

Natural vegetation and wildlife

Types of vegetation

- (1) Tropical evergreen forests
- (2) Tropical deciduous forests
- (3) Tropical thorn forest and scrubs
- (4) Montane forests
- (5) mangrove forests

Tropical Evergreen forests

- 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 meters 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, leopard and deer.

Tropical deciduous forests

① They are spread over the region receiving rain fall between 900 cm and 2000 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~~ divided into :-

→ moist deciduous :- These are found in areas receiving rainfall between 900 and 1000 cm. Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. Bamboos, sal, shisham, sandalwood, khair, keekar, gajjar and mulberry are other commercially important species.

→ Dry deciduous :- These are found in areas receiving rainfall between 1000 cm and 2000 cm. There are open stretches, in which ~~teak~~ teak, sal, peepal and neem grow.

The thorn forests and scrubs

- ① Trees are scattered and have long roots penetrating deep into the soil to get moisture.
- ② The stems are moist to conserve water.
- ③ Leaves are mostly thick and small 'to minimise evaporation'.
- ④ Acacias, palms, euphorbias and cacti are the main plant species.

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- ⑤ Common animals are rats, mice, rabbits, deer, wolf, tiger, lion, wild ass, horses and camels.

Montane forests

- ① The wet temperate type of forests are found between a height of 1000 and 2000 meters.
- ② Alpine grassland are used for grazing.
- ③ At higher altitudes, mosses and lichens form part of tundra vegetation.

Mangrove forests

- 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 under water.
- ③ Sundari trees are found in Ganga - Brahmaputra delta and provide hard timber.
- ④ Royal Bengal Tiger is a famous animal in these forests.