

WELCOME TO STD VIIGEOGRAPHY

SUBJECT : (GEOGRAPHY)

CHAPTER NUMBER: 9

**CHAPTER NAME : Natural Vegetation And Wild
Life**

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

Natural Vegetation and Relief features

Natural vegetation refers to a plant community, which has grown naturally without human aid and has been left undisturbed by humans for a long time. This is termed as **virgin vegetation**.

The term **flora** is used to denote plants of a particular region or period. The species of animals are referred to as **fauna**.



Relief features

This huge diversity in flora and fauna kingdom is due to the following factors:

Land

Land affects natural vegetation directly and indirectly.

The fertile level is generally devoted to agriculture.

The undulating and rough terrains are areas where grassland and woodlands develop and give shelter to a variety of wildlife.

2) Climate

Temperature

The character and extent of vegetation are mainly determined by temperature along with humidity in the air, precipitation and soil. The fall in the temperature affects the vegetation and its growth.

Photoperiod (Sunlight)

The variation in the duration of sunlight at different places is due to differences in latitude, altitude, season and duration of the day. Due to the longer duration of sunlight, trees grow faster in summer.

Precipitation

Areas of heavy rainfall have more dense vegetation as compared to areas of less rainfall.

Soil

Different types of soils provide a basis for different types of vegetation.

The sandy soils of the desert support cactus and thorny bushes, while wet, marshy, deltaic soils support mangroves and deltaic vegetation.

The soil at the hill slopes has conical trees.

Types of Vegetation

The following major types of vegetation are found:

- Tropical Evergreen Forests
- Tropical Deciduous Forests
- Temperate Evergreen Forests
- Temperate Deciduous Forests
- Mediterranean Vegetation
- Coniferous Forests
- Mangrove Forests

Grasslands

- Tropical grasslands
- Temperate grasslands

Scrubland & Tundra Vegetation

Tropical Evergreen Forests

- These forests are present in the Western Ghats and the island groups of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, upper parts of Assam and Tamil Nadu coast.
1. These forests grow best in areas having rainfall more than 200 cm with a short dry season.
 2. The trees reach great heights up to 60 metres or even above.
 3. It has the vegetation of all kinds i.e trees, shrubs and creepers giving it a multilayered structure.
 4. These forests appear green all the year-round.
 5. Important trees of this forest are ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona.
 6. Common animals found in these forests are elephant, monkey, lemur and deer.



Tropical Deciduous

Forests

- These forests are also called the **monsoon forests**.
 1. They are spread over the region having rainfall between 200 cm and 70 cm.
 2. They shed their leaves about 6 to 8 weeks in the dry summer.
 3. In these forests, the common animals found are lion, tiger, pig, deer and elephant.
- These forests are further divided into:
 - **Moist deciduous:** These are found in areas having rainfall between 200 and 100 cm. Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. Bamboos, sal, shisham, sandalwood, khair, kusum, arjun and mulberry are other commercially important species.
 - **Dry deciduous:** These are found in areas having rainfall between 100 cm and 70 cm. There are open stretches, in which teak, sal, peepal and neem grow.

