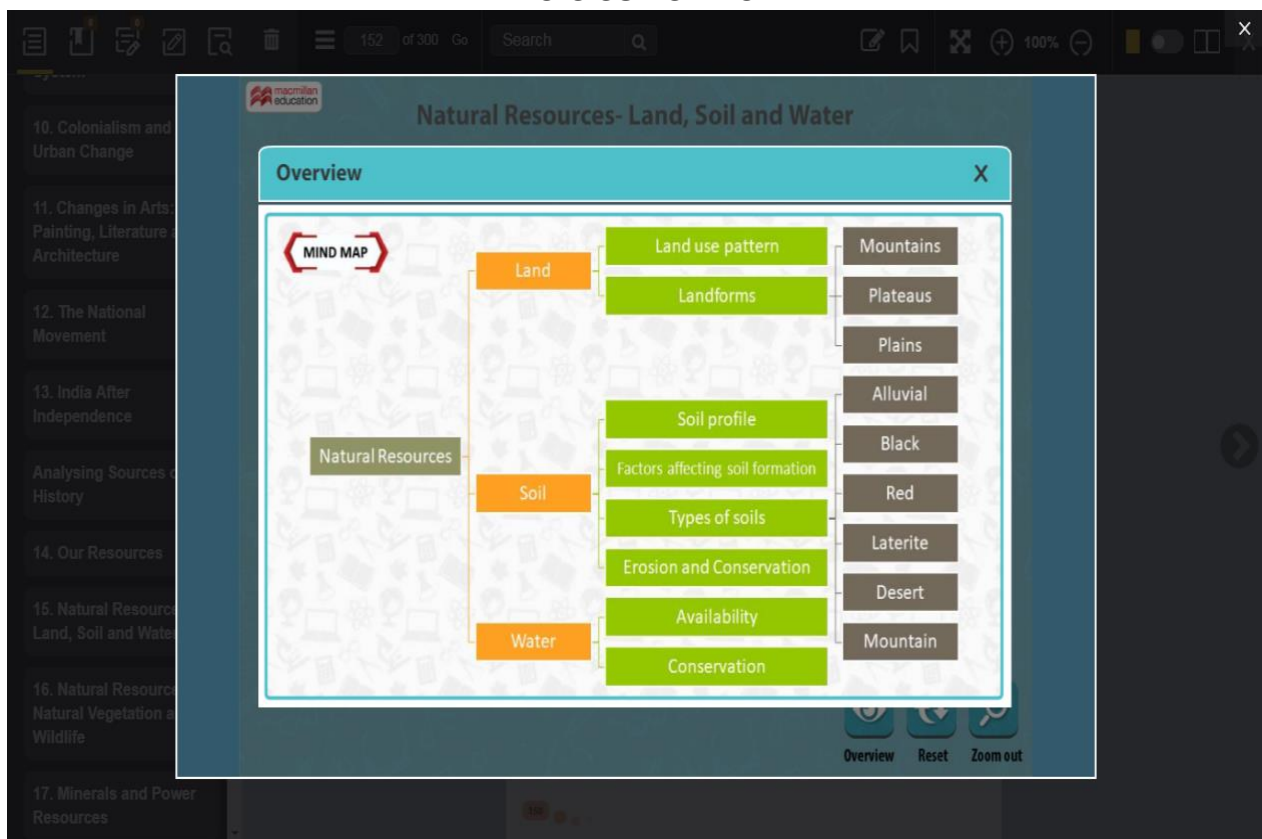


**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MANDLA ROAD, JABALPUR**  
**CLASS NOTES ON GEOGRAPHY**

**CHAPTER 15 – NATURAL RESOURCES – LAND, SOIL AND WATER**

**BASIC CONCEPTS**



III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES.

1. What is a plateau?

A plateau is a large elevated tableland separated from its surrounding areas by steep slopes.

2. What do you understand by the term 'humus'?

Humus is the organic component of soil formed by the decomposition of leaves and other plant material by microorganisms present in the soil.

3. What is leaching?

Leaching is the process of removing chemical or mineral from soil.

4. What are shelter belts?

Trees planted to check the wind velocity, especially, in coastal and dry regions are called shelter belts. They are also used to stabilise sand dunes.

5. How is terrace cultivation beneficial?

Terrace cultivation is undertaken to cut a series of steps on the slopes of hilly areas making terraces which prevents soil erosion.

6. State three factors responsible for soil erosion.

Deforestation, overgrazing and shifting cultivation are causes of soil erosion.

IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF.

1. Write a short note on black soil.

Black soil is black or grey in colour formed due to weathering of basaltic rocks. It is also called regur soil and is rich in clay content and can retain moisture. It is mostly found in the north-western part of the Peninsular Plateau in parts of Maharashtra, Gujarat, western Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. The soil is excellent for the cultivation of cotton; hence, it is also known as the black cotton soil.

2. Distinguish between mountain and arid soils.

Mountain Soil	Arid/ Desert Soil
It is found on the hill slopes and high-altitude regions.	It forms mostly in the dry regions, such as desert areas.
It is rich in humus. This type of soil varies according to altitude. As the altitude increases, the depth of soil decreases and so does the vegetation.	It has a sandy texture and is porous and saline in nature and lacks humus and moisture. It is not infertile and can be improved by the use of irrigation
Mountain soil is found in the northern and north-eastern areas in India, predominantly in the states of Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.	It is available mostly in the western parts of the country in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and south Punjab.

3. Explain in brief the factors affecting soil formation.

The formation of soil is mainly dependent on the following factors:

(i) Parent Material :

These are those rocks from which the soil is formed due to weathering. Parent rocks determines the colour, texture, chemical properties, mineral content and permeability of the soil.

(ii) Relief :

Altitude and the slope of the land determine the rate of accumulation of the soil.

(iii) Climate :

Climate influences the rate of weathering, the rate of breakdown of organic matter to humus and also the amount of leaching due to rainfall, which affects the fertility of the soil.

(iv) Time :

The formation of soil is a continuous process. Time determines the thickness of the soil profile.

(v) Flora, Fauna and Microorganisms :

They affect soil formation by contributing to humus production. Roots of plants and burrowing animals also help in loosening and breaking up of soil.

4. Explain rooftop rainwater harvesting.

In urban areas, rainwater is collected from the rooftops of houses and is directed using pipes to underground wells or reservoirs where it is stored. It can be used to recharge groundwater. Rooftop rainwater harvesting is widely practised in Rajasthan.

5. What are the causes of water scarcity?

Water scarcity can be caused by :

- variation in seasonal and annual precipitation and its unequal distribution.
- water is sometimes not equally distributed because of social inequality.
- growing population and urbanisation leading to growing demand of water for domestic use.
- excess use of water for irrigation and increased food production also result in continuous lowering of the water table.

- water pollution due to release of industrial effluents, chemical fertilisers and pesticides used in industries and agricultural production.
- increase in number of industries, which are heavy users of water, and also need hydroelectricity to run them.

## MAP SKILLS (ATTACH ALL THE THREE MAPS IN YOUR FAIR COPIES)

### 1. PAGE NO. 142 of your book

To be done by students.

### 2. PAGE NO. 149 of your book

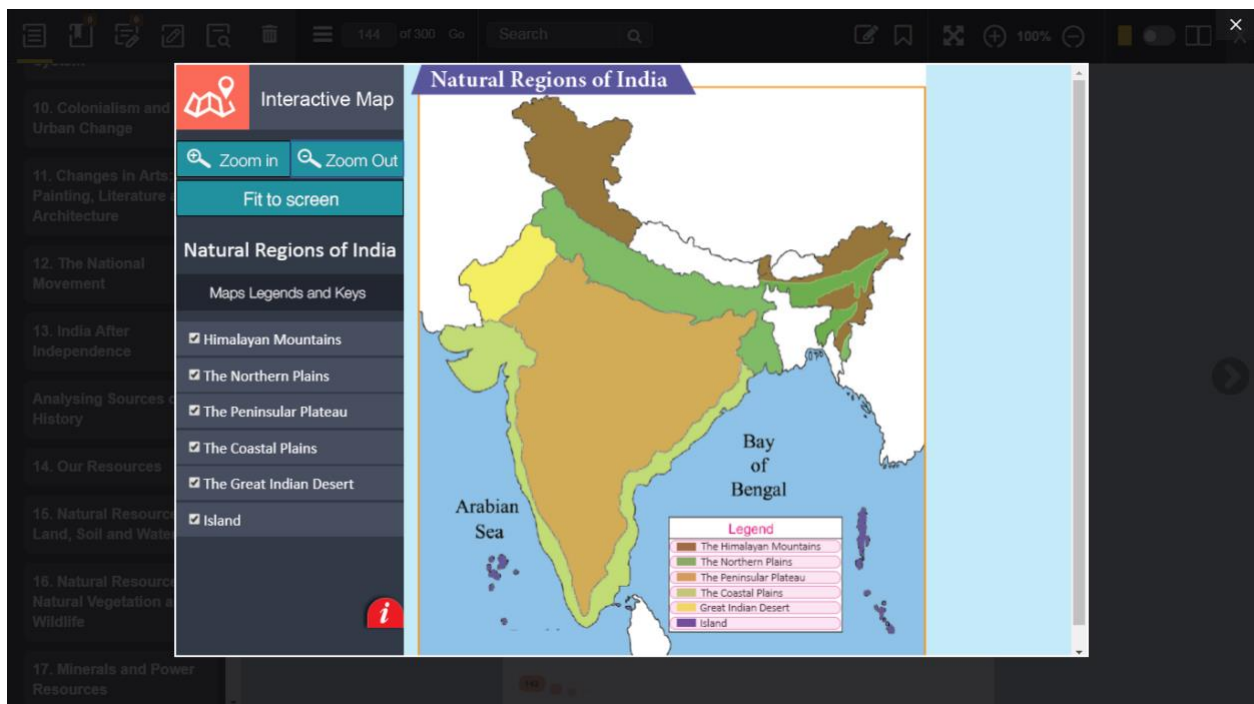
To be done by students.

### 3. PAGE NO. 151 of your book

To be done by students. Take help of maps on pages 143 and 147 of your book.

## NOTE :

*I'm attaching maps for those students who do not have a book.*



145 of 300 Go

10. Colonialism and Urban Change

11. Changes in Arts: Painting, Literature and Architecture

12. The National Movement

13. India After Independence

Analysing Sources of History

14. Our Resources

15. Natural Resources—Land, Soil and Water

16. Natural Resources—Natural Vegetation and Wildlife

17. Minerals and Power Resources

- The Northern Mountains act as a climatic divide as they protect the country from the cold Siberian winds and prevent the monsoon winds from escaping towards the north.
- The Indus-Ganga-Brahmaputra Plains are located south of the Northern Mountains. These are the most extensive and fertile plains in the world and support the maximum density of population.
- The Peninsular Plateau region is located further south of the Northern Plains. This region is a storehouse of various minerals.
- The Coastal Plains are also very fertile.

### Conservation of Land Resources

Increasing population and their ever-increasing needs and wants have put a huge pressure on our land resources. To meet these demands, there has been a large-scale destruction of forest cover and arable land. To check this degradation and depletion of land resources, certain methods are needed to be followed. Afforestation, regulated

soil distribution in India

the organic component of soil formed by the decomposition of leaves and other plant

149 of 300 Go

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- The availability of water varies from region to region and with time. Its distribution is also quite uneven.
- Water availability is mainly determined by rainfall, which occurs mainly during the monsoon season in India. When the monsoon rainfall is good, there is sufficient water availability but when the monsoon rainfall fails, the country faces acute shortage of water.
- Even within the country there are variations in amount of precipitation every year. Regions that receive heavy rainfall, are the Western Ghats and the north-eastern states. These areas are water-surplus

a map showing dams in India