

Chapter- 1

Landforms of the World

STUDY NOTES

The land covering the Earth's surface is not uniform.

At some places it rises high, while some are flat.

The different features that make up the Earth's surface are called landforms.

There are four main landforms.

- ❖ Mountains
- ❖ Plains
- ❖ plateaus
- ❖ Deserts

Mountains, Valleys and Passes

- ❖ Mountains and hills are rocky masses of land that rise higher than the surroundings.
- ❖ The difference between main mountains and hills is that mountains have very steep slopes and high peaks.



Hills are smaller and lower.



Mountains:

- ❖ Mountains usually occur in long rows called mountain ranges.
- ❖ The Himalayas in the north of India is the highest mountain range in the world.
- ❖ Mount Everest, the highest mountain peak in the world, is located in the Himalayas in Nepal.
- ❖ Some mountains are formed when two large landmasses push against each other. They are called fold mountains.

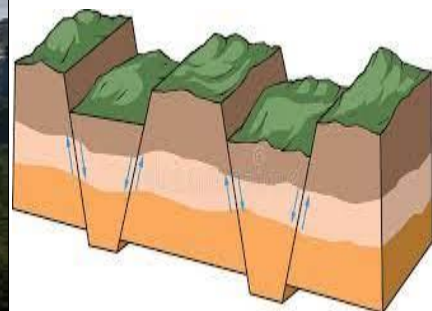
Example: The Himalayas, the Rockies in North America and the Alps in Europe are fold mountains.

**Volcanic mountains:**

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- ❖ Some mountains are formed when molten rock from deep inside the Earth rises to the surface, forming a volcano. They are called volcanic mountains.

Example : Mount Fuji in Japan and Mount Vesuvius in Italy are volcanic mountains.



Block mountains:

- ❖ Another kind of mountains are block mountains formed by splitting and sliding of large blocks of land.
- ❖ Examples: the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the USA and the Black Forest Mountains in Germany.

**Valleys:**

- ❖ The lowland between hills and mountains is called a valley.
- ❖ Valleys are formed by the glaciers or rivers wearing away rocks on mountains.
- ❖ A number of valleys have rivers flowing through them.
- ❖ Famous valleys in India are the Kashmir valley and the Brahmaputra valley.

**Passes:**

- ❖ Mountains have low narrow natural gaps called Passes.
- ❖ People cross mountains through these passes.
- ❖ The Khyber pass in the Himalayas connects Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**Plateau:**

- ❖ A large area of land that is higher than the surroundings and more or less flat at the top is known as a plateau.
- ❖ The Deccan Plateau in South India covers almost the entire Indian Peninsula.
- ❖ The Tibetan Plateau in the Himalayas is the highest plateau in the world. It is known as the
- ❖ 'roof of the world'.
- ❖ The Columbia and the Colorado Plateaus are in the USA.

**Plains:**

- ❖ Plains are flat lands with gentle slopes.
- ❖ Rivers flowing from the mountains bring fertile soil to the plains. So crops grow well here.
- ❖ Plains are therefore the most thickly populated areas in the
- ❖ world.
- ❖ The Northern Plains of India and the Prairies of the USA produce large
- ❖ amounts of wheat and other grains.



Deserts:

- ❖ Deserts are large, extremely dry areas of land.
- ❖ There is very little rainfall and very few plants grow in deserts. Deserts have extreme temperatures.
- ❖ In summers, the days are very hot and the nights are cool.
- ❖ In winters, the days are cool and the nights are very cold.

The important deserts of the world are:

- ❖ The Sahara Desert in North Africa, it is the biggest desert in the world.
- ❖ The Kalahari Desert in southern Africa.
- ❖ The Atacama Desert in South America.
- ❖ The Thar Desert in India.

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Coasts, Peninsulas, Bays and Islands:



Coasts:

- ❖ A place where land meets the sea is called a coast.
- ❖ Some coasts are sandy and straight. Others are rocky.



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Peninsula:

- ❖ A land mass which projects into the sea and is surrounded by water on three sides is called a peninsula.
- ❖ The southern part of our country is a peninsula.
- ❖ The tip of a peninsula is called a cape.

**Bay:**

- ❖ The southern-most tip of the Indian Peninsula is called Cape Comorin. The Arabian Peninsula is the largest in the world.
- ❖ A bay is a water body running into land and surrounded on three sides by land.
- ❖ The Bay of Bengal, along the eastern coast of India, is an example.

Island:

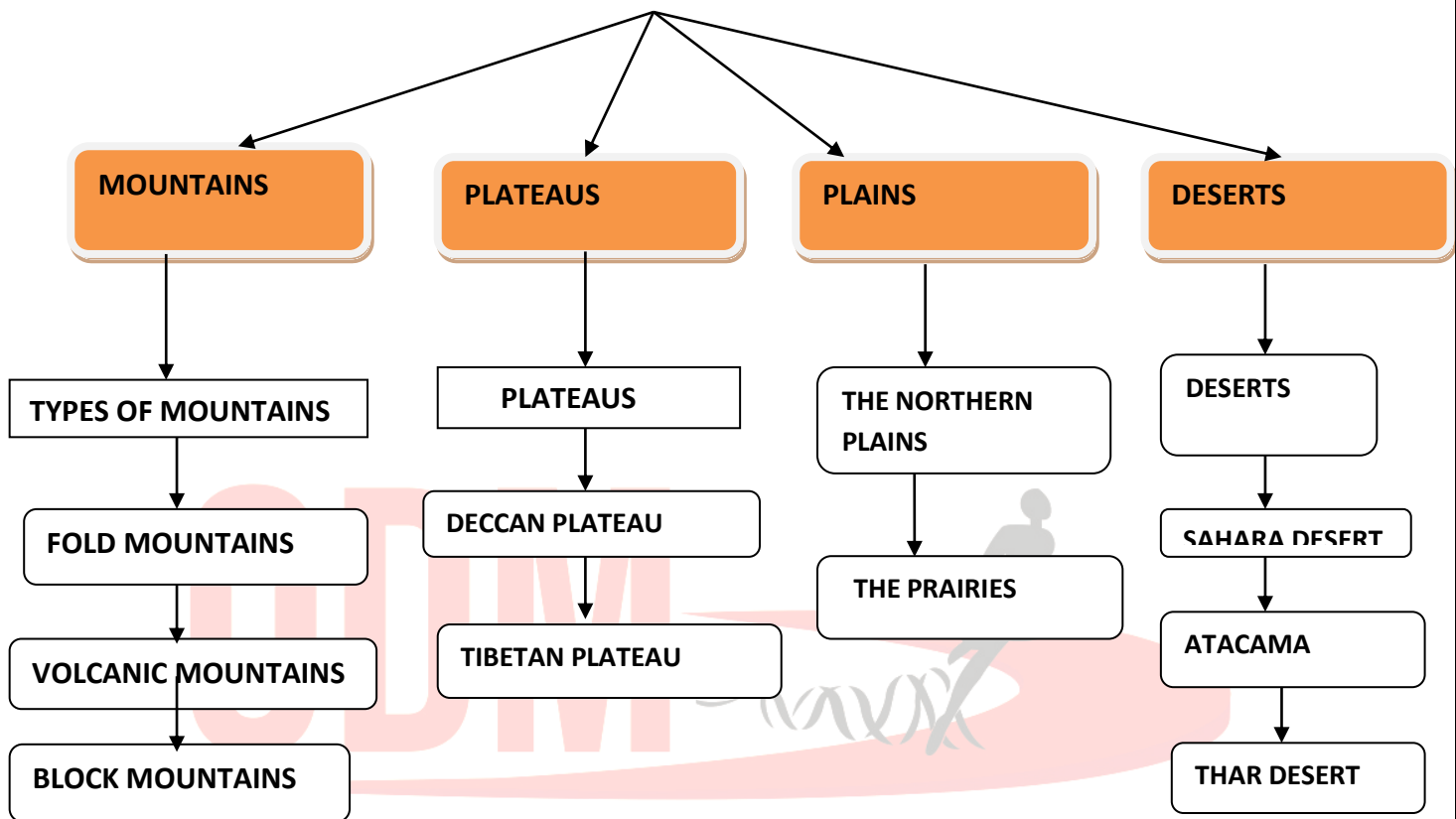
- ❖ An island is a land mass surrounded on all sides by water.
- ❖ Sri Lanka is an island.
- ❖ Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal are a group of islands which are a part of India.
- ❖ Australia is the world's largest island.



Rivers:

- ❖ Long streams of water are called rivers.
- ❖ Many rivers start in the mountains from melting snow in glaciers.
- ❖ They have water throughout the year and are called perennial rivers.
- ❖ Most rivers in North India are perennial rivers.
- ❖ In South India, rivers are formed by rainwater.
- ❖ They do not have water throughout the year are called seasonal rivers.
- ❖ Rivers, ultimately, flow into the sea.
- ❖ Along the course of a river, several smaller rivers join the main river. They are called tributaries of the main river.
- Before entering the sea, the river becomes very slow. It carries a lot of sediment. This keeps getting deposited on the way, and causes the river to break up into channels or distributaries. These spread out like a triangle before falling into the sea. Such a region is called a delta.
- ❖ The delta made by the Brahmaputra and the Ganga is the largest in the world.
- ❖ The Nile in Egypt is the longest river in the world.
- ❖ Some other important rivers are the Mississippi in the USA, the Congo in Africa and the Ganga in India.
- ❖ In history we find that great civilizations have always developed along rivers, as the soil is richest here and the rivers provide water for drinking, domestic and agriculture purposes.

MEMORY MAP

**Let's know more:**

A. Fill in the blanks:

1. The Himalayan ranges and Mount Everest were formed about _____ years ago.
2. A _____ is a narrow passage of water connecting two seas or two large areas of water.
3. The large shapes of land that make up the earth are all called _____.

Let's Do:

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. The lowland between two mountains is called _____.
2. The _____ Plateau is known as the roof of the world.
3. A triangular piece of land near the mouth of a river is called _____.
4. A perennial river starts in the _____.
5. The tip of a peninsula is called a _____.

C. **Name these.**

1. The largest desert in the world:

2. The longest river in the world:
3. The highest peak in the world:
4. An island country in the Indian Ocean:
5. A plateau in India:

Understand and Answer:

D. Answer the following questions.

1. What are landforms? Name the main landforms of the Earth.
2. What are fold mountains? Give an example.
3. What is the difference between a mountain and a plateau?
4. What is a peninsula? Give an example.
5. What is the difference between a perennial and a seasonal river?
6. What is the difference between a tributary and a distributary?
7. What is a desert? Name some of the important deserts of the world.

E. Multiple choice questions:

1. The Black Forest Mountains are
 - a. fold mountains
 - b. block mountains
 - c. volcanic mountains
 - d. glaciers
2. Lowland between hills or mountains is called a
 - a. pass
 - b. valley
 - c. peak
 - d. plateau
3. The landforms that are most heavily populated are
 - a. coasts
 - b. plateau
 - c. plains
 - d. mountains
4. The Kalahari Desert lies in
 - a. Southern Africa
 - b. South America
 - c. North Africa
 - d. Europe
5. Small rivers that flow into the main river are called
 - a. distributaries
 - b. tributaries
 - c. perennial rivers
 - d. seasonal rivers

Teacher's Note:

When we study history, we find that most civilizations develop along rivers. Why is that so?

Improve your G. K:

Greenland is the largest island in the world.

An isthmus is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger areas of land across a body of water.

ANSWER KEY**Let's know more :**

A. Fill in the blanks:

1. 60 millions
2. Strait
3. landforms.

Let's Do:

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. valleys.
2. Tibetan Plateau
3. delta.
4. mountains.
5. Cape

C. Name these.

1. Sahara Desert
2. Nile in Egypt
3. Mount Everest

4. Sri Lanka

5. Deccan Plateau

Understand and Answer:

D.

1. Ans. The different features that make up the Earth's surface are called landforms . The main landforms of the earth are mountains, plains, plateaus and deserts.
2. Some Mountains are formed when two large land masses push against each other they are called fold mountains. Example-Himalayas and Rockies in the North America and the Alps in Europe are fold mountains.

3.

Mountains	Plateaus
Mountains are Rocky masses of land that Rises higher than the surroundings.	A large area of land that is higher than the surrounding and more or less flat at the top is called a plateau.
Mountains have very steep slopes and high peaks .	Plateaus do not have steep slopes and high peaks.

4. A landmass which projects into the sea and is surrounded by water on three sides is called a Peninsula.
Example the southern part of our country is a Peninsula.

5.

Perennial rivers	Seasonal rivers
Perennial river starts in mountains from melting snow glaciers.	Seasonal rivers are formed from the rain water .
Perennial rivers have water throughout the year.	Seasonal river do not have water throughout the year.

6. Several small rivers that joins with the main river are called tributaries .
Before entering into the sea the river carries a lot of sediments this gets deposited on the way and causes the river to break up the channels are called distributaries.
7. Deserts are large extremely dry areas of land and receives very little rainfall are called deserts.
The important deserts of the world are:
The Sahara desert in the North Africa .
The Kalahari Desert in the Southern Africa .

E. Multiple choice questions.

1. b. block mountains
2. b. valley
3. c. plains
4. a. Southern Africa
5. b. tributaries

