

Chapter- 4

THE NORTHERN PLAINS

STUDY NOTES



- ❖ Northern Plains of India run parallel to the Himalayas, from Punjab in the west to Assam in the east.
- ❖ Many rivers that originate in the Himalayas, such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus and Satluj, flow through the Northern Plains.
- ❖ As these rivers are mainly fed by the melting snow in the Himalayas, they have water throughout the year.
- ❖ The rivers bring with them fine soil called silt or alluvium. Alluvial soil is very fertile. It makes the Northern Plains one of the most fertile regions of the world.
- ❖ The main rivers have several tributaries or smaller rivers joining them.
- ❖ An area watered by a river and its tributaries is called a basin.
- ❖ The Northern Plains can be divided into three basins.
- ❖ The Satluj Basin in the west, the Ganga Basin in the middle, the Brahmaputra Basin in the east.



❖ The Satluj Basin

- The river Satluj and its tributaries flow towards the south-west, through Punjab.
- They join the Indus River in Pakistan.
- The Indus finally flows into the Arabian Sea.
- Punjab and Haryana lie in the Satluj basin.
- The Bhakra Nangal dam has been built on the Satluj River.
- It provides electricity, and water for irrigation.
- The Indira Gandhi Canal, which starts from the Satluj, provides water to many dry areas of Rajasthan.

Ganges Basin

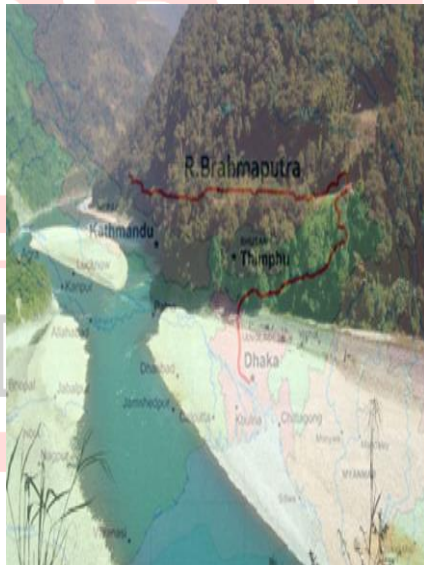


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna_basins.jpg

❖ The Ganga Basin

- The Ganga is the most important river of the Northern Plains.
- The Ganga Basin is spread across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
- The Ganga originates from the glacier Gangotri.

- In the mountains, it is fed by several tributaries such as Alaknanda, Mandakini and Bhagirathi, before it enters the Northern Plains at Haridwar.
- As it flows along slowly in the plains, it is joined by several tributaries like the
- Yamuna, Gandak, Ghagra, Kosi and Gomti.
- After flowing through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the Ganga enters West Bengal.
- Here, it splits into many branches or distributaries.
- The two main branches are Hooghly and Padma.
- The Hooghly flows through Kolkata, and then into the Bay of Bengal.
- The Padma enters Bangladesh.
- Here it joins the Jamuna (please note: the Jamuna and Yamuna are two different rivers), the main branch of Brahmaputra in Bangladesh, before entering the Bay of Bengal.
- The delta made by Ganga and Brahmaputra is the largest in the world.
- It is called the Sunderbans.



❖ The Brahmaputra Basin

- The Brahmaputra Basin is a narrow strip
- in the state of Assam. The Brahmaputra is the longest of the three great rivers
- of North India.
- It starts in Tibet where it is called Tsangpo.
- It enters India through Arunachal Pradesh and flows through Assam into Bangladesh.
- Here it joins the Padma, and forms the Sunderbans Delta before flowing into the Bay of Bengal.

❖ Life in the Northern PlainsPunjab

- Punjab is fed by the Satluj, Ravi and Beas rivers, and is very fertile.
- Chandigarh is the capital of both Punjab and Haryana.
- It is a well-planned city.
- The famous Golden Temple is situated in the city of Amritsar.
- Other important cities are Ludhiana and Jalandhar.
- Industries such as textiles, sports, goods, hosiery and motor parts are well developed.
- The people speak Punjabi and Hindi.
- Gurpurb, Baisakhi, Holi and Diwali are the main festivals celebrated in Punjab.
- Bhangra and Gidda are the popular folk dances of Punjab.

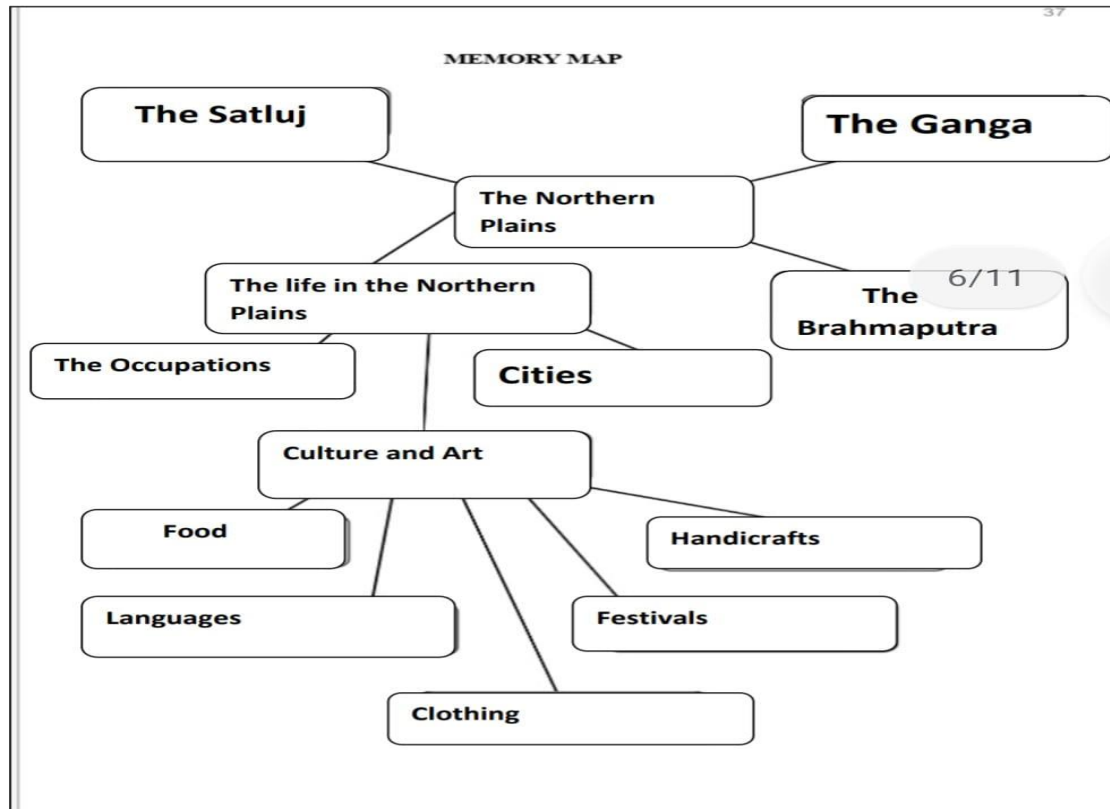
❖ Haryana

- Haryana is also situated in the Satluj Basin, and the land here is also very fertile. Gurgaon in Haryana has the largest car manufacturing plant in the country, the Maruti factory.
- People speak Hindi and Haryanvi - a dialect of Hindi

❖ Delhi

- Delhi is the capital of India.
- The offices of the President and Prime Minister of India, and all Central Government offices are located in New Delhi.
- People from all states of India live in Delhi.
- All the major festivals of India are celebrated here.
- The main languages spoken here are Hindi, English, Punjabi and Urdu.

- There are many monuments of historical importance in Delhi such as the QutbMinar, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, IndiaGate, Jantar Mantar and the Bahai or Lotus Temple.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh is a large and thickly populated state.
 - Its capital is Lucknow.
 - The land in Uttar Pradesh is very fertile, as the state is situated in the Ganga Basin.
 - Leather, metal and textiles are some of the major industries.
 - The main languages spoken are Hindi and Urdu. Diwali, Holi, Dusshera, Eid and Christmas are the main festivals.
 - Allahabad, Varanasi, Agra and Kanpur are some important cities.
 - The rivers Ganga and Yamuna meet at the Sangam in Allahabad. It is considered to be a holy place by the Hindus.
- ❖ Bihar
- Bihar is towards the east of Uttar Pradesh.
 - It is also situated in the Ganga Basin and is a thickly populated state.
 - Its capital is Patna.
 - The soil of Bihar is extremely fertile which makes it ideal for agriculture.
 - The main industries here are based on agriculture.
 - Hindi, Urdu and Maithili are the main languages of the state.
 - Eid, Diwali and Dusshera are the main festivals celebrated here.
 - Chhatt is an important traditional festival.
 - Nalanda and Bodh Gaya are cities of historical importance in Bihar.
- ❖ Jharkhand
- The capital of this new state is Ranchi.
 - Jharkhand is very rich in mineral deposits such as coal, iron, copper and aluminium ores.
 - One of India's steel plants is located at Bokaro in Jharkhand.
- ❖ West Bengal
- Kolkata is the capital of the state.
 - Since West Bengal has a long coastline, fishing is an important occupation of the people.
 - Jute, textile and silk industries in the state are well developed.
 - The people speak Bengali.
 - Sweets of West Bengal such as rasgulla are popular all over India.
 - Durga Puja is the most important festival.

MEMORY MAP:

Let's Know More:

Changing your Tomorrow

A. Fill in the blanks:

- I. The word Punjab means _____, the province get its name from five tributaries.
- II. The _____ is the tallest and youngest mountain ranges.

Let's Do:

B. Fill in the blanks.

- I. The silt that rivers bring with them to the plains is also called _____.
- II. The Bhakra Nangal Dam is built on the river _____.

- III. The Northern Plains can be divided into three river _____.
- IV. _____ and _____ are folk dances of Punjab.
- V. _____ is a traditional festival of Bihar.
- VI. The Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for the one-horned _____.

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

- I. The soil that rivers bring with them make the Northern Plains very fertile.
- II. Punjab has rich deposits of coal and iron ore.
- III. The Hooghly and Padma are tributaries of the Ganga.
- IV. Durga Puja is an important festival of West Bengal.
- V. Brahmaputra is also called Tsangpo in Tibet.

Understand & Answer:

D. Answer the following questions

- i. Why do the important rivers of the Northern Plains have water even in summer?
- ii. What makes the Northern Plains so fertile?
- iii. What do you mean by a river basin? Which river basins make up the Northern Plains.
- iv. Name the main states that lie in the three river basins in the Northern Plains.
- v. Name two major cities each in the three river basins in the Northern Plains.
- vi. What are the main languages spoken in the following states?
- a. West Bengal b. Assam c. Uttar Pradesh
- vii. List three important industries of Punjab.
- viii. Name four major occupations of the people living in the Northern Plains.

E. Multiple choice questions

1. Which of these states does not lie in the Northern Plains?
- a. Uttar Pradesh b. Rajasthan c. Bihar d. Assam
2. Which of these is a distributary of the Ganga?
- a. Alaknanda b. Kosi c. Gomti d. Hooghly
3. Which of these towns in the Northern Plains lies on the banks of a river?
- a. Allahabad b. Delhi c. Kolkata d. all of these
4. Which of these states has huge deposits of petroleum?
- a. Jharkhand b. West Bengal c. Uttar Pradesh d. Assam

Teacher's note

Write five ways to save our sacred river Ganga.

Improve Your GK:

- As Assam receives very good rainfall, it is suitable to grow rice and jute.

ANSWER KEYLet's Know More:

A. Fill in the blanks:

- Five rivers
- Himalayas

B. Fill in the blanks:

- Alluvium or Alluvial soil
- Satluj
- basins
- Bhangra and Gidda
- rhinoceros

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

- True.
- False
- True
- True.
- True

D. Answer the following questions

- The important rivers of the northern plains have water even in summer because these rivers are mainly fed by the melting snow in the Himalayas.

- ii. The rivers that flow down from the mountains bring fine Alluvial soil with them which makes Northern Plains so fertile.
- iii. An area watered by a river and its tributaries is called a basin.

The river basins which make up the northern plains are:

- the Satluj basin
 - the Ganga basin
 - the Brahmaputra basin.
- iv. The main states that lie in the three river basins in the Northern Plains are:
- Punjab,
 - Haryana
 - Delhi
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Bihar
 - Jharkhand
 - West Bengal
 - Assam

- v. Two major cities in three river basins of the Northern Plain are :

- Chandigarh
 - Lucknow
 - Guwahati
- vi. The main language spoken in the state
- West Bengal - Bengali.
 - Assam - Assamese.
 - Uttar Pradesh - Hindi and Urdu.

- vii. Three important industries of Punjab are:

- textile
- sports goods
- motor Parts

- viii. The four major occupations of the people living in the Northern Plains are farming textile fishing handicraft, tourism.