

Lesson at a Glance

- Trees, grass, lichen, mosses, etc. that grow naturally without human interference constitute **natural vegetation**.
- The growth of natural vegetation depends on temperature and moisture. It also depends on factors such as slope and thickness of soil.
- Natural vegetation is classified into three categories—**forests, grasslands and shrubs**.
- The changes in the type of natural vegetation occur mainly because of the changes of **climatic condition**.
- Forests grow where temperature and rainfall are plentiful to support a tree cover. Forests may be dense and open.
- **Tropical evergreen forests** also known as tropical **rainforests** are very dense and are found in the regions near the equator and close to the tropics. Hardwood trees such as rosewood, ebony, mahogany are common here.
- **Tropical deciduous forests** are **monsoon forests**. They are found in the large part of India, Northern Australia and in Central America. They shed their leaves in dry seasons. Trees like sal, teak, neem and shisham are found here.
- **Temperate evergreen forests** are commonly found along the eastern margin of the continents. In these forests both hard and soft wood trees such oak, pine, eucalyptus, etc. are found.
- **Temperate deciduous forests** are found in the north eastern part of USA, China, New Zealand and Chile. They shed their leaves in dry season. Trees like oak, ash, beech etc. and animals like deer, foxes, wolves are common in these forests.
- Mediterranean vegetation is mostly found in the areas around the Mediterranean sea in Europe, Africa and Asia. Mediterranean vegetation is mainly comprised of citrus fruits such as oranges, figs, olives and grapes.
- **Coniferous forests** are also known as **Traga**. These forests are found in the higher latitudes of Northern hemisphere. They are also found in the higher altitudes. The trees are tall, softwood evergreen trees. Chir, pine, cedar are important variety of trees

in these forests. Animals such as silver fox, mink, polar bear are common here.

- **Grasslands** include tropical and temperate grasslands. Tropical grasslands grow in the areas of moderate to low amount of rainfall. Savannah grasslands of Africa present suitable example of these types of grasslands. Animals like elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer are commonly found here.
- Temperate grasslands are found in the mid-latitudinal zones and in the interior part of the continents. Short and nutritious grass is found here. Common animals are buffaloes, bison, antelopes etc.
- **Thorny bushes** are found in the dry deserts. Here, vegetation cover is scarce because of poor rain and scorching heat.
- **Polar regions** are cold and their natural vegetation is limited here. Only mosses, lichens and very small shrubs are found here. Vegetation found in the polar regions is called Tundra type of vegetation. Seal, walrus, musk-oxen, Arctic owl etc. are common here.

■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

Q. 1. Answer the following questions briefly.

- (a) Which are the two factors on which the growth of vegetation mostly depends?
- (b) Which are the three broad categories of natural vegetation?
- (c) Name the two hardwood trees commonly found in tropical evergreen forest.
- (d) In which part of the world are tropical deciduous forests found?
- (e) In which climatic conditions are citrus fruits cultivated?
- (f) Mention the uses of coniferous forest.
- (g) In which part of the world is seasonal grassland found?

- Ans.** (a) The two factors on which the growth of vegetation mostly depends are—temperature and moisture.
 (b) The three broad categories of natural vegetation are—forests, grasslands and shrubs.
 (c) Rosewood and mahogany.
 (d) Tropical deciduous forests are found in the large part of India, northern Australia and in central America.

(e) Citrus fruits are cultivated in the regions marked for hot dry summers and mild rainy winters.

(f) The woods of coniferous forests are tall and soft. Chir, pine and cedar are the important variety of trees in these forests. The woods of these trees are very useful for making pulp, which is used for manufacturing paper and newsprint. Match boxes and packing boxes are also made from softwood.

(g) Seasonal grasslands are found in the mid-latitudinal zones and in the interior part of the continents.

Q. 2. Tick the correct answer.

(a) Mosses and Lichens are found in

(i) Desertic vegetation

(ii) Tropical vegetation

(iii) Tundra vegetation.

(b) Thorny bushes are found in

(i) Hot and humid tropical climate

(ii) Hot and dry desertic climate

(iii) Cold polar climate.

(c) In tropical evergreen forest, one of the common animals is

(i) Monkey

(ii) Giraffe

(iii) Camel.

(d) One important variety of coniferous forest is

(i) Rosewood

(ii) Pine

(iii) Teak.

(e) Steppe grassland is found in

(i) S. Africa

(ii) Australia

(iii) Central Asia.

Ans. (a)—(iii), (b)—(ii), (c)—(i), (d)—(ii), (e)—(iii).

Q. 3. Match the following:

(i) Walrus

(a) Softwood tree

(ii) Cedar

(b) An animal of tropical deciduous forest

(iii) Olives

(c) A polar animal

(iv) Elephants

(d) Temperate grassland in Australia

(v) Campos

(e) Thorny shrubs

(vi) Downs

(f) A citrus fruit

(g) Tropical grassland of Brazil

Ans. (i)—(c), (ii)—(a), (iii)—(f), (iv)—(b), (v)—(g), (vi)—(d).

9. 4. Give reasons:

- The animals in polar region have thick fur and thick skin.
- Tropical deciduous trees shed their leaves in the dry season.
- The type and thickness of vegetation changes from place to place.

- Ans.** (a) The animals in polar region have thick fur and thick skin to protect themselves from the cold climatic conditions.
- (b) Tropical deciduous trees shed their leaves in the dry season to conserve water.
- (c) The type and thickness of vegetation changes from place to place because of the variation in temperature and moisture.

9. 5. Activity:

- Collect pictures and photographs of forests and grasslands of different parts of world. Write one sentence below each picture.
- Make a collage of rainforest, grassland and coniferous forests.

- Ans.** (a) Pictures and photographs of forests and grasslands of different parts of world.

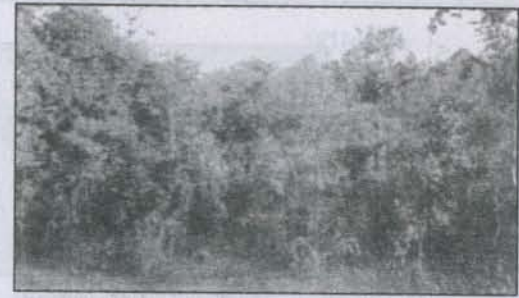
1.



A Tropical Evergreen Forest

These forests are found in the regions near the equator and close to the tropics. These regions are hot and receive heavy rainfall throughout the year. These trees do not shed their leaves altogether.

2.



A Tropical Deciduous Forest

These forests are the monsoon forests found in the large part of India, northern Australia and in central America. Trees shed their leaves in dry season.

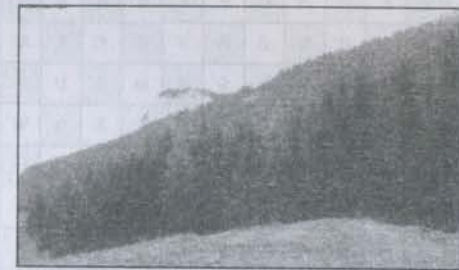
3.



A Temperature Evergreen Forest

These forests are commonly found along the eastern margin of the continents and comprise both hard and softwood trees like oak, pine etc.

4.



Coniferous forests are characterised by tall and softwood trees.

5.



Tropical Grassland

The grass can grow very tall, about 3 to 4 metres in height. Savannah grasslands of Africa are of this type.

(b) Students are suggested to do this activity themselves.

9. 6. For Fun:

In the crossword table given below, some words are hidden. They are all about vegetation and wildlife and are to be found horizontally and vertically. Two have been worked out for you. Work in pairs with a friend.

M	T	N	L	P	L	M	E	H	R	T	B	A	M	B	O	O	P	N	A
B	E	A	R	A	I	X	S	E	E	R	C	M	W	H	A	L	E	D	C
T	L	P	F	L	O	R	A	N	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	C	E	E	M
A	E	I	A	M	N	L	I	C	H	E	N	S	L	F	O	A	P	E	S
N	P	G	U	D	O	G	R	T	Z	X	E	D	R	H	X	M	A	R	J
A	H	T	N	H	N	D	P	I	N	E	S	C	U	I	V	E	L	D	K
C	A	C	A	M	P	O	S	G	V	N	N	A	S	E	A	L	M	Q	U
O	N	A	C	F	O	W	L	E	E	E	A	C	D	E	O	D	A	R	M
N	T	C	H	I	R	N	G	R	V	E	K	T	M	O	S	S	E	S	O
D	O	T	E	A	K	S	R	S	E	M	E	U	S	A	P	C	G	A	N
A	X	U	R	M	A	A	N	G	R	A	S	S	W	K	A	R	Q	V	K
P	S	S	B	H	F	T	A	I	G	A	T	U	L	S	I	U	Y	A	E
G	H	F	I	R	P	R	A	I	R	I	E	S	A	B	E	B	O	N	Y
B	R	B	R	G	O	A	T	D	E	C	I	D	U	O	U	S	W	N	A
T	U	N	D	R	A	X	Z	E	B	R	A	H	O	R	S	E	L	A	K
C	B	E	E	A	X	L	L	A	N	O	S	A	T	P	A	M	P	A	S

Ans. Vegetation

1. Neem
2. Bamboo
3. Flora
4. Lichen
5. Pine
6. Chir
7. Grass
8. Taiga
9. Tulsi
10. Fir
11. Tundra
12. Ebony
13. Pampas
14. Llanos
15. Mosses
16. Oak
17. Peepal

Wildlife

1. Bear
2. Whale
3. Ox
4. Zebra
5. Goat
6. Tiger
7. Yak
8. Owl
9. Deer
10. Lion
11. Fowl
12. Horse
13. Pig
14. Camel

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