

18.11.2021

CHAPTER-5 NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE

★ 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 Forests

★ Tropical Evergreen Forests :-

These forests are present in the Western Ghats and the island groups of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, upper parts of Assam and Tamil Nadu coast.

1. These forests grow best in areas having rainfall more than 200cm with a short dry season.
The trees reach great heights up to 60m or even above.
2. It has the vegetation of all kinds i.e. trees, shrubs and creepers giving it a ~~multi~~ multi layered structure.
3. ~~These~~ These forests appear green all the year-round.
4. Important trees of this forest are ebony, mahogany, rosewood, rubber and cinchona.
5. Common animals found in these forests are elephant, monkey, lemur and deer.

* Tropical Deciduous Forests :-
These forests are also known as monsoon forests.

1. They are spread over the region having rainfall between 200cm and 70cm.

2. They shed their leaves for about 6-8 weeks in the dry summer.

3. In these forests, the common animals found are lion, tiger, pig, deer and ~~etc etc~~ elephant.

These forests are further divided into:

1. Moist Deciduous: These are found in areas having rainfall between 200 and 100cm. Teak is the most dominant species of this forest. Bamboo, sal, Shikam, sandalwood, Khair, Kusum, Arjun and mulberry are other commercially important species.

2. Dry deciduous: These are found in areas having rainfall between 100cm and 70cm. There are open stretches, in which

teak, sal, peepal and neem grow.

* The Thorn Forests and Scrubs:
The natural vegetation consists of thorny trees and bushes. This type of vegetation is found in the north-western part of the country, including semi-arid areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

1. ~~These~~ 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, ~~stump~~ euphorbia and casti are the main plant species.

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

* Montane Forests:

Montane forests are the forests which are found in the mountains.

1. The wet temperate type of forests are found between a height of 1000 and 2000 m.
2. At high altitudes, generally more than 3500 m above the sea level, temperate forests and grasslands give way to the Alpine vegetation.
3. Alpine grasslands are used for grazing.
4. At higher altitudes, ~~mosses~~ mosses and lichens form part of tundra vegetation.
5. The common animals found

are Kashmir stag, spotted deer, wild ~~st~~ sheep, jack, rabbit, Tibetan antelope, yak, snow leopard, squirrels, shaggy horn wild ibex, bear and rare red panda, sheep and goats.

* Mangrove Forests:

Mangroves are trees that live along tropical coastlines, ~~are~~ rooted in salty sediments often underwater.

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 underwater.
3. Sundari trees are found in Ganga-Brahmaputra delta and provide hard timber.

4. Royal Bengal Tiger is a famous animal in these forests.

Wildlife:

India is rich in its fauna.

1. Elephants are found in the hot wet forests of Assam, Karnataka and Kerala.
2. One-horned rhinoceroses are found in Assam and West Bengal.
3. Rann of ~~Kachchh~~ Kachchh is the habitat for wild ass whereas the Thar desert is the habitat for camels.
4. The natural habitat of the Indian lion is the gir forest in Gujarat.
5. Tigers are found in the forests of ~~Madh~~ Madhya Pradesh, the Sundarbans of West Bengal and the

Himalayan region.

6. Ladakh's freezing high altitudes are home to yaks, the shaggy horned wild ox, the Tibetan ~~ant~~ antelope, the bhoral (blue sheep), wild sheep, and the kiang (Tibetan wild ass).

7. In the rivers, lakes and coastal areas, turtles, crocodiles and gharials are found.

8. ~~Pea~~ Peacocks, pheasants, ducks, parakeets, cranes and pigeons are some of the birds inhabiting the forests and ~~wet~~ wetlands of the country.

Cause of Major Threat to flora and fauna

Every species has an ~~a~~ important role in the ecosystem. Hence, conservation of flora and fauna is essential. About 1,300 plant

species are endangered and 20 species are extinct. The main causes of this major threat to nature are:

1. Hunting for commercial purposes
2. Pollution due to chemical and industrial waste
3. Rapidly cutting of the forests for cultivation and habitation.

Government Initiative to Protect Flora and Fauna

The government has taken many steps to protect the flora and fauna of our country.

1. 18 biosphere reserves have been set up in India to protect flora and fauna. 10 out of these have been included in the world network of biosphere reserves.
2. Financial and technical assistance has been provided

to many botanical gardens by the government since 1992.

3. Project Tiger, Project Rhino, Project Great Indian Bustard and many other eco-developmental projects have been introduced by the government.

4. 103 National Parks, 535 Wildlife sanctuaries and Zoological gardens are set up to take care of natural heritage.

HOMEWORK

Q2. 1. A type of vegetation

Ans:- Montane Forests

2. A type of vegetation

Ans:- Tropical Deciduous Forests

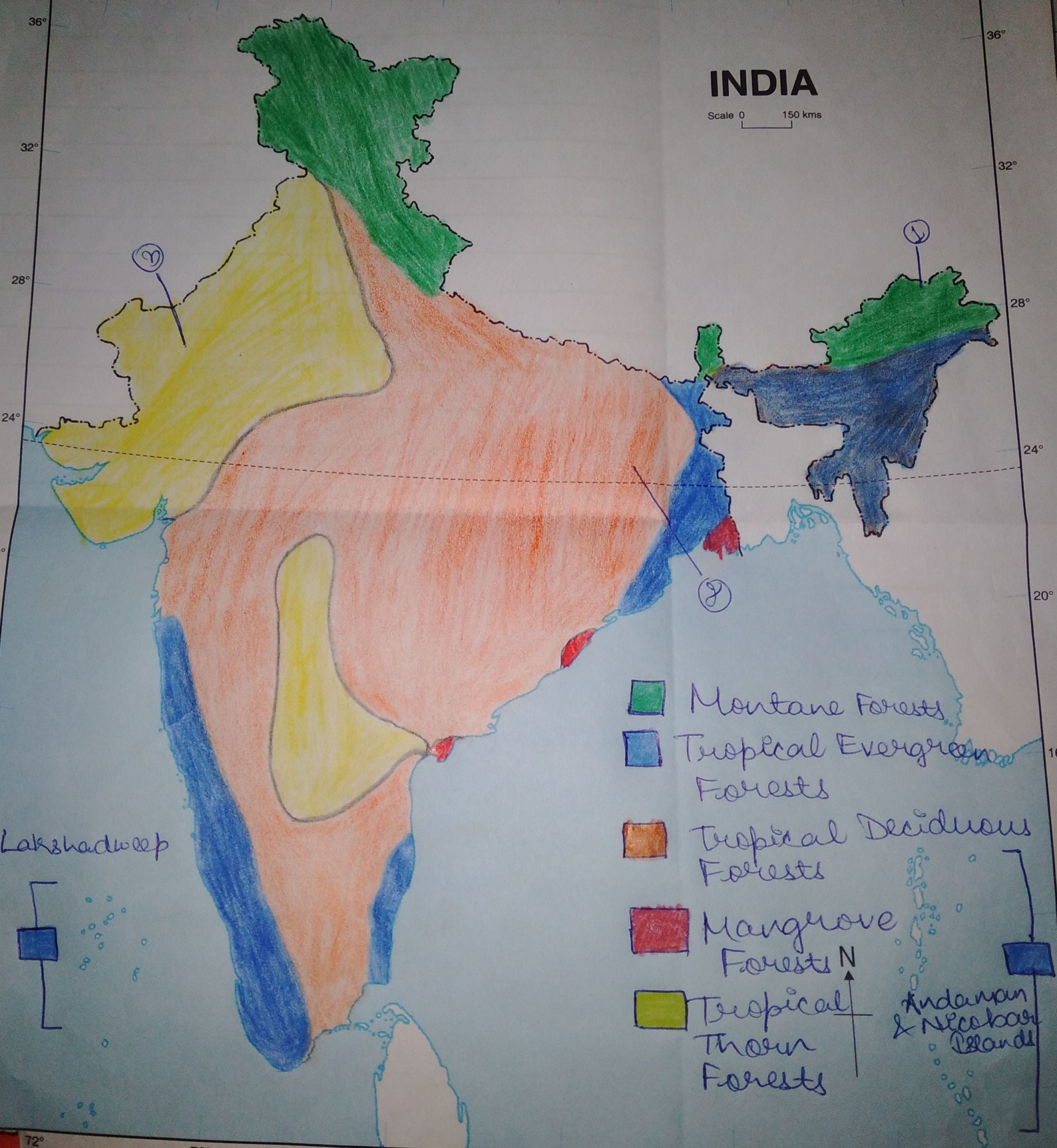
3. A type of vegetation

Ans:- Tropical Thorn Forests

68° 72° 76° 80° 84° 88° 92° 96°

INDIA

Scale 0 150 kms



- Montane Forests
- Tropical Evergreen Forests
- Tropical Deciduous Forests
- Mangrove Forests
- Tropical Thorn Forests

Lakshadweep

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

N

72° 76° 80° 84° 88° 92°