

Chapter- 8

THE CLIMATE OF OUR COUNTRY

STUDY NOTES

- When you say 'it is cold today', or it is a rainy day', you are talking about the weather. Weather refers to how hot, cold, rainy, windy, or cloudy it is, in a particular place at a particular time.
- But when you say, 'it is very cold in the Himadri', or 'the coastal plains are warm and humid'. you are talking about the climate.
- Climate refers to the weather conditions of a large area taken over a long period of time.

The Climate of a Place

The climate of a place mainly depends on the following:

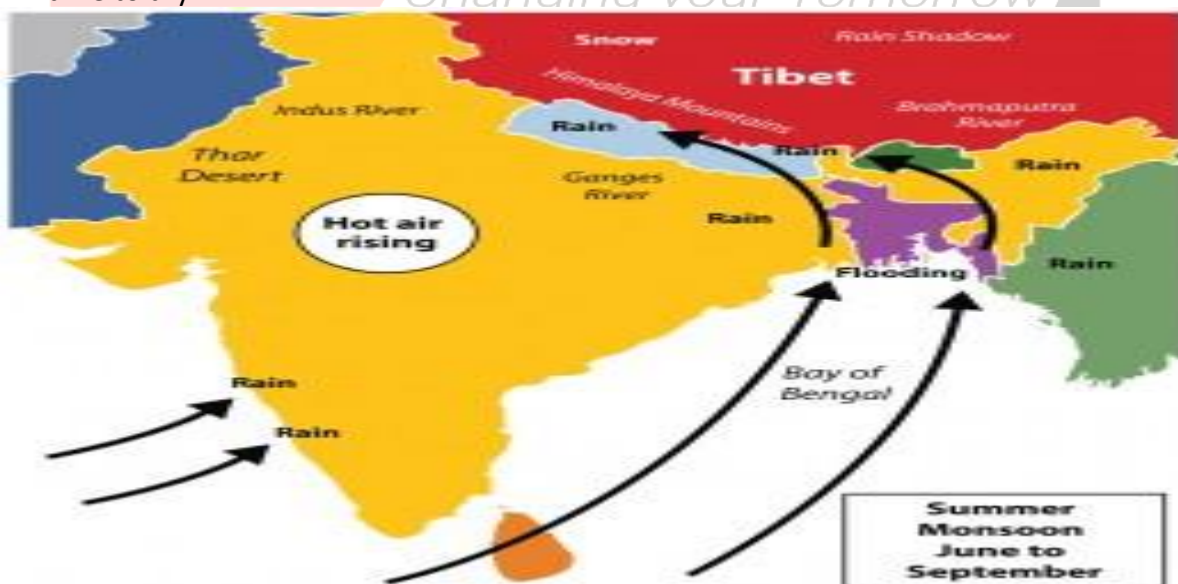
- How far away it is from the Equator:
 - ❖ The farther away a place is from the Equator,
 - ❖ The colder it is expected to be. The northern part of India is cooler than South India.
- How high it is:
 - ❖ The higher a place, colder it is. For example, the higher you go in the Himalayas, the cooler it becomes.
- How far it is from the sea:
 - ❖ The winds from the sea affect the climate of the place.
 - ❖ The Coastal Plains are neither too hot nor too cold because of the breeze from the sea.
 - ❖ The plant and animal life found in a place, the food that people eat, and what they wear depend on the climate of the place.

Seasons

- Most places experience a few months of hot weather, a few months of rain weather and a few months of cool or cold weather in an year.
- Each of these divisions of the year that have particular weather patterns are called seasons.
- India has three main seasons during the year-summer, rainy season and winter.
- The general weather conditions of a place during these seasons determine the climate of the place.



- The summer season starts in March or April and continues till May or June, In South India, it starts becoming hot in March, and stays hot till after May.
- In North India, summer starts in April and goes on till June and July.
- In summer, it is hot and dry in almost all parts of India, except the mountains.
- The Sun is very hot, and days are longer than nights. Hot dry winds called loo, blow in the Northern Plains. Dust storms are also common in the region.
- People in Delhi caught in a dust storm
- The Coastal Plains are not so hot in summers because of the cool sea breeze.
- However, it is very humid, that is the amount of water vapour (or moisture) in the air is high.
- Humid weather is uncomfortable, as it makes us sweat a lot and the sweat take a long time to dry.



RAINY SEASON

- From June onwards, winds full of moisture from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal start flowing to the land.
- They are called monsoon winds. They bring rain to India. This season is called the monsoon.
- The rainy season starts in June in South India. In North India, it starts towards the end of June or beginning of July. It continues till September.
- Some parts of India, such as the western coast and the north-eastern states, get very heavy rain. Mawsynram in the Khasi hills in Meghalaya the highest in rainfall in India. Parts of Parts of the Northern Plains and the Southern Plateau receive heavy rainfall.
- The Thar Desert in Rajasthan and the Rann of Kachchh receive very little rainfall. The Coromandel Coast receives rain in November-December.



WINTER

- From October onwards, it starts becoming pleasant. The Sun is not so hot. The days start becoming shorter, and the nights longer. This marks the beginning of winter. It continues till February or March. January is the coldest month.
- Winters are very cold in the Himalayas. Many places have snowfall.
- The Northern Plains are cold. The cold decreases as we go south. The Coastal Plains are pleasant during winter.

Let's Know More:**I.Fill in the blanks:**

1. Rain gauge is an instrument to measure _____.
2. Information of the weather can also be collected through _____.

Let's Do:**A. Fill in the blanks.**

1. When you talk of the weather conditions throughout the year, you are talking of the _____. Climate
2. The farther a place is from the _____ the colder it is expected to be. Equator
3. Hot and dry winds that carry dust and sand are called _____. Loo
4. Winds full of moisture that bring rain to India are called _____ winds. Monsoon winds
5. The _____ season lasts from October to February or March. Winter

B. Write T for true and F for false sentences.

1. The higher a place is, the cooler it will be. True
2. Humid air in summers makes the weather pleasant. False
3. Rains start earlier in South India than in North India. True
4. During winter, days are longer than in summer. False

D. Multiple choice questions.

1. When your friend tells you that it is a cold and wet day, he is talking about the
 - a. climate
 - b. weather
 - c. humidity
 - d. season
2. Which of these do not affect the climate of a place?
 - a. distance from the Equator

- b. distance from the sea
- c. the height of a place above sea level
- d. the plant and animal life found in a place

3. The rainy season in India is also called

- a. monsoon
- b. winter
- c. summer
- d. climate

4. During summer

- a. the days are longer than the nights
- b. the days are short and nights are long
- c. both days and nights are of equal length
- d. none of the above

5. The Coromandel Coast receives rain from

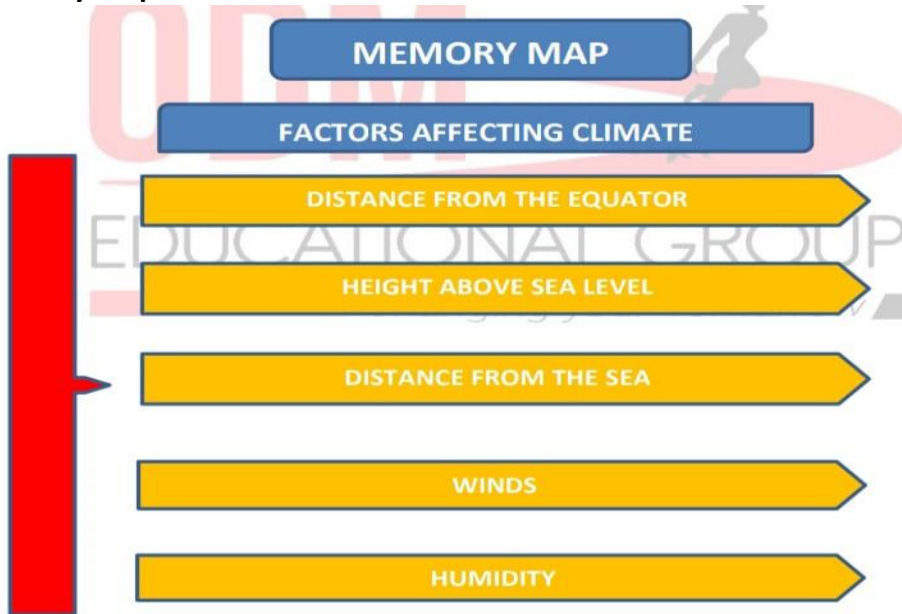
- a. July to September
- b. November to December
- c. June to August
- d. August to December

C. Understand and Answer:

1. What is the difference between weather and climate?
2. What are the three main factors on which the climate of a place depends?
3. What kind of weather do we have during summers in the Northern Plains?
4. The Coastal Plains are closer to the Equator than the Northern Plains. But they are not as hot in summers as the Northern Plains. Why?
5. Why does it start raining in India from June?
6. Which parts of India get very heavy rain, and which parts get very little rain during the rainy season?

7. Compare the weather during the winter season in the Himalayas and the Coastal Plains.

Memory Map:



Teacher's Note:

Improve Your G.k

- Monsoon is caused by seasonal reversal of winds.
- The direction to which wind blows is known as windward.

Answer Key

I. Fill in the

1. humidity
2. Satellites

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. b
2. e
3. d

4. c

5. a

B.

C. Understand and Answer:

1.

weather	climate
Weather refers to how hot, cold, rainy, windy, or cloudy it is, in a particular place at a particular time.	Climate refers to the weather conditions of large area taken over a long period of time.

2.

Ans. The three main factors on which the climate of a place depends are:

- How far away it is from the Equator.
- The higher a place, the colder it is.
- The winds from the sea affect the climate of the place.

3.

Ans. During summer in Northern plains the sun is very hot and days are longer than nights. Hot dry winds called Loo, blow in the Northern plains, Dust storms are also very common in these regions.

4. Ans. The coastal plains are closer to the equator than the northern plains but they are not as hot in summers as the northern plains.

- This is because in summer season, The coastal plains experiences high pressure due to presence of moisture from Arabian sea, Indian ocean and Bay of Bengal in the three directions.
- but the northern plain experiences low pressure as it lies far from sea or ocean.
- In area of low temperature pressure will be always hot in summers.
- In area of high temperature pressure will not as hot as in summers.

5. Ans.

- From June onwards, winds full of moisture from the Arabian sea and the Bay of Bengal start flowing to the land.
- They are called monsoon winds; they bring rain to India.
- The rainy season starts in June in India.

6. Ans.

- Parts of the northern plains and southern plateau receive heavy rainfall.
- The Thar desert in Rajasthan and the Rann of Kachchh receive very little rainfall.

7. Ans. During winter, the weather is very cold in Himalayas whereas the coastal plains have pleasant weather.

D. Multiple choice questions.

1. When your friend tells you that it is a cold and wet day, he is talking about the

a. Weather

2. Which of these do not affect the climate of a place?

d. the plant and animal life found in a place

3. The rainy season in India is also called

a. monsoon

4. During summer

b. the days are longer than the nights

5. The Coromandel Coast receives rain from

b. November to December