

21/11/21  
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## Natural vegetation and wildlife



\* Natural vegetation refers to a plant community which has grown naturally without human aid and has been left undisturbed by human 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.

### Factors affecting flora & fauna Kingdom

i) Land

→ Land affects natural vegetation directly and indirectly.

→ The fertile land 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.

ii) 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.

## Types of vegetation

1. Tropical evergreen forests
2. Tropical deciduous ~~forests~~ forests
3. Tropical thorn forests & scrubs
4. montane forests
5. mangrove forests

### iii) Soil

- Different types of soils provide a basis for different types of vegetation.
- The sandy soils of 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.

## Vegetation are of 2 types

- Endemic species :- These plant species which originated from the country are termed as endemic species.
- Exotic species :- These plant species which originated outside the country.

## Ecosystem

- Various species of plants occur in areas having similar climatic conditions.
- All the plants & animals in an area are interdependent on each other and in their physical environment & form an ecosystem.

## ~~Topical program forest~~

## Questions for homework

1. What is flora & fauna.
2. "Land & soil affects the natural vegetation directly and indirectly." Justify by giving

- 2 examples.
3. Name 2 non flowering plants.
  4. Name any 2 factors that form flora & fauna.
  5. what is a biome?
  6. Describe the altitude zones of vegetation in the mountainous regions.

or

"The mountainous range of India exhibits a succession of natural vegetation belts from tropical to tundra types, all compressed into an altitude of 6 km or so" Justify with 4 examples from different altitude belts.

or

Describe major vegetation zones of the Himalayan region.

### Answers

As 1 The term flora is used to denote plants of a particular region and the species

of animals is called fauna.

Q2. \* The sandy soil of a desert supports cacti and thorny bushes.

\* Wet, marshy, deltaic soil supports mangroves.

Q3. Fern, monoplants

Q4. Soil, climate

Q5. A very large ecosystem on land having distinct types of vegetation and animal life is called a biome.

Q6. > Altitude is a vital condition in the distribution of vegetation in mountainous region, because temperature decreases with increasing altitude.

> In mountainous region, we can see a variety of natural vegetation belt from tropical to the tundra region, with varying altitude.

## Tropical Evergreen forests

→ They are the forests present in western ghats and the island groups of lakshwadeep, andaman and nicobar, upper parts of assam and tamil nadu coast.

1. These Forest grow best in areas having rainfall more than 200cm with a short dry season.
2. The trees reach great heights up to 60 metres or even above.
3. It has a vegetation of all kinds i.e., trees, shrubs & creeper 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 chincona.

6. Common animals found in these forests are elephant, monkey, lemur.

### tropical deciduous forest

→ These forests are also called the monsoon forests.

1. They spread over the region having rainfall between 200cm and 70cm.
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 200cm and 100cm. Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. Bamboo, sal, shisham, sandalwood, khair, Kusum, arjun and mulberry are other commercially important species.



★ Dry deciduous - These are found in areas having rainfall between 100cm & 70cm. These are open stretches, in which teak, sal, shepal & neem grow.