

Natural Vegetation and wild life

Q. What is natural or virgin vegetation?

Ans) Natural or virgin vegetation means the plant community which has grown naturally without any human intervention for a long time. The natural vegetation, which are left undisturbed over a long period of time are called virgin vegetation.

→ virgin vegetation are of two types

1) Endemic species -

These plant species which originated from the country are termed as endemic species.

2) Exotic species -

These plant species which originated outside the country are termed as exotic species.

What do you mean

→ The term flora and fauna,

→ The term flora is used to denote plants of a particular region or period. The species of animals are referred to as fauna.

→ Relief features:

- Land - sand affects natural vegetation directly and indirectly.

The fertile land is generally devoted to agriculture. The undulating and rough terrains are areas where grasslands and woodland develop and give shelter to a variety of wildlife.

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

The sandy soils of the desert support cactus and thorny bushes which use sparingly.

deltaic soils support mangroves and deltaic vegetation. The soil at the hill slopes has

- conical trees.

3) Climate

- Temperature - the characteristic 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 low rainfall.

→ Types of vegetation

→ In India, the following major types of vegetation are found.

- 1) Tropical Evergreen forests
- 2) Tropical Deciduous forests
- 3) Tropical Thorn forests and Scrubs
- 4) Montane forests
- 5) Mangrove forest

Q. Sand and soil affects the natural vegetation directly and indirectly. Justify the statement by giving two examples.

- The sandy soil of the desert support cactus and thorny bushes
- Wet marshy, deltaic soil supports mangroves.

Q. What is an eco-system?

A. The Interdependence of species of plants and animals in a given area forms a single Ecosystem

Q. Name two non-flowering plants

A. Ferns, algae and fungi.

Q. Name any two factors that form the flora and fauna?

A. Soil, relief, climate and drainage.

Q. What is biome?

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

Q. Why does India possess a great variety of flora and fauna?

Ans. India possesses a large variety of flora and fauna due to latitude, altitude and climatic position along with relief features like mountains, plains, deserts and coastal plain.