



Chapter 1: Geographical Diversity of India

Questions and Activities

Que 1. What, in your opinion, are two important geographical features of India? Why do you think they are important?

Ans:

1. **The Himalayas:** They protect India from cold winds and help bring rain (Monsoon).
2. **The Northern Plains:** Their fertile soil allows us to grow food for the whole country.

Que 2. What do you think India might have looked like if the Himalayas did not exist? Write a short note or sketch a drawing to express your imagination.

Ans: If the Himalayas did not exist:

1. Cold winds would blow directly into India.
2. Monsoon rainfall would decrease, thereby adversely affecting agriculture.
3. Major rivers like the Ganges and Yamuna would either not have formed or would be significantly weaker.
4. The threat of external invasions would increase.
5. India's climate, economy, and culture would be profoundly impacted.

Que 3. India has been called a 'mini-continent'. Based on what you've read, why do you think this is so?

Ans: Because it has a huge variety of landforms (mountains, deserts, plains, and coasts) and many different cultures and climates, just like a whole continent.

Que 4. Follow one of India's big rivers from where it starts to where it meets the ocean. What are the different ways in which people might utilise this river along its journey? Discuss in groups in your class.

Ans:

1. One of India's major rivers is the Ganges (Ganga).
2. It originates at Gangotri in the state of Uttarakhand.
3. It flows into the Bay of Bengal, where it meets the sea.
4. It is utilized as a source of drinking water, for irrigation, for transportation (via boats, etc.), and for religious rituals and worship.

Que 5. Why is the southern part of India referred to as a peninsular plateau?

Ans: It is a peninsula because it is surrounded by water on three sides. It is a plateau because the land is high and flat like a tabletop.

Que 6. Which UNESCO Heritage Site mentioned in this chapter did you find more interesting? Write a short paragraph to describe what about it is interesting.

Ans: The heritage sites in this chapter that I found interesting are:

1. Jaisalmer Fort
2. Great Himalayan National Park
3. Western Ghats
4. Sundarbans Delta

Interesting Facts:

1. Jaisalmer Fort – It is known as the "Golden Fort" because it is constructed from yellow sandstone and appears golden when illuminated by sunlight.
2. Great Himalayan National Park – Rare animals, such as the Snow Leopard, are found here.
3. Western Ghats – This region is characterized by extremely rich biodiversity.
4. Sundarbans Delta – It is the largest delta in the world and is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Que 7. Look at the two maps of India, physical as well as political given at the end of this book. Identify the place you are at now. Which physical feature of India would you use to describe its location?

Ans: We reside in the Delhi region. According to the physical map of India, this area is situated within the Northern Plains. This region is flat, fertile, and densely populated.

Que 8. Food preservation techniques differ from place to place across India. They are adapted to local conditions. Do a class project. Gather different methods of preserving food. Hint: Drying vegetables when they are in season for use during the off-season.

Ans :

Class Project

Food Preservation Methods:

1. Sun-drying – Preserving items such as berries, peas, and mangoes by drying them in the sun.
2. Salting – Preserving items such as pickles and fish.
3. Adding Sugar – Preparing jams, jellies, and *murabba* (fruit preserves).
4. Adding Oil and Spices – Ensuring that pickles last for a long duration.
5. Refrigeration – Keeping food safe and fresh by storing it in a refrigerator.

Que 9. Despite having such different regions (mountains, deserts, plains, coasts), India remains one country. How do you think our geography has helped unite people?

Ans: India's geographical location aids in its unification in the following ways:

1. Natural Boundaries – The Himalayas and the seas provide India with a distinct identity.
2. Rivers – Rivers such as the Ganges, Yamuna, etc., culturally connect the people.
3. Transport and Trade – Contact and mutual understanding between different regions are enhanced.
4. Unity in Diversity – Unity is maintained despite the existence of diverse lifestyles.
5. Interdependence – People rely on one another for resources found in different regions.

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