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**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**GRADE: 6 DATE: 26.2.21**

**10. INDIA - NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE**

**I.WRITE SHORT NOTES ON**

**1. Tropical rainforests:**

**These forests are found in areas of heavy rainfall. They are called evergreen forests because their trees do not shed leaves in a particular period during the year. Thus, they remain green throughout the year. Ebony, mahogany and rosewood are the tree varieties found in these forests. In India, they are found in the Western Ghats and parts of Odisha and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

**2. Tropical deciduous forests:**

**These forests are also known as monsoon forests because the trees of these forests shed their leaves for a period of few weeks, though the time in which these trees shed their leaves is not the same. Teak and sal are important tree varieties of these forests. In India, they are found in the foothills of the Himalayas and parts of Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.  
  
3. Desert vegetation:**

**Desert areas are characterised by low rainfall and extreme temperatures. Hence, to reduce the loss of water through evaporation, vegetation here is modified accordingly. Thick bark and long thorns prevent the loss of water. Shrubs and bushes are found here. In India, they are found in the western parts of Rajasthan.  
  
4. Mangrove forests**

**Mangrove forests are found along salt marshes, coastlines and backwaters. The trees in these forests can survive in both saltwater and freshwater. In India, the delta region of Ganga and Brahmaputra has these forests. The Sunderbans comprise a tree variety called Sundari; the wood of this tree is very hard and durable.  
  
5. Wildlife in India:**

**India has a wide variety of flora and fauna. It has more than 5,000 species of trees, 80,000 species of animals and 1,200 species of birds. But due to the ever-increasing population, these numbers are going down, so there is a need to conserve these species. For this purpose, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries have been established in large parts of the country.**

**II.ANSWER THE FOLLOWING**

**1. Name the major types of forests found in India**

**The major types of forests found in India are as follows:**

* **Tropical rainforests**
* **Tropical deciduous forests**
* **Desert forests**
* **Alpine forests**
* **Coniferous forests**
* **Mangrove forests**

**2. Why are the tropical rainforests called evergreen forests?**

**Tropical rainforests are found in areas of heavy rainfall. They are called evergreen forests because their trees shed their leaves gradually during the year. Thus, they remain green throughout the year. Ebony, mahogany and rosewood are the tree varieties found in these forests.**

**3. What are the products obtained from the forests?**

**Products that are obtained from forests are as follows:**

* **Wood**
* **Rubber**
* **Lac**
* **Resin**
* **Gum**
* **Cellulose**
* **Tendu leaves**
* **Medicinal herbs**

**4.. What is the significance of national park in India?**

**National parks are important not only for the conservation of the wildlife but also for the preservation of natural vegetation. They help in keeping the beauty of the forests intact while maintaining the ecological balance.**

**6. Why does India have a large variety of forests?**

**The distribution of forests depends on the location of a place. India is ideally located in the tropical zone; this factor is responsible for optimum rainfall and temperature for the growth of forests. This is the reason for a large variety of forests found here. The variation in tree varieties comes with the uneven distribution of rainfall in the country. The major types of forests found in India are:**

* **Tropical rainforests**
* **Tropical deciduous forests**
* **Desert forests**
* **Alpine forests**
* **Coniferous forests**
* **Mangrove forests**

**7.How are forests in the Himalayas classified?**

**Forests in the Himalayan region are distributed according to their varying altitudes. The classification can be understood as under:**

1. **The Lower Himalayas, i.e the Shiwaliks, are covered with tropical deciduous forests, with teak and sal as the prime varieties of trees.**
2. **With height, the variety of forests changes to coniferous forests. Pine, spruce and fig are important trees found in these forests.**
3. **At heights of more than 3500 metres, alpine vegetation is found.**

**Beyond this height, peaks are covered with snow almost throughout the year.**

**8.What is the importance of forests?**

**Forests are mainly found in regions experiencing abundant rainfall. The importance of forests can be understood with the help of the following points:**

* **They provide us with several useful products (like wood and rubber) useful in our daily lives.**
* **They play an important role in developing the economy of a country.**
* **They help in maintaining the ecological balance of nature.**
* **They are home to a large variety of flora and fauna.**
* **They prevent the soil from getting eroded, thus enhancing its fertility.**
* **They regulate air currents and prevent the occurrence of floods.**

**9.Distinguish between a national park and wildlife sanctuary.**

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| --- | --- |
| **National Park** | **Wildlife Sanctuary** |
| **A national park is meant for the preservation of both flora and fauna.** | **A wildlife sanctuary is meant for the preservation of particular endangered species of wildlife.** |
| **Example: Corbett National Park** | **Example: Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary** |

**HOTS**

**10.Why do you think forests are conserved in areas not fit for cultivation?**

**Cultivation requires clearing of forests on a large scale. In areas that are not fit for cultivation, clearing of forests for cultivation purpose involves a huge cost and labour. This, in turn, increases the cost of production. So, forests are conserved in areas that are not fit for cultivation, e.g. the Western Ghats.**

**11.Why most of the tropical rainforests cannot be exploited for commercial uses?**

**Tropical rainforests cannot be exploited for commercial uses because of the following reasons:**

1. **The tree varieties found here are abundant and scattered and are not found in clusters; this increases the cost of production.**
2. **These forests are very dense, so they are not easily accessible.**
3. **The cultivation of a single species can endanger the fragile ecosystem of the area and lead to catastrophic results.**

**12. Do you think public awareness is a must for conserving wildlife?**

**The sole efforts of the government cannot ensure the safety and conservation of wildlife. Public awareness and public sensitivity towards the problem are equally important for conserving wildlife. If people are aware of the benefits of conserving wildlife and means to achieve it, then the government plans and policies can effectively be implemented to meet the purpose.**