

WELCOME TO STD IX GEOGRAPHY

SUBJECT : (GEOGRAPHY)

CHAPTER NUMBER: 5

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

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

Montane Forests

- Montane forests are the forests which are found in the mountains.
1. The wet temperate type of forests are found between a height of 1000 and 2000 metres.
 2. At high altitudes, generally, more than 3,600 metres above the sea level, temperate forests and grasslands give way to the Alpine vegetation.
 3. Alpine grasslands are used for grazing.
 4. At higher altitudes, mosses and lichens form part of tundra vegetation.
 5. The common animals found are Kashmir stag, spotted deer, wild sheep, jack rabbit, Tibetan antelope, yak, snow leopard, squirrels, shaggy horn wild ibex, bear and rare red panda, sheep and goats.



Mangrove Forests

- Mangroves are trees that live along tropical coastlines, rooted in salty sediments, often underwater.
1. The **mangrove tidal forests** are found in the areas of coasts influenced by tides. Mud and silt get accumulated on such coasts.
 2. **Dense mangroves** are the common varieties with roots of the plants submerged underwater.
 3. Sundari trees are found in Ganga-Brahmaputra delta and provide hard timber.
 4. Royal Bengal Tiger is a famous animal in these forests.



Wildlife

- India is rich in its fauna.
 1. Elephants are found in the hot wet forests of Assam, Karnataka and Kerala.
 2. One-horned rhinoceroses are found in Assam and West Bengal.
 3. Rann of Kachchh is the habitat for wild ass whereas the Thar Desert is the habitat for camels.
 4. The natural habitat of the Indian lion is the Gir forest in Gujarat.
 5. Tigers are found in the forests of Madhya Pradesh, the Sundarbans of West Bengal and the Himalayan region.
 6. Ladakh's freezing high altitudes are home to yak, the shaggy horned wild ox, the Tibetan antelope, the bharal (blue sheep), wild sheep, and the kiang (Tibetan wild ass).
 7. In the rivers, lakes and coastal areas, turtles, crocodiles and gharials are found.
 8. Peacocks, pheasants, ducks, parakeets, cranes and pigeons are some of the birds inhabiting the forests and wetlands of the country.



Cause of Major Threat to flora and fauna

- Every species has an important role in the ecosystem. Hence, conservation of flora and fauna is essential. About 1,300 plant species are endangered and 20 species are extinct. The main causes of this major threat to nature are:
 1. Hunting for commercial purposes
 2. Pollution due to chemical and industrial waste
 3. Rapidly cutting of the forests for cultivation and habitation

- **Government Initiative to Protect Flora and Fauna**

The government has taken many steps to protect the flora and fauna of our country.

1. 18 biosphere reserves have been set up in India to protect flora and fauna. 10 out of these have been included in the world network of biosphere reserves.
2. Financial and technical assistance has been provided to many botanical gardens by the government since 1992.
3. Project Tiger, Project Rhino, Project Great Indian Bustard and many other eco-developmental projects have been introduced by the government.
4. 103 National Parks, 535 Wildlife Sanctuaries and Zoological gardens are set up to take care of natural heritage.

Map skill

