

## **CHAPTER – 6**

### **MAJOR LANDFORMS OF THE EARTH**

**Q. 1 A** Answer the following questions briefly.

What are the major landforms?

Answer:

The major landforms are divided into three broad categories; they are Mountains, Plateaus and Plains.

Additional information: Frozen Mountains are called glaciers, mountains arranged in a line known as a range. A plateau is an elevated flat land. It is a flat topped standing above the surrounding area. Plains are larger stretches of flat land and are very fertile.

**Q. 1 B** Answer the following questions briefly.

What is the difference between a mountain and a plateau?

Answer:

Mountain:

A mountain is any natural elevation of the earth surface. The mountains may have a small summit and a broad base. It is considerably higher than the surrounding area. Plateau:

A plateau is an elevated flat land. It is flat-topped standing above the surrounding area. A plateau may have one or more sides with steep slopes. The height of plateaus often varies from a few hundred metres to several thousand metres.

Additional information: Plateaus like mountains, may be young or old. The Deccan Plateau in India is the oldest plateau.

**Q. 1 C** Answer the following questions briefly.

What are the different types of mountains?

Answer:

There are three different types of mountains, namely; Fold, Block and Volcanic Mountains. The Himalayan Mountains and the Alps are young Fold Mountains with rugged relief and high conical peaks. Block Mountains are formed when large areas are broken and displaced vertically. The Rhine Valley and the Vosges in Europe are examples of Block Mountains. Volcanic mountains are formed due to volcanic activity. Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Fujiyama in Japan are examples of such mountains.

**Q. 1 D** Answer the following questions briefly.

How are mountains useful to man?

Answer:

Mountains are very useful in the following ways:

1. They are a storehouse of water. 2. Many rivers have their source in the glaciers in the mountains. Reservoirs are made and the water is harnessed for the use of people. 3. Water from mountains is also used for irrigation and generation of hydro-electricity. 4. Mountains have a rich variety of flora and fauna. 5. Mountains provide an idyllic site for tourists.

**Q. 1 E** Answer the following questions briefly.

How are plains formed?

Answer:

Plains are large stretches of flat land. They are, generally, not more than 200 metres above the sea level. Most of plains are formed by rivers and

their tributaries. The rivers flow down the slopes of mountains and erode them. They carry forward the eroded material. Then they deposit their load consisting of stones, sand and silt along their courses and in their valleys. It is from these deposits that the plains are formed.

Additional information: Some plains are extremely level while, others may be slightly rolling and undulating.

**Q. 1 F** Answer the following questions briefly.

Why are the river plains thickly populated?

Answer:

Generally, plains are very fertile. Construction of transport network is easy. Thus, the plains are thickly populated regions of the world.

Additional information: Plains are the most useful areas for human habitation. There is great concentration of people as most flat land is available for building houses, as well as for cultivation. In India too, the Indo-Gangetic plains are the most densely populated regions of the country.

**Q. 1 G** Answer the following questions briefly.

Why are mountains thinly populated?

Answer:

Life is difficult in mountainous areas because the climate is too harsh. Since the slopes are steep, less land is available for farming.

**Q. 2 A** Tick the correct answer.

The mountains differ from the hills in terms of

A. elevation

B. slope

C. aspect

Answer:

Elevation of a geographic location is usually used to refer the height above or below a fixed reference point. The elevation or height of a mountain is measured above the sea level. Mount Everest is the highest mountain present on Earth.

**Q. 2 B** Tick the correct answer.

Glaciers are found in

A. the mountains

B. the plains

C. the plateaus

Answer:

A glacier is a sturdy body of dense ice which moves constantly under its own weight. Glaciers are formed over time with the fallen snow and eventually take the form of thickened ice masses.

**Q. 2 C** Tick the correct answer.

The Deccan Plateau is located in

- A. Kenya
- B. Australia
- C. India

Answer:

The Deccan Plateau is located in Southern India and is one of the major plateaus of India. This plateau covers the most part of southern India. India has a variety of plateaus, the Chhotanagpur, the Malwa, the Baghelkhand, the Bundelkhand Upland, the Central Highland, the Marwar Upland are the prominent plateaus of India.

**Q. 2 D** Tick the correct answer.

The river Yangtze flows in

- A. South America
- B. Australia
- C. China

Answer:

Yangtze is a 6380 km long and is also the longest river in Asian continent. It flows entirely in China. Due to its scenic beauty it is one of the major tourist spots in China.

**Q. 2 E** Tick the correct answer.

An important mountain range of Europe is

- A. the Andes
- B. the Alps
- C. the Rockies

Answer:

The Alps are the highest and most widespread mountain range system that lies in Europe. Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Switzerland are the eight Alpine countries across which the Alps are located.

**Q. 3** Fill in the blanks.

- (a) A \_\_\_\_\_ is an unbroken flat or a low-level land.
- (b) The Himalayas and the Alps are examples of \_\_\_\_\_ types of mountains.
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_ areas are rich in mineral deposits.
- (d) The \_\_\_\_\_ is a line of mountains
- (e) The \_\_\_\_\_ areas are most productive for farming.

Answer:

- (a) A Plain is an unbroken flat or a low-level land.

Indo-Gangetic Plains and the North Indian River Plain, is a fertile plain covering the most parts of the northern and eastern India.

- (b) The Himalayas and the Alps are examples of Fold types of mountains.

In India, The Aravali Range is the oldest fold mountain system. They start from Delhi and pass through Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

- (c) Plateau areas are rich in mineral deposits.

The Volcanic eruptions facilitate mineral formation and this is the reason plateaus are also called store house of minerals.

- (d) The Range is a line of mountains.

A range is a series of mountains connected by high ground.

(e) The Plain areas are most productive for farming.

Water retention ability of plains is better than other landforms and also, plains are most populated that is why they are considered best for farming as all the resources are easily available.