Chapter 3: Landforms and Life

Questions — Questions, Activities and Projects

Q1 In what type of landform is your town / village / city located? Which features mentioned in this chapter do you see around you?

SOLUTION

This answer depends on where you live. India has three main landforms — mountains, plateaus and plains — so first decide which one your town is in.

Model answer: "My city, Prayagraj, is located on a plain. Around me I see flat land, the fertile fields watered by rivers, and the Ganga and Yamuna flowing by — all features of a river plain mentioned in the chapter."

If you live in the hills you would see steep slopes and cool weather; on a plateau you would see raised, flat-topped land with rocky, stepped sides.

Answer: Identify your landform (mountain, plateau or plain) and name the features you see — e.g. a plain has flat, fertile land and rivers; mountains have steep slopes and cold weather; a plateau has raised, flat-topped land with steep sides.

Q2 Let us go back to our initial trip from Chhota Nagpur to Prayagraj and Almora. Describe the three landforms you came across on the way.

SOLUTION

The trip passes through three major landforms in order:

1. Plateau — Chhota Nagpur in Jharkhand is a plateau. Plateaus rise from the surrounding land and have a fairly flat top with steep sides. The Chhota Nagpur Plateau is rich in minerals such as iron and coal.

2. Plains — Prayagraj lies on the Ganga plain. Plains are flat, low land where rivers deposit sediment, making the soil very fertile and good for farming.

3. Mountains — Almora is in the Himalayan mountains. Mountains are much higher than the land around them, with steep slopes and narrow peaks. The Himalayas are young mountains and are still rising.

Answer: A plateau (Chhota Nagpur — flat-topped, mineral-rich), a plain (Prayagraj — flat, fertile Ganga plain), and mountains (Almora — the young, tall, steep Himalayas).

Q3 List a few famous pilgrimage spots in India along with the landforms in which they are found.

SOLUTION

Many pilgrimage places in India are set in different landforms. A few well-known examples:

Mountains: Kedarnath and Badrinath (Uttarakhand) and Amarnath (Kashmir) are high in the Himalayan mountains; Vaishno Devi is in the Trikuta hills.

Plains: Varanasi and Haridwar are pilgrimage cities on the Ganga plain.

Coast / near the sea: Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu) and Puri (Odisha) are on the coastal plains beside the sea.

(You may add other places you know, such as Tirupati on the hills or Pushkar near the desert.)

Answer: Examples — Kedarnath/Badrinath/Amarnath (Himalayan mountains), Varanasi/Haridwar (Ganga plain), Rameswaram/Puri (coastal plains). Any correct place with its landform is acceptable.

Q4 State whether true or false — (a) The Himalayas are young mountains with rounded tops. (b) Plateaus usually rise sharply at least on one side. (c) Mountains and hills belong to the same type of landform. (d) Mountains, plateaus and rivers in India have the same types of flora and fauna. (e) Ganga is a tributary to the Yamuna. (f) Deserts have unique flora and fauna. (g) Melting snow feeds rivers. (h) Sediments from rivers deposited in the plains makes the land fertile. (i) All deserts are hot.

SOLUTION

(a) False — The Himalayas are young mountains, but they have tall, sharp peaks, not rounded tops. Older mountains like the Aravallis have rounded tops due to erosion.

(b) True — A plateau rises from the surrounding land and at least one side is often a steep slope.

(c) True — Hills are lower and less steep than mountains, but both are the same broad type of landform (highlands).

(d) False — Mountains, plateaus and plains each have very different climates, so they are home to different flora and fauna.

(e) False — It is the other way around: the Yamuna is a tributary of the Ganga.

(f) True — Deserts have unique flora and fauna adapted to very dry, harsh conditions.

(g) True — In summer, snow on the mountains melts into water that feeds the rivers.

(h) True — Rivers carry sediment to the plains and deposit it, making the soil very fertile.

(i) False — Some deserts are hot (Thar, Sahara), but others are cold (the Gobi, and the Ladakh cold desert).

Answer: (a) False (b) True (c) True (d) False (e) False (f) True (g) True (h) True (i) False

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Q5 Match words in pairs — Column A: Mount Everest, rafting, camels, plateau, Gangetic plains, waterway, Mount Kilimanjaro, Yamuna — Column B: Africa, roof of the world, rice fields, desert, river, Ganga, tributary, climbing.

SOLUTION

Mount Everest — climbing (Mount Everest is the world's highest peak; mountaineering/climbing is a key mountain activity.)

rafting — river (Rafting is a water sport done on fast-flowing mountain rivers.)

camels — desert (Camels are well adapted to the dry, harsh conditions of deserts like the Thar.)

plateau — roof of the world (The Tibetan Plateau, the highest plateau in the world, is nicknamed the 'Roof of the World'.)

Gangetic plains — rice fields (Rice is grown in the fertile Gangetic plain.)

waterway — Ganga (The Ganga is used as a waterway; people still travel by boat on stretches of it.)

Mount Kilimanjaro — Africa (Mount Kilimanjaro is an isolated mountain in eastern Africa.)

Yamuna — tributary (The Yamuna is a tributary of the Ganga.)

Answer: Mount Everest ↔ climbing; rafting ↔ river; camels ↔ desert; plateau ↔ roof of the world; Gangetic plains ↔ rice fields; waterway ↔ Ganga; Mount Kilimanjaro ↔ Africa; Yamuna ↔ tributary.