

## 5. Natural Vegetation and Wildlife

### Exercise

#### 1. Question

On the basis of the information given in the chapter, figures and maps, complete the table below:

Sr.no.	Type of Forest	Characteristics	Regions in India	Regions in Brazil
1	Tropical Forests	1. Broad-leaved evergreen trees		
2	Semi arid thorny vegetation	1. 2.		
3	Savannah	1. Scanty bushes and shrub-like trees and rain-resistant grass		
4	Tropical semi-deciduous	1. Mixed type of vegetation		
5	Grasslands	1. Grassland region like the Pampas of Argentina		

#### Answer

Sr.no.	Type of Forest	Characteristics	Regions in India	Regions in Brazil
1	Tropical Forests	1. Broad-leaved evergreen trees	Western Ghats	Guyana Highlands
2	Semi arid thorny vegetation	1. Less than 500 mm of rainfall 2. Small sized leaves	Deccan plateau	Caatinga
3	Savannah	1. Scanty bushes and shrub-like trees and rain-resistant grass	Terai grasslands	Cerrado
4	Tropical semi-deciduous	1. Mixed type of vegetation	Northern Plains	Parana Basin
5	Grasslands	1. Grassland region like the Pampas of Argentina	Shola grasslands	Pampas

#### 2 A. Question

Identify the odd man out

Forest type of Brazil-

- A. thorny bush type vegetation
- B. evergreen forests
- C. the Himalayan Forests
- D. Deciduous forests

#### Answer

The Himalayan Forests are found in the Himalayan mountain ranges found in India. They can further be subdivided into three types of forests depending on their altitude.

#### 2 B. Question

Identify the odd man out

With reference to India-

- A. Mangrove forests
- B. Mediterranean forests
- C. Thorny bush-type vegetation

D. Equatorial forests

**Answer**

Mediterranean forests are found in places with the Mediterranean climate. India does not have Mediterranean climate and therefore, does not have Mediterranean forests.

**2 C. Question**

Identify the odd man out

With reference to fauna of Brazil-

- A. Anaconda
- B. Tamairin
- C. Red Panda
- D. Lion

**Answer**

Red Panda is native to the Himalayan region in India and China. It is not found in Brazil. Lions are also not found in Brazil. They are found majorly in Africa and Asian regions like India.

**2 D. Question**

Identify the odd man out

With reference to flora of India-

- A. Deodar
- B. Anjan
- C. Orchid
- D. Banyan

**Answer**

B

Deodar, Orchid and Banyan are all trees and plants that form the flora of India.

**3. Question**

Match the columns:

- (a) Evergreen Forests
- (b) Deciduous Forests
- (c) Coastal Forests
- (d) Himalayan Forests
- (e) Thorny and bush type vegetation
- (i) Sundar trees
- (ii) Pine
- (iii) Pau Brasil
- (iv) Khejadi
- (v) Teak
- (vi) Orchid
- (vii) Sal

## Answer

- a) Evergreen Forests – iii) Pau Brasil, vi) Orchid
- b) Deciduous Forests – v) Teak
- c) Coastal Forests – i) Sundar trees
- d) Himalayan Forests – ii) Pine, vii) Sal
- e) Thorny and bush type vegetation – iv) Khejadi

Note:

Evergreen forests: usually occur in areas receiving more than 200 cm of rainfall and having a temperature of 15 to 30 degrees Celsius.

Deciduous forests: They are a variety of temperate forest dominated by trees that lose their leaves each year.

Coastal forests: They are terrestrial habitats which consists of different forms of plants that grow near shores, ranging from creepers to tall trees.

Himalayan forests: They are a large subtropical coniferous *forest* ecoregion covering portions of Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Thorny and bush type vegetation: They are found in regions where the rainfall is less than 70cm.

## 4 A. Question

Answer in short:

Differentiate between the forest types of Brazil and India.

## Answer

BRAZIL	INDIA
1. Evergreen forests: Concentrated in one area around the Amazon River Basin	1. Evergreen forests: Unevenly spread across country with concentration in Western Ghats and the North East.
2. Brazil does not have coastal forests.	2. India has Himalayan and coastal forests.
3. 23 per cent area covered by forests.	3. 19 per cent area covered by forests.

## 4 B. Question

Answer in short:

Correlate wildlife and natural vegetation in India and Brazil.

## Answer

Relation between the wildlife and natural vegetation in India and Brazil:

1. Vegetation: Both are highly diverse in terms of flora with common species like mahogany, orchids, thorny shrubs etc. depending on the type of forests.

2. Wildlife: Both are Mega-diverse countries with common animals like monkeys, crocodiles, birds like parrots, insects, fishes etc.

## 4 C. Question

Answer in short:

What environmental issues are faced by Brazil and India?

## Answer

Environmental issues:

- 1. Commercial activities like poaching and habitat destruction has led to the extinction of many species.

2. Deforestation is the leading cause for the destruction of forests which in turn effects the environment badly.

3. Other issues include deforestation in the Amazon basin, illegal wildlife trade, air and water pollution, land degradation caused by mining activities, wetland degradation and severe oil spills, among others.

#### **4 D. Question**

Answer in short:

What are the major causes of degradation of forest in Brazil and India?

#### **Answer**

Causes of degradation of forests:

1. Deforestation is the major cause for degradation of forests. It is done for mining, building dams, expanding agriculture etc.

2. Industrial development has caused degradation of forests through pollution, over-exploitation, encroachments etc.

Rainforests have decreased in size primarily due to deforestation. Despite reductions in the deforestation rate over the last ten years, the Amazon rainforest will be reduced by 40% by 2030 at the current rate.

#### **4 E. Question**

Answer in short:

Why does the deciduous type of vegetation occupy most of India?

#### **Answer**

Deciduous forests require foll. conditions to grow which are found in most parts of India:

1. Rainfall between 70-200 cm.

2. hot and humid climate.

Common trees are teak, mulberry, bamboo, sandal wood, etc. It is found majorly in Northern, Central and Southern India.

#### **5 A. Question**

Give geographical reasons

The northern part of Brazil is covered by dense forests.

#### **Answer**

The northern part of Brazil is closest to the equator and therefore receives maximum rainfall. Evergreen forests are found in this region around the Amazon basin as it rains throughout the year. These are highly dense in terms of both vegetation and wildlife. Because of the deposition of sediments brought up by the river Amazon and as the Amazon canal is 150km in width, it forms ideal conditions in terms of soil and water for the growth of dense forests. Also, there is plenty of sunlight in Brazil as the Tropic of Capricorn passes through it.

#### **5 B. Question**

Give geographical reasons

Vegetation is scarce in the high altitudes of Himalayas.

#### **Answer**

Vegetation is scarce in the high altitudes of Himalayas because of two reasons:

1. extremely cold weather.

2. top is covered with snow.

Only seasonally flowering trees are found in the high altitudes.

### 5 C. Question

Give geographical reasons

A wide variety of species of insects is found in Brazil.

#### Answer

A wide variety of insects is found in Brazil because it has a high diversity and density of wildlife in the Amazon rainforests. Evergreen forests are found in this region around the Amazon basin as it rains throughout the year. Because of the deposition of sediments brought up by the river Amazon and as the Amazon canal is 150km in width, it forms ideal conditions in terms of soil and water for the growth of dense forests. Apart from the numerous species found in the tropical rainforests of north, they are also found in the swamps, grasslands, deciduous forests etc.

### 5 D. Question

Give geographical reasons

Wildlife in India is decreasing day by day.

#### Answer

Wildlife in India is decreasing day by day due to many reasons which are as below:

1. habitat destruction through deforestation and pollution.
2. Illegal activities like poaching.
3. Human animal conflict

Government is taking various initiatives to protect the wildlife of India by bringing in laws against poaching and creating awareness on animal protection like the 'Project Tiger', etc.

### 5 E. Question

Give geographical reasons

Like India, there is need of conservation of forests in Brazil too.

#### Answer

A wide variety of wildlife is found in Brazil because it has a high diversity especially in the Amazon rainforests. Evergreen forests are found in this region around the Amazon basin as it rains throughout the year. Because of the deposition of sediments brought up by the river Amazon and as the Amazon canal is 150km in width, it forms ideal conditions in terms of soil and water for the growth of dense forests. Apart from the numerous species found in the tropical rainforests of north, they are also found in the swamps, grasslands, deciduous forests etc.

Forests in Brazil also need conservation like India because they are under the threat of commercial activities like deforestation and pollution. Traditional agricultural practice like slash and burn is also a cause of destruction. In India, government is taking various initiatives to protect the wildlife of India by bringing in laws against poaching and creating awareness on animal protection like the 'Project Tiger', etc.

## Intext Questions

### 1. Question

Tiger is the national animal of India. The number of tigers is decreasing day by day. The situation is similar to elephants. Find information about such plants and animals. Find about their habitats. What should be done to conserve these animals? In which regions can this be done? Make a presentation of their possible places.

#### Answer

The animals and plants which are on the verge of extinction are called Endangered species.

Endangered animals:

Animal	Habitat
1. One-horned Rhinoceros	The Himalayan foothills of India and it can be spotted in Kaziranga National Park, Dudhwa Tiger reserve, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Nilgiri Tahr	The Tropical rainforests of the Western Ghats and it can be spotted in Nilgiri hills, Anaimalai hills, Periyar wildlife sanctuary.
3. Bengal Tigers	Deciduous forests, tropical evergreen forests, thorn forests and grass jungles and can be spotted in Tadoba National Park, Jim Corbett National Park, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Bandhavgarh National Park.
4. Asiatic Lions	Sasan Gir jungle area and can be spotted only in Gir National Forest.
5. Blackbucks or the Indian Antelopes	Plains, grasslands and scrubs and can be spotted in Ranthambore National Park, Corbett National Park, Kanha National Park.
6. Lion Tailed Macaque	Tropical forests of the Western Ghats and can be spotted in Silent Valley National Park, Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.

Endangered Plants:

Plant	Scientific name	Region
Malavuram	<i>Pterospermum reticulatum</i>	Tamil Nadu
Ebony tree	<i>Diospyros celebica</i>	Karnataka
Malabar Lily	<i>Chlorophytum malabaricum</i>	Tamil Nadu
Spider wort	<i>Belosynapsis vivipara</i>	Madhya Pradesh
Jeemikanda	<i>Ceropegia odorata</i>	Gujarat and Rajasthan

Causes for the decline in the population of flora and fauna:

Illegal human activities such as poaching, hunting and destruction of the natural habitats of these plant and animal species are the major reasons.

Steps to conserve the endangered species:

The following are some of the steps that can be taken to conserve the rich flora and fauna of India from getting extinct:

1. Creating awareness among the public about the importance of animals and plants.
2. Making sure that the laws regarding wildlife are implemented properly.
3. Visiting national parks.
4. A boycott of products made of animal skin, leather and horns etc.,
5. Afforestation.

Many wildlife habitats can be created in hilly and mountainous regions where we can find dense forests gifted by nature.