

Lesson-10

Our State



This year, during summer vacations Birina went on a tour to Silchar from Sivasagar. Birina could never forget about the train journey to Silchar. The memories of the train moving amidst the lush green hills and whistling through the dark tunnels fill her mind with pleasure even today. Her father told her that those hills fall under the district of Dima Hasao. Birina and her family reached Silchar after crossing the high mountain ranges named the Barail range of the Dima Hasao district.

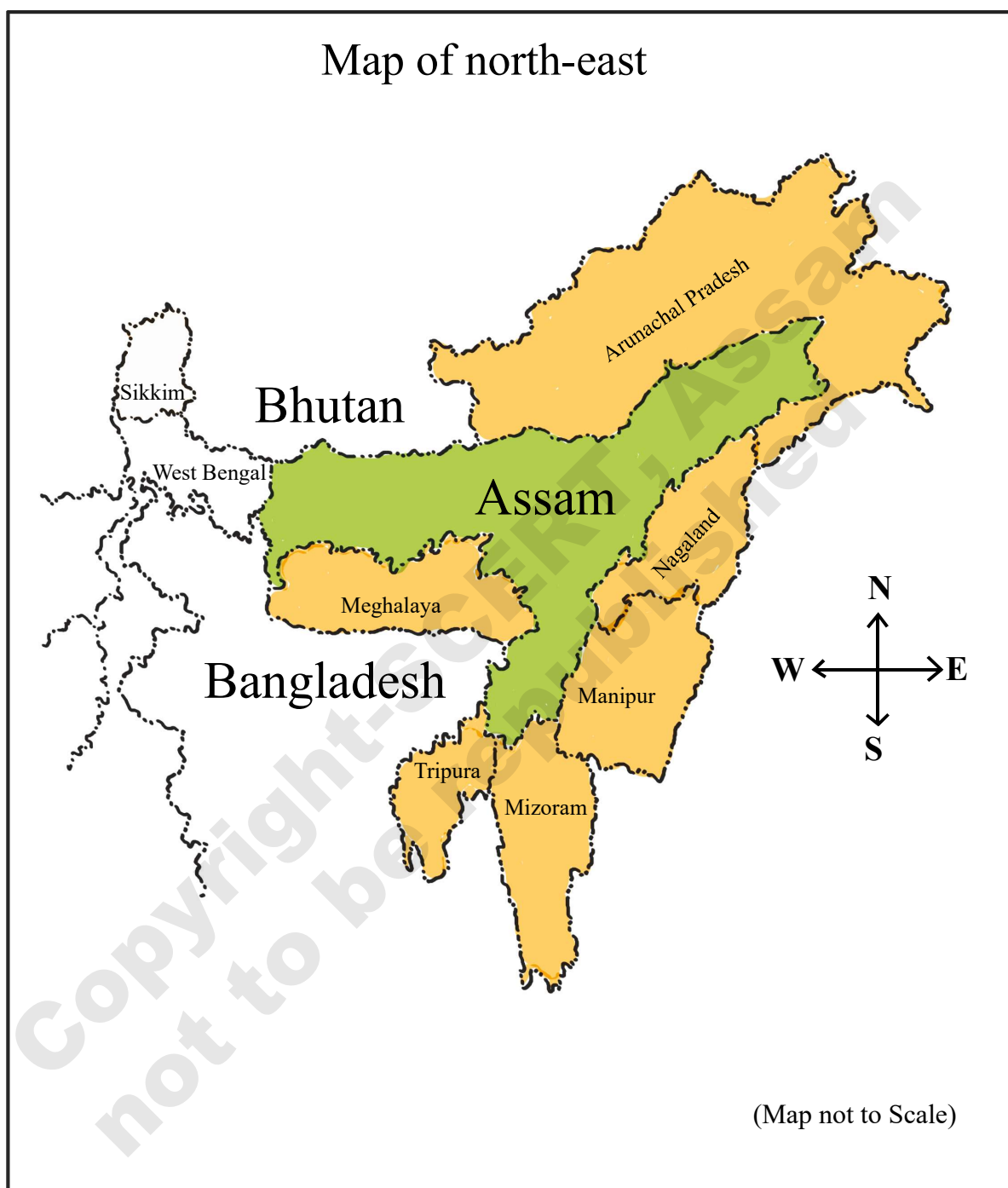
Our state is full of hills and mountains, rivers and tributaries, different variety of trees, etc. The state is abundant in natural resources and beauty. This wonderful place is situated in the northeastern part of India. The great Brahmaputra river flows through this state.



Look at the given map of India and identify the state of Assam.

➤ In which direction of India the state of Assam is situated?

North-East India



Let us study the map of northeastern India on the previous page—

➤ Write the names of the bordering states of Assam.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

➤ Write the names of the foreign nations bordering Assam. In which directions of Assam are these nations located?

Let us see what did Birina's father tell her about Assam on their way to Silchar from Sivasagar on the train—

Birina : These places look higher than the places in our Sivasagar, isn't it *Deuta*?

Father : These are actually hilly areas. We will reach Silchar only after crossing the high Barail mountain range.

Birina : What is a hill and a mountain *Deuta*?

Father : A high rocky area with trees and plants is called a hills. Again, a rocky region which is higher than a hill and is stretched to the far distance is called a mountain. Generally, the slopes of the mountains are steeper than the hills.



Birina : Deuta, are there rivers on hills?

Father : Yes, there are, my child. There are many tributaries in the Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, and Dima Hasao districts. Jatinga is a tributary of the Dima Hasao district. Actually, many rivers and tributaries flow through the heart of Assam. That is why Assam is known as a riverine state. The two chief rivers of Assam are the **Brahmaputra** and the **Barak**. Many rivers and tributaries from the neighbouring states and countries fall on these two big rivers.

Birina : What is the difference between a river and a tributary *Deuta*?

Father : The water body that originates from a mountain or a hill and flows through various places into a sea or a lake is called a river. On the other hand, the water body that originates from a mountain, hill, or lake and flows through various places into a river is called a tributary.

Father : Our Assam is made up of various natural structures like rivers, tributaries, hills, mountains, plateaus, plains and valleys, etc.

Birina : What is meant by plateaus and plains *Deuta*?

Father : High ground comprising of a large area whose outer part is somewhat flattened, such a landform is called a plateau. On the other hand, a large area of flat land which is free from hills or mountains, such a region is called plains.

Birina : What is a valley *Deuta*?

Father : A low area of plain land between two mountains or two high lands created by a river or a tributary is called a valley. That is why, based on hills, mountains, plateaus, valleys, etc. Assam is primarily divided into three natural divisions. They are—

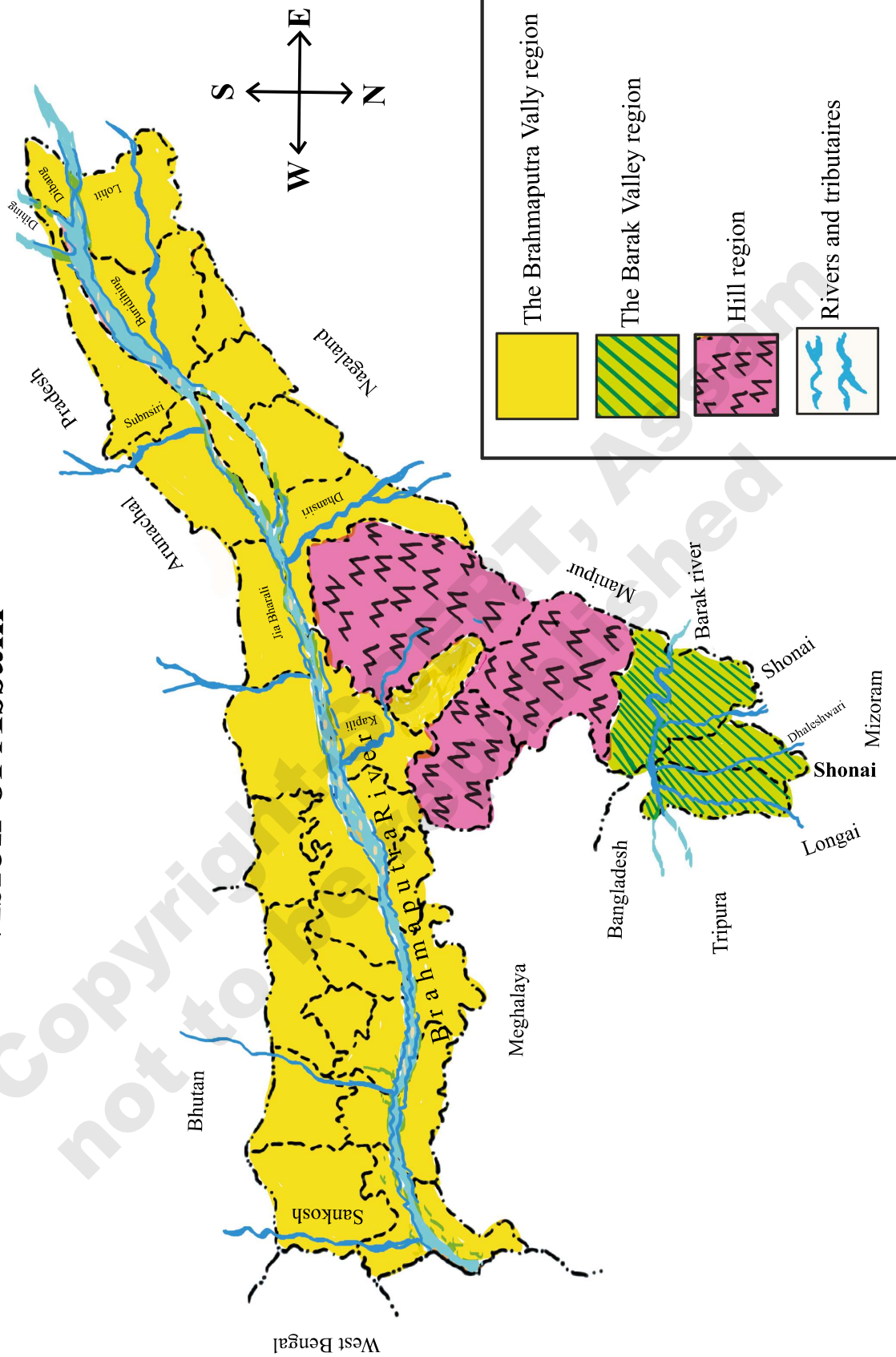
(A) Brahmaputra Valley

(B) Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao Hills

(C) Barak Valley.

The plain area created by the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries is called the **Brahmaputra Valley**. On the other hand, the plain area created by the Barak river and its tributaries is known as the **Barak Valley**. However, the Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao hills are situated between these two valleys. The relatively high Barail mountain is situated between the districts of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao.

Natural Division of Assam



Let us write by looking at the map on the previous page—

- Names of the tributaries of the Brahmaputra river —
- Names of the tributaries of the Barak river—

Let us discuss in group and write—

- On which natural division your district lies? Prepare a list of the rivers, tributaries, etc. hills and other higher ground, etc. (if you have) in your district.

Name of the district	Natural division	Name of river/ tributaries	Name of hills

Rivers of Assam:

The Brahmaputra and Barak are the two chief rivers of Assam. The tributaries of the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and other streams and creeks make Assam, a land of rivers. During the rainy season, these rivers overflow with water and give rise to floods in various places. There is heavy rainfall in Assam during the rainy season. In the rainy season when the amount of rainfall is too high, the water cannot flow normally through the river channel. As a result river overflows creating floods on both banks.

Let's do—

- If some water is spilled on a flat surface, it will slowly flow to the edge isn't it? However, if that flat surface is made to tilt a little, water will flow at more speed, wouldn't it? We come to know from this experiment that when the surface is tilted, water flows downward at a greater speed. The same is the case with the rivers. When the tiltation is more, the water flows downwards speedily.

Let's study the map and write—

- Prepare a list of the names of the tributaries of the northern and southern banks of the river Brahmaputra. Similarly, prepare a list of the names of the tributaries of the northern and southern banks of the Barak river—

Tributaries of the northern bank of the Brahmaputra	Tributaries of the southern bank of the Brahmaputra

Tributaries of the northern bank of the Barak	Tributaries of the southern bank of the Barak

There are enough fishes and turtles in the rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, etc. of Assam.

- Prepare a list of the names of the fishes found in your nearby river, lakes, pond, etc.

List of the names of the native fishes of Assam—

Fishes with scales	Fishes with no scales

Do you know?

It is our responsibility to conserve the local fishes of Assam so that they do not extinct in the future. That is why, during the time of breeding and reproduction of fishes we should not catch fish from the ponds, lakes, rivers, etc.

Our livelihood varies as per the natural environment—

The natural environment has a great impact on human beings food, clothing, habitat, communication, rules-regulations, traditions, etc. That is why differences can be seen in the livelihood of the people living in the plains, hilly areas, riverine areas, etc. of Assam.



Agriculture in the plain region



Jhum cultivation in the hilly region

The reason behind the dense human settlement in the plains of the valleys, are—the plain area is suitable for agriculture, communication, etc. Moreover, because of the high fertility of both the valleys of Assam, farmers have high production. In the hilly areas of the state, jhum cultivation is carried out. The trees and other vegetation in an area of a hill are cut down and burned to clear the area for jhum cultivation. On the slanting side of the hill, the land is leveled with a hoe making levees of soil so that the water used for farming does not flow away.

On the banks of the rivers of Assam and in the hilly regions, it is seen that people live in a stilt house. Nature also plays a significant role in building such houses. The riverine areas face floods



Stilt house built in the hilly region

frequently. As the stilt houses are higher from the ground, the river water cannot enter them.

Let's discuss in groups and write—

➤ Discuss in your group and write

Geographical environment in plains and hills:

River and tributary:

The livelihood of the residents:

Agriculture in the region (if any):

Medium of transport:

Types of houses:

Mode of communication:



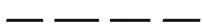







(If necessary, take the help of your teacher for this discussion.)

Need of map:

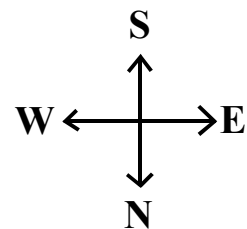
What can we know from a map—

We can get different information about place by looking at a map. In general, along with the borders of a place, country, state, seas, oceans, rivers, tributaries, towns, cities, roads, streets, etc. are presented in a map. To identify the hills, mountains, rivers, tributaries, roads, boundaries, etc. on a map, some legends are used. If we know about these legends, we will know different things about a place.

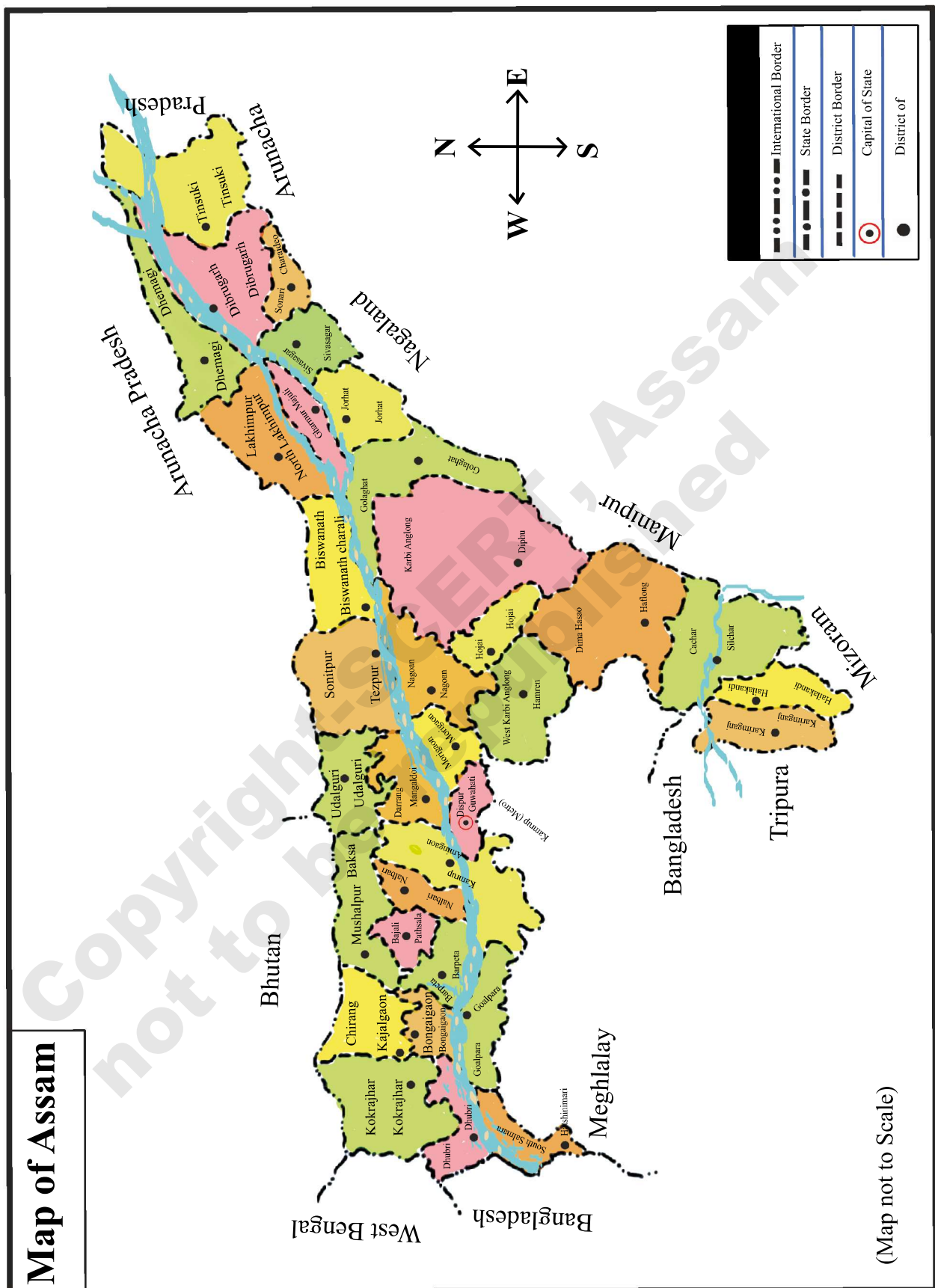
Some legends used in maps

International border:		Border of a state:	
Border of a district:		Capital of a state:	
Railway line:		District Head Quarter:	
River:		National Highway:	
Hills-mountains:		Tributary	

To know about the exact location of a place on a map, it is necessary to know about the directions. Generally, the top of the map denotes the north direction. The bottom part is considered to be the south, on the right side is the east, and on the left side is the west. To demonstrate the directions, a pointer symbol is drawn near a map. We can determine the different directions in a map with the help of this pointer symbol.



Let us be familiar with the districts of Assam with the help of a map



Do the following task by observing the map of Assam given in your lesson-

- Look at the map of Assam carefully. The names of each of the districts are written on the map. Identify the districts in a serial order and write their names along with the District Head Quarters.






Sl. No.	Name of the district	Name of the District Head Quarter

- Prepare a list of some of the places of Assam that you have traveled to.
- Make a list of total districts in Assam.
- Identify your own district along with the District Head Quarter.
- Write down the name of the capital of Assam using the legend.
- Write down the names of the foreign countries and states bordering Assam.
- Look at the map of Assam and write down the names of the borders of your district.
 - To the north
 - To the south
 - To the east
 - To the west
- **Study the map of Assam and with the help of your teachers, parents, or elders collect some information about your district and fill up the list below—**

Name of the district	District Head Quarter	Subdivision	Main places	Rivers/ Tributaries	Main crops	Mode of transportation

Exercise

1. Identify your district on the map of Assam provided in your textbook and write the names of the boundaries of your district.
2. Write down what can we know from a map.
3. How many natural divisions are there in Assam and what are they?
4. Distinguish between—
 - (a) Rivers and tributaries.
 - (b) Mountains and hills.
 - (c) Plateau and plains.
5. Put a tick mark “✓” in the correct answer—
 - (a) Assam is primarily divided into two/ three/ four natural divisions.
 - (b) There are two/ three/ four foreign countries at the borders of Assam.
 - (c) Manas/ Subansiri/ Dhaleswari are the tributaries of the Barak river.
6. Match column “A” with “B”

‘A’	‘B’
    	 District Head Quarter International boundary Railway line River Capital of the state

