word Himalaya means the 'abode of snow.' They have the highest peaks of the world.

They remain covered with snow throughout the year. The Himalayan range extends from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh to a distance of about 2,500 km. Its width varies between 150 and 400 kilometres.



India : The Himalayas

The Himalayas can be divided into three parallel ranges. They are :

1. The Greater Himalayas (Himadri)
2. The Middle Himalayas (Himachal)
3. The Southernmost Himalayas (Shiwaliks)

1. The Greater Himalayas is the uppermost range. It is also, called Himadri. Major peaks of this range are, Mt. Everest, Kanchenjunga and Annapurna.

Many brave people have risked their lives to climb the snow-covered peaks of the Himalayas. Tenzing Norgay of Nepal and Edmund Hillary of New Zealand were the first men to climb Mt. Everest in 1953. Mt. Everest is the highest mountain peak in the world with a height of 8848 metres. The first Indian woman to climb Mt. Everest was Bachendri Pal.



Bachendri Pal



Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay

From the peaks, glaciers slowly move downwards. Glaciers are slow-moving rivers of ice that grow larger and larger while moving downwards from the

mountain tops. In the lower ranges, they begin to melt and become a source of major rivers like the Ganga, the Indus and the Brahmaputra. The Gangotri is the glacier from where the Ganga originates. All these rivers rise from this range and then flow towards plains in three different directions.

2. The Middle Himalayas run parallel to Greater Himalayas. The range is also called Himachal. The mountains gradually become low towards the south. The height drops to 3500 metres. There are many river valleys in this region. The mountain slopes are covered with thick forests of Deodar and Pine. Famous hill stations like **Shimla, Srinagar, Kangra, Kullu** and **Darjeeling** belong to these regions. These hill slopes and valleys receive heavy snowfall in winters. Summers in these places are very pleasant. People visit them during the summers.



Hill Station, Shimla



Hill Station, Kullu



Hill Station, Srinagar



Hill Station, Darjeeling

3. The Southernmost Himalayas or **Shiwalik hills** lie to the south of the Himachal ranges. These hills get heavy rainfall so, there are thick forests in this range. These forests are home to many wild animals like **tigers**, **cheetal**, **sambhar** and crocodiles. The foothills of Shiwaliks are called Terai. The Shiwalik hills have an average height of 1500 metres above sea level.



Shiwalik Hills



Tiger



Cheetal



Sambhar

The North-Eastern branches of Himalayas include Naga, Garo, Khasi-Jaintia, Mizo and Lushai hills. They are covered with jungles. These hills receive very heavy rainfall. They are called Purvanchal.

Karakoram Mountains

Karakoram Mountains lie in the north-west of the Himalayas, beyond river Indus. These are situated in the northern part of Kashmir. Mt. K2 or Mt. Godwin Austen lies in the Karakoram range. It is 8,611 metres high.

Importance of Himalayas

The Himalayan mountains help us in many ways :

- | The Himalayas guard our northern borders and so they play a great role in the defence of India. There are narrow gaps called passes in the mountains. Our army guards these passes.
- | The Himalayas check the rain-bearing monsoon winds and cause heavy rainfall in many parts of our country.
- | There are dense forests up to the altitude of 1500 metres. Many types of trees like fir, oak, pine and deodar are found here. Forests provide us with wood and other useful products.



Forest



Cheetah



River



Dam

- | Different types of animals are found in the Himalayan forests. They are yak, snow leopard, elephant, cheetah, tiger, rhinoceros, etc.
- | Most of the famous hill stations of northern India like Srinagar, Kullu, Shimla, Nainital, Darjeeling and several others are visited by thousands of people from India and abroad.
- | The melting of the snow during the summer season keeps the northern rivers full of water. They are the sources of major rivers like Brahmaputra, Ganga and Indus. Dams have been built across many rivers to produce hydroelectricity and to irrigate agricultural lands.
- | The steep slopes, huge rocks and some of the world's highest peaks are sources of adventure and thrill to young people all over the world.

Do You Know?

The Bhakra Nangal Project produces hydroelectricity. It is built on the river Satluj.

The Northern Mountain region includes the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and North-Eastern states of Tripura, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

The main occupations of the people are agriculture and cattle rearing. However, the people who live along this mountain range have different customs, languages, food, dress, etc.

Jammu and Kashmir

The valley of Kashmir is surrounded by snowcapped mountains. It is an extremely beautiful state. Tourists from all over the world visit the valley to enjoy its beauty. The houseboats in Dal Lake are floating houses for tourists providing the comforts of a home. We find a large number of houseboats and Shikaras moving around in Dal lake. Shikaras sell flowers and vegetables. Farming, weaving and wood carving are the main occupations of people in the state. Rice, wheat, maize, rajma, potatoes and vegetables are widely grown. Kashmir is famous for its apples and saffron. Saffron is added to the food to give it a special flavour. Fruit orchards which grow plums, cherries, walnuts and apples are abundant in this region. Some people are engaged in animal rearing or grazing. The wool of sheep is used for making beautiful shawls and carpets. Pashmina shawls of Kashmir are very famous all over the world. The Kashmiri people make delicate handicrafts of wood and metal.



Houseboats in Kashmir



A Kashmiri girl in traditional dress

It is very cold in winters so men and women wear loose, warm gowns called phirans, and keep kangri (a cane basket having earthen pot filled with burning coal) to keep themselves warm. They drink kahwa, a tea, to keep themselves warm. They like to eat rice, rajma, fish and meat. Rouf is their special dance. They speak Kashmiri, Urdu and Dogri languages. They celebrate Shivratri and Eid. Gulmarg and Pahalgam are famous tourist spots while the **Amarnath cave** and **Vaishno Devi** shrine are popular pilgrim centres.



Amarnath Cave



Vaishno Devi shrine

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is also a very beautiful state. The Capital of Himachal Pradesh is Shimla. It has famous tourist attractions such as the hill stations of Kullu, Manali and Shimla. It lies in the lap of the Himalayas and has the same terrain and climate as Jammu and Kashmir. Most of the people are either farmers

or shepherds. They grow wheat, rice, maize and potatoes on terrace farms. Apples, grapes, peas and peaches are grown in the orchards. Besides farming, people are engaged in craft work like making wooden trays, walking sticks and other articles.



An apple orchard in Himachal Pradesh

The women wear kurta, churidar-salwar and a scarf on the head. The men wear a kurta, churidar pyjamas, long coats and a woollen cap with bright coloured border. The colourful cap worn by men in Himachal Pradesh is very popular in India. Dussehra is the most popular festival in the Kullu and Kangra valleys. Nati is the famous dance of Himachal Pradesh. People speak Hindi and Pahari.



People in Himachal Pradesh

Uttarakhand

The Himalayan mountains in Uttarakhand are called Kumaon and Garhwal Hills. Mussoorie in Garhwal and Nainital in Kumaon are important hill stations. The region attracts devotees to Gangotri, the source of the Ganga river

and Yamunotri, the source of Yamuna river. Badrinath and Kedarnath are famous pilgrim centres. People grow rice, maize and vegetables and also rear animals to get milk, meat and wool from them. Many people are employed in the Indian army. Dehradun is the capital of Uttarakhand. The Indian Military Academy (IMA) is situated in Dehradun.



Badrinath Temple

Sikkim

The state of Sikkim lies further to the East. Its capital is Gangtok. Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world, is located in Sikkim. The border of Sikkim touches Nepal and Bhutan. This has led to a mixing of the two cultures. Most of the local people are followers of Buddhism. The people of Sikkim belong to Lepcha and Bhutia tribes. There are many Buddhist monasteries. Rumtek monastery is a landmark of Sikkim. Sikkim is known for its oranges and orchids. The people have great fondness for dance and music. Their mask dances are very interesting to watch.



Mask dance of Sikkim

Darjeeling

Darjeeling is the famous hill station of West Bengal. It is famous for its high quality tea which is produced on the hill slopes. The Tiger Hills is a famous tourist spot.

The North-Eastern States

In the eastern part of the Himalayan ranges are the North-Eastern states known as the seven sisters. They are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Arunachal Pradesh is the easternmost state of India. Here the sunrise is the earliest in the whole country. Many tribes live in this state. They have their own customs and speak their own languages. They grow rice, maize, millets, tobacco and oilseeds. The capital of Arunachal Pradesh is Itanagar.

Assam is the biggest state in the North-Eastern region. It is the leading producer of tea and oil in India. Assam is famous for its silk. The people speak Assamese. **Dispur** is the capital of Assam. Bihu dance festival is celebrated with pomp and joy.



A tea garden in Assam



Bihu dance

Meghalaya is located in the Khasi, Jaintia and Garo hills. Shillong, which is a beautiful hill station is the capital of the state. The state has rich deposits of coal. The Khasis and Garos are the main tribes living in the state.



Bamboo dance of Mizoram

Nagaland is located on the eastern side of Assam. **Kohima** is the capital city. Nagas who are the dominant tribe speak the Naga language. They wear colourful clothes. **Mizoram** lies in the eastern corner of India. The main population consists of tribals who follow Christianity. English and Mizo are the main languages spoken. The bamboo dance of Mizoram is very popular. Shifting cultivation is followed to grow rice and orange. Handloom cloth, bamboo, wood and cane articles are made in every house. **Aizawl** is the capital.

Manipur is situated to the south of Nagaland and has its own customs and traditions. The main occupation of the people is farming. Manipuri Dance is considered to be one of the most elegant dances of our country. **Imphal** is the capital of Manipur.

Tripura is surrounded on three sides by Bangladesh. **Agartala** is the capital. The main languages spoken by the people are Bengali and Kokborak. The latter is spoken by tribal people. The state produces rice and jute. Forest produce is used for making furniture and delicate bamboo items.



KEY WORDS

- | Terai — The foothills of the Shiwaliks.
- | Glacier — A very slow moving river of ice.
- | Phiran — A long, loose gown worn by men and women in Kashmir.
- | Kahwa — A special tea prepared and drunk in Kashmir.
- | Kangri — A small earthen pot with burning coal to keep body warm.
- | Seven Sisters — The seven states of north-eastern India.



THINGS I HAVE LEARNT

1. The Himalayas are the highest mountain ranges in the world.
2. It has three parallel ranges called Greater Himalayas, Middle Himalayas and Shiwalik Hills. At the foothills of the Shiwalik lies the Terai region.
3. Mt. Everest is the highest peak in the world.
4. Bachendri Pal was the first Indian woman to climb Mt. Everest.
5. The Himalayas are very useful to us.
6. The Northern Mountains include the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and North-Eastern States.
7. The Kashmir Valley is very beautiful.
8. Himachal Pradesh has many hill stations.
9. The north-east is a group of seven states. The seven states are known as seven sisters.



THINK AND ANSWER

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. Himadri is another name for
(a) Greater Himalayas (b) Middle Himalayas (c) Shiwaliks
2. Which region is famous for pashmina shawls all over the world?
(a) Kashmir (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Sikkim
3. Where are the Amarnath cave and Vaishno Devi shrine located?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Jammu and Kashmir (c) Himachal Pradesh
4. Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath are the famous pilgrim centres. In which state are they located?
(a) Assam (b) Sikkim (c) Uttarakhand

5. Kanchenjunga is situated in the state of
 (a) Assam (b) Sikkim (c) Uttarakhand
6. Rumtek monastery is a famous landmark of
 (a) Sikkim (b) Uttarakhand (c) Assam
7. The main language of people of Tripura is
 (a) Bengali (b) Kokborak (c) Both of these
8. Which is the easternmost state of India?
 (a) Assam (b) Meghalaya (c) Arunachal Pradesh

B. Match the following columns.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rouf | (a) Himachal Pradesh |
| 2. Nati | (b) Sikkim |
| 3. Buddhists | (c) Dance |
| 4. Mizoram | (d) Jammu and Kashmir |
| 5. Phiran | (e) Kullu |
| 6. Dussehra | (f) Shifting Cultivation |

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

Pahari
Vaishno Devi
Sikkim
Arunachal Pradesh
houseboats
Hindi
Amarnath Cave
Assam

1. Kashmir is famous for its _____.
2. _____ and _____ are two pilgrim centres of Jammu and Kashmir.
3. People of Himachal Pradesh speak _____ and _____.
4. Kanchenjunga is located in _____.
5. _____ is famous for its tea.
6. Sunrise is earliest in _____.

D. Write the names of the capitals of these states.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Uttarakhand | _____ |
| 2. Assam | _____ |
| 3. Himachal Pradesh | _____ |
| 4. Nagaland | _____ |
| 5. Manipur | _____ |
| 6. Mizoram | _____ |

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

1. Kashmir is famous for its apples and saffron.
2. Nati is the famous dance of Uttarakhand.
3. Most people of Sikkim belong to Lepcha and Bhutia tribes.
4. Darjeeling is famous for good quality of jute.
5. Bamboo dance of Assam is quite famous.
6. Sun rises earliest in Assam.

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F. Answer these questions.

1. Name the three main ranges of the Himalayas.
2. Which major rivers originate from the Himalayas?
3. Name the prominent hills of the Purvanchal Himalayas.
4. Name the chief agricultural products of Kashmir.
5. Why do people visit pilgrimage centres?
6. Why are the Himalayan rivers perennial in nature?

[VALUE BASED QUESTION]

[HOTS]



On a political outline map of India, locate, label and shade the Himalayan states. Mark their capitals also.



G. Find out the names of unique wild animals and birds found in the Himalayan region. Collect their pictures. Paste them on a chart paper. Write two lines about each one of them.



www.trip-to-india.com/states/northindia-states.html.



Have you ever gone to a hill station? Write a letter to your closest friend describing the following features :

| location | climate | tourist spots | food, dresses | unique animals, birds.

3

The Northern Plains

In this lesson, we will learn about :

- F Location of the Northern Plains
- F The three river basins – Satluj, Ganga and Brahmaputra
- F The states that lie in the Northern Plains of India

The Northern Plains lie between the Himalayas and the Southern Plateaus. The flat and level Northern Plains stretch from Punjab in the west to Assam in the east. They cover almost the whole of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal,

parts of Bihar and Assam. The Northern Plains are very fertile plains, rich in alluvial soil in most parts. Important cities in the Northern Plains are Amritsar, Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Chandigarh.



India: The Northern plains

Himalayan Rivers

Many rivers which start from the Himalayas flow through this region. Some of these are Satluj, Ganga, Brahmaputra and Yamuna. They carry mountain soil called silt or alluvium and deposit it on their banks. These are snow-fed rivers, so they have water throughout the year.

The Northern Plains are the largest and most fertile plains of the world. This area is called the '**Rice Bowl of India**' as most of the India's rice is grown here.

Division of the Northern Plains

The Northern Plains have three important rivers — the Satluj, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. They divide the Plains into three river basins. A river basin is an area watered by a river and its tributaries. The three river basins in India are :

- | Satluj River Basin
- | Ganga River Basin
- | Brahmaputra River Basin.

Satluj River Basin

The Satluj and the Beas flow in the south-west direction. They join the Indus river in Pakistan. The Indus flows into the Arabian Sea.

Punjab and Haryana lie in the Satluj Basin. The Bhakra Dam has been built on the Satluj river. It provides water for irrigation. Electricity is also produced at the Bhakra Dam.



Bhakra Dam

Punjab and Haryana are the two states which get water and electricity from the Bhakra Dam.

Ganga River Basin

The Ganga river originates as Bhagirathi from the Gangotri glacier in the Himalayan Mountains. It flows at a high speed from the mountain slopes. On its way down, it is joined by the rivers Mandakini and Alaknanda. These three rivers combine to form the Ganga. The Ganga enters the Northern Plains near Rishikesh.

The Yamuna river which is the main tributary of the Ganga also starts from the Himalayas.

There are a number of rivers which flow from the Himalayas and join the mainstream of the Ganga. These include the Ghaghara, Gomti, Gandak and Kosi.

The Yamuna joins Ganga at a place near **Allahabad**. This place is called **Sangam**. There is another tributary 'Sone' that joins the Ganga near Patna.



Pilgrims taking a holy bath at Sangam, Allahabad

The Ganga flows through the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. After reaching West Bengal, it is diverted towards south and splits into several branches. Many of them join the Brahmaputra river after passing through Bangladesh, our neighbouring country.

In West Bengal, the Ganga flows slowly and splits into two branches — the Hugli and the Padma. The branch of the Ganga in Bangladesh is known as Padma.

The **Hugli** is the main branch of the Ganga in India. It flows through West Bengal. Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, is situated on the banks of the Hugli.



The Hugli River in Kolkata

Brahmaputra River Basin

The Brahmaputra is the longest of the three rivers of north India. It starts in Tibet, where it is called **Tsangpo**. It enters India through Arunachal Pradesh and flows through Assam before entering Bangladesh. The Ganga and the Brahmaputra, before falling into the Bay of Bengal, form the largest **delta** in the world. It is called **Sunderbans**.

A delta is low lying, flat area found at the mouth of a river and is formed of deposits of alluvium brought by the river.



The Brahmaputra River

Many cities exist along the banks of these rivers. Some of the important cities include Delhi along Yamuna, Kolkata along Hugli and Kanpur, Allahabad, Patna, Varanasi along Ganga. Many goods are produced in the factories which are located in these cities. But the harmful wastes from these factories are discharged into the rivers. This makes the river water dirty. It becomes unfit for drinking and other uses. The government has started a project to clean the Ganga river and prevent its further pollution. This is known as the Ganga Action Plan.



Industrial waste falling into the Ganga

The plains of the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers have been inhabited by people since early times. The states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and National Capital Territory of Delhi lie in this region. Parts of Assam also lie in this region.

Punjab

Punjab is called the Land of Five Rivers because five rivers flowed in this state. The western part of Punjab became a part of Pakistan in 1947, after the Partition of India. Now only three main rivers flow through the Indian part of Punjab — Beas, Ravi, Satluj. Punjab lies in the western part of the Northern Plains.

Modern methods of farming, irrigation facilities and hard-working people have made it a prosperous state. Farming is the main occupation of people. It is rich in crops such as wheat, rice, maize and oilseeds.

Men wear *dhoti*, *kurta* and *lungi*, while women wear *salwar-kameez* and *dupatta*.



Women in Punjabi Dress

The people of Punjab speak **Punjabi** and **Hindi**. They eat makke-ki-roti and *sarson-ka-saag* in winters. **Baisakhi** and **Guruparvas** are important festivals of Punjab. Folk dances of Punjab are *Bhangra* and *Gidda*. Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Amritsar are important cities of Punjab. **Chandigarh**, a union territory, is the capital of Punjab and Haryana.



Golden Temple

Jalandhar is famous for sports goods. Ludhiana is known for hosiery and woollen goods. Amritsar and Dhariwal are important centres of woollen products. Amritsar is also famous for the Golden Temple. It is the holiest place of pilgrimage for the Sikhs.

Haryana

Haryana means the 'abode of God'. It shares boundaries with Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

Farming, including dairy farming are the main occupations of the people. Major crops grown here are wheat, rice, maize, pulses and sugarcane. There is a big dairy farm and research centre at **Karnal**. A big cattle fair is held at **Hissar** every year.

Gurugram is famous for automobile industries, mainly cars such as Maruti. Faridabad is an industrial town located nearby. Sonapat is famous for bicycles while Panipat is famous for handloom clothes.

Women wear *ghaghra*, *choli* and *odhni*. The men wear *dhoti* and *kurta*. *Haryanvi* and Hindi are the languages spoken by the people. *Roti*, *dal*, curd and milk are the main foods eaten in Haryana. *Teej* is the main festival celebrated in the state.



Regional dress of Haryana



Karnal Dairy



Maruti Udyog factory at Gurugram

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state. It has very fertile soil. So most of the people practise farming. The main crops grown are wheat, rice, sugarcane, oilseeds and pulses. Cotton textiles, sugar, glass, leather and fertilisers are the main products of factories located here. Kanpur, Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut are important industrial towns. The world famous Taj Mahal is in Agra. **Banaras silk** and **Luckhnawi chikan** embroidery are very famous. Women wear sarees while men wear *dhoti*, *kurta* or *kurta-pyjama*. *Dal*, *roti* and vegetables are the staple diet. People speak Hindi and Urdu.



Taj Mahal

The main festivals are **Eid**, **Shivratri** and **Janamashtami**. **Lucknow** is the capital. Allahabad is the centre of Kumbha Mela.



A scene of Kumbha Mela

West Bengal

West Bengal is one of the important states of India. Most of the people are farmers and fishermen. Fish and rice is the staple food. Saree is the main dress of Bengali women. They are very fond of music and love to stage plays. Men wear *dhoti kurta*. People speak **Bengali**. **Durga Puja** is the main festival of West Bengal. The famous **Shantiniketan** founded by Rabindranath Tagore is located in West Bengal. **Kolkata** is the capital city.



Durga Puja is the main festival of West Bengal

Delhi

Delhi is the capital of India. It is known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It is the seat of the Central Government. It is a cosmopolitan city and represents a mixed culture. It has people from all regions, religions and castes, speaking various languages and

following various customs. Most of them are employed in government offices, schools and private firms. **Hindi** and **English** are the main languages spoken here.



Akshardham Mandir

Delhi has many historical buildings like Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Old Fort, Rashtrapati Bhawan. Some of the famous temples are Birla Temple, Lotus Temple, Chhatarpur Temple and Akshardham Temple. All these places are thronged by devotees. The people of Delhi celebrate all festivals. The Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations in Delhi are the main attractions. Delhi Metro Rail is the chief mode of transportation in Delhi.

Bihar

Bihar has played an important role in Indian history in ancient period. Lord Mahavira was born here and Lord Buddha received enlightenment at Bodh Gaya. India's first President and famous freedom fighter Dr. Rajendra Prasad belonged to Bihar.

Chief crops grown here are rice, wheat, sugarcane and pulses.

People speak *Hindi*, *Maithili* and *Bhojpuri*. **Patna** on the banks of Ganga is the capital of Bihar. Dussehra, Holi, Diwali, Chhath and Eid are the main festivals of Bihar.



Chhath Puja

Jharkhand

The capital of Jharkhand is **Ranchi**. Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar in the year 2000. Dhanbad, Jharia, Bokaro and Jamshedpur are other important towns of Jharkhand. Jharkhand is very rich in minerals like iron, coal and bauxite.

Assam

Assam is in the north-east of India. Rice and jute are the main crops. Assam is famous for its tea. Assam has huge deposits of petroleum.

Dispur is the capital of Assam. Guwahati is the largest city. Assamese is the main language and Bihu is the main festival.

The Kaziranga National Park in Assam is famous for its one-horned rhinoceros.



Kaziranga National Park

Tripura

Tripura is surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides. **Agartala** is the capital of Tripura. Rice and jute are the main crops.



- 

THINGS I HAVE LEARNT

- 

THINK AND ANSWER

A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. The Northern Plains are the largest producer of which foodgrain?
(a) Wheat (b) Rice (c) Maize
2. The Bhakra Dam is built over which river?
(a) Satluj (b) Ravi (c) Beas
3. Which two rivers form the Sundarbans Delta?
(a) Ravi, Satluj (b) Ganga, Brahmaputra (c) Ganga, Yamuna
4. Banaras is famous for
(a) Silk (b) Chikan embroidery (c) Jute products

5. Shantiniketan, a famous educational institution in West Bengal, was founded by
(a) Dwarkanath Tagore (b) Rabindranath Tagore (c) Vivekananda
6. Lord Buddha attained enlightenment in
(a) Bihar (b) Punjab (c) Haryana
7. Chhath is the main festival of
(a) West Bengal (b) Bihar (c) Haryana
8. The capital of Jharkhand is
(a) Ranchi (b) Bokaro (c) Dhanbad

B. Match the following columns.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Kumbh Mela | (a) Delhi |
| 2. Durga Puja | (b) Bihar |
| 3. Gidda | (c) Assam |
| 4. Teej | (d) Punjab |
| 5. Akshardham Temple | (e) Allahabad |
| 6. Maithili | (f) West Bengal |
| 7. Bihu | (g) Haryana |

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

Minerals

Haryana

Karnal

Amritsar

Bihar

Assam

1. Dispur is the capital of _____.
2. Lord Mahavira was born in _____.
3. Jharkhand is very rich in _____.
4. _____ means the abode of God.
5. A big dairy farm and dairy research centre is situated at _____ in Haryana.
6. The Golden Temple is situated in _____.

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

1. Delhi is the seat of the Central Government.
2. Uttar Pradesh is the least populous state.
3. Gurugram is famous for cycles.
4. Ludhiana is famous for hosiery.
5. People of Punjab speak Punjabi and Hindi.
6. Baisakhi and Guruparva are the main festivals of Jharkhand.
7. Padma is a branch of Yamuna.

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E. Answer these questions.

1. Name the three river basins of the Northern Plains.
2. Which three rivers combine to form the Ganga in upper reaches of the Himalayas?
3. How is the Sunderbans formed?
4. Describe the popular food, dress and festivals of Punjab.
5. Why sangam at Allahabad is considered an important holy place? **[VALUE BASED QUESTION]**
6. Describe the popular food, dress and festivals of West Bengal.
7. Describe the historical significance of Delhi. **[HOTS]**



Locate and label all the states, their capitals and Union territories situated in the Northern Plains. Use a political outline map of India.



F. Make a colourful chart on any one of the states of the Northern Plains. Paste relevant pictures. You can include the following.

| Food | Dress | Festivals | Crops | Dances | Monuments | Tourist spots

G. Make a list of wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and bird sanctuaries located in the fertile Northern Plains of India.



www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Gangetic_plain

http://www.bukisa.com/articles/290883_the-ganga-basin-is-called-the-food-bowl-of-India



There are so many historical monuments in the Northern Plains of India. You may plan to visit them. Prepare a list of Dos and Don'ts which you want to follow while visiting these monuments.

4

The Great Indian Desert

In this lesson, we will learn about :

- F Location of the Great Indian Desert
- F Its climate, vegetation, and irrigation system.
- F Camel – ‘Ship of the Desert’
- F Life of people and places of tourist interest in Rajasthan.

As you know, a desert is a flat area covered with sand. It has very little vegetation. It receives little or no rainfall.

Rajasthan lies to the south-west of Northern Plains. The map shows that a huge area of Rajasthan is a desert.

The Aravalli Hills divide Rajasthan into two parts. The eastern part is quite fertile while

the western part is rocky and sandy. The river Chambal flows in the eastern part.

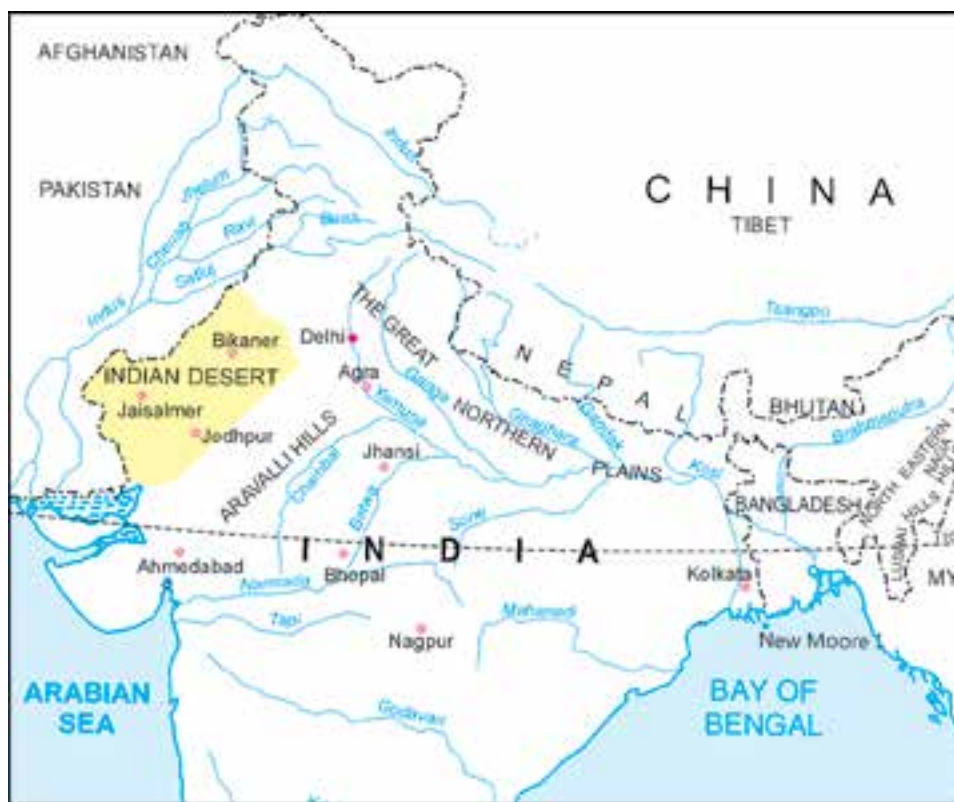
The western part of Rajasthan is known as the Indian Desert or the Thar Desert. The Thar Desert was formed due to low rainfall and heavy soil erosion. The Thar Desert spreads from the Aravalli Hills to the border of Pakistan in the west and from Rann of Kachchh in

the south-west to the border of Haryana in the north. In the west it forms a part of Sind Desert in Pakistan.

Climate

The desert region remains hot and dry throughout the year. In summers, the nights are cool and days are hot. In winters, the days are warm and the nights are very cold. There is very little rainfall in this region because the Aravalli Hills lie in the direction of rain-bearing winds and are not able to stop the winds to cause rain.

In the deserts, wind shifts sand from one place to another



India: Thar Desert

to form small mounds called **sand dunes**. Sometimes strong winds blow away the sand with great speed. They are called sand storms.

The winds cause great damage to the soil. They blow away the topsoil. This type of damage to the soil is called **soil erosion**. Due to soil erosion, the large area of desert is dry and barren. Trees do not grow in the desert because the climate is very hot and dry and it rains little. Sometimes, it does not rain for many years.

It has scattered bushes and thorny shrubs at some places.



An oasis

At some places, palm, babool, cactus, and thorny kikar are also found. These plants require little water. The farmers grow wheat, gram, jowar and bajra on their fields. The government has set up our country's largest wheat farm at Suratgarh.

Water is, however, found at some places in the desert. The water comes mostly from small amount of rainwater that collects in streams and ponds or underground water that comes to the surface and forms a pool. This pool is called an oasis. An oasis is a fertile spot in a desert. Most of the villages in deserts come up around such an oasis. Date palm trees are found at such places.

Indira Gandhi Canal

The Government is trying to provide water to Rajasthan for irrigating fields and for daily use. The water from Satluj has been brought to the desert through the Rajasthan Canal, also called the **Indira Gandhi Canal**. It is the world's longest canal. At present, it waters Ganganagar and Bikaner districts. Many areas around Rajasthan Canal have turned green with the planting of trees, shrubs and other kinds of vegetation. There are some saltwater lakes in Rajasthan. Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan is India's largest salt lake. Besides tube-wells, there are streams which are filled up with rainwater.



Indira Gandhi Canal



Camel is the chief mode of transport in a desert

The camel is among the few domesticated animals found in the desert. It is also called the

‘Ship of the Desert’ because it can move easily on the sand and is used as the chief means of transport in a desert. Its padded hooves do not sink into the sand. The camel has a lump of fat in its hump. The fat provides nourishment to the body when there is no water to drink.

By destroying forests and allowing overgrazing by animals, we are increasing the desert area. There is a need to stop cutting of trees and overgrazing of grasslands. We should also grow grass and plant more trees.

In the western part of Rajasthan, people domesticate goats, sheep and camel, and feed them with small bushes or dry food. They move from one place to another in search of water and also to sell milk products, animal skin and handicrafts. As they keep moving with their belongings, they are called *nomads*.



Nomads of Rajasthan

Even today people move across the desert in groups with camels called a *caravan*.

In the eastern part of Rajasthan, farming and animal rearing are common. Water stored in tanks and wells helps to irrigate the land. People are employed in mica, copper and zinc mines. Marble and sandstone are found in the

region. Rajasthani craft items and tie and dye fabrics are admired everywhere.



A Caravan

The dryness of the air, sand storms and sand dunes have influenced the dress of the people. Both men and women cover their heads to protect themselves from the scorching heat of the sun and sand storms during the day. The men wear a turban. The women wear ghagra-choli with *odhni*. They like to wear clothes of bright colour with dark spots and jewellery. They speak Rajasthani, a dialect of Hindi.



Gangaur Festival

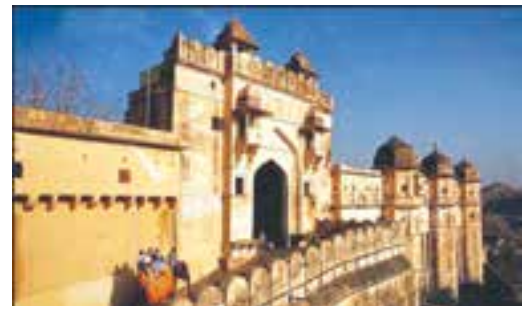
Dussehra, *Diwali*, *Holi* and *Eid* are celebrated in Rajasthan. *Teej* and *Gangaur* are festivals in which women take part heartily while swaying on swings and singing songs. *Ghoomar* dance is a famous folk dance performed by women on festive occasions.



Udaipur Lake Palace



Hawa Mahal



Amber fort

Famous places of tourist attraction are **Udaipur** and **Jaipur**. **Lake Palace** at Udaipur, **Hawa Mahal** and **Amber Fort** at Jaipur and cities of Jodhpur and Bikaner are well known. **Kota**, **Alwar** and **Chittor** are

historical cities. **Mount Abu** is a hill station of Rajasthan. Many devotees visit the **Dargah** at **Ajmer**. **Jaipur** the capital of Rajasthan is called the Pink City as most of the buildings here are of pink colour. Raja Jai Singh was the founder of Jaipur.



KEY WORDS

- | **Soil erosion** — Loss of top soil due to action of wind and running water.
- | **Sand dunes** — Small mounds of sand.
- | **Oasis** — A fertile spot in a desert having a pool of water and palm trees.
- | **Salt lake** — A lake having salty water.
- | **Caravan** — A group of camels moving from one place to another, and laden with goods and people.



THINGS I HAVE LEARNT

1. The Great Indian Desert also called Thar Desert extends from the Rann of Kachchh to the borders of Haryana.
2. The land is rocky and has small mounds of sand called sand dunes.
3. Small thorny bushes and cactus grow in some parts of a desert.
4. An oasis is a place in the desert where water is found.
5. The Rajasthan Canal brings water from Satluj to large parts of the Indian Desert.
6. The camel is called the 'Ship of the Desert'.
7. Man is responsible for the spread of deserts.
8. Rajasthan is the only state which has a desert.
9. The vegetation in Rajasthan gets water from the Indira Gandhi Canal.
10. People speak Rajasthani which is a dialect of Hindi.
11. There are many places of tourist interest in Jaipur and Udaipur.



A. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. Which river flows in the eastern part of Rajasthan?
(a) Betwa (b) Chambal (c) Sone
2. The government has set up India's largest wheat farm at
(a) Jaipur (b) Udaipur (c) Suratgarh
3. The Rajasthan Canal draws water from which river?
(a) Beas (b) Chenab (c) Satluj
4. Which is India's largest salt lake?
(a) Wolar Lake (b) Sambhar Lake (c) Chilika Lake
5. Which of the following minerals is found abundantly in Rajasthan?
(a) Marble and sandstone (b) Iron (c) Silver
6. Which is the only hill station of Rajasthan?
(a) Chittor (b) Mount Abu (c) Udaipur
7. Which popular folk dance is performed by women of Rajasthan on festive occasions?
(a) Gangaur (b) Ghoomar (c) Jatra

B. Match the following columns.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Dargah | (a) Festival |
| 2. Hawa Mahal | (b) Dialect |
| 3. Gangaur | (c) Desert vegetation |
| 4. Rajasthani | (d) Small hills of sand |
| 5. Palm, babool, Kikar | (e) Jaipur |
| 6. Sand dunes | (f) Ajmer |

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

Oasis

longest

Aravalli

desert

Camel

1. _____ hills divide Rajasthan into two parts.
2. The Western Part of Rajasthan is a _____.
3. An _____ is a fertile spot in a desert.
4. Indira Gandhi Canal is the world's _____ canal.
5. _____ is called the ship of the desert.

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

1. People move across the desert in groups with camels called a caravan.
2. Amber Fort is located in Udaipur.
3. Jaipur is called the Green city.
4. Raja Jaimal was the founder of Jaipur.
5. Eastern part of Rajasthan is fertile.

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E. Answer these questions.

1. Describe the location and extent of the Thar Desert.
2. What is a sand storm?
3. Explain the importance of an oasis.
4. How has the Indira Gandhi Canal helped the farmers of Rajasthan? [VALUE BASED QUESTION]
5. Name important places of tourist attraction in Rajasthan.
6. Why is the climate of the Thar Desert harsh?

[HOTS]



F. On an outline map of India, mark the Thar Desert and colour it. Label the neighbouring states also.



G. Collect five pictures of monuments of Rajasthan. Paste them in your scrapbook. Write two lines about each monument.



www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thar_Desert

www.bharatonline.com/rajasthan/thar-desert/inden.html



Make a model of an Oasis. Take a big tray and fill it with sand. Make a part of the tray empty by using a plastic partition. Put some water in the empty part. Take small plants and make them stand in the sand. The model of an Oasis is ready.