



SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Mention the major features of tropical evergreen forests. [V. Imp.]

Answer: Major features of tropical evergreen forests are:

- These forests are so dense that thick canopies are developed which do not allow the sunlight to penetrate inside the forest.
- As there is no particular dry season, the trees do not shed their leaves altogether. This keeps the forest evergreen.
- Hardwood trees such as rosewood, ebony and mahogany are found here.

2. Mention the features of Mediterranean trees.

Answer: These trees adapt themselves to dry summers with the help of their thick barks and wax coated leaves which help them reduce transpiration.

3. Write a short note tropical grasslands. [V. Imp.]

Answer: Tropical grasslands occur on either side of the equator and extend till the tropics. This vegetation grows in the areas of moderate to low amount of rainfall. The grass can grow very tall, about 3 to 4 metres in height. Savannah grasslands of Africa are of this type. Common animals found here are elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer and leopards.

4. Give an account of the natural vegetation and wildlife found in the polar regions.

Answer: Polar regions are extremely cold. Therefore the growth of natural vegetation is very limited here. Only mosses, lichens and very small shrubs are found here. They grow during the very short summer. This is called Tundra type of vegetation. This vegetation is found in the polar areas of Europe, Asia and North America. The animals found here have thick fur and thick skin which protect them from the cold climatic conditions. Seal, walrus, musk-oxen, Arctic owl, Polar bear and snow foxes are some of the animals found in these regions.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Discuss various types of forests. [V. Imp.]

Answer: Types of forests:

1. Tropical evergreen forests
2. Tropical deciduous forests
3. Temperate evergreen forests
4. Temperate deciduous forests

5. Mediterranean vegetation
6. Coniferous forests

1. Tropical evergreen forests. These forest are very dense and found in the regions near the equator and close to the tropics. These regions receive heavy rain throughout the year. The trees of these forests do not shed their leaves altogether and therefore they remain green all the time. Hardwood trees like rosewood, ebony and mahogany are found here.

2. Tropical deciduous forests. These forest are found in the regions which experience seasonal changes. Trees shed their leaves in the dry season to conserve water. The hardwood trees like sal, teak, neem and shisham are found here. Animals like tigers, lions, elephants, langoors and monkeys are common in these forests.

3. Temperate evergreen forests. These forests are commonly found along the eastern margin of the continents. They comprise both hard and softwood trees. For example, oak, pine, eucalyptus etc.

4. Temperate deciduous forests. Trees of these forests shed their leaves in dry 'season'. Oak, ash, beech, etc. are common trees here. Deer, foxes, wolves, etc. are common animals in these forests.

5. Mediterranean vegetation. It is mostly found in the areas around the Mediterranean sea in Europe, Africa and Asia. Citrus fruits like oranges, figs, olives and grapes are commonly cultivated in the mediterranean regions.

6. Coniferous forests. They are also called Taiga. They are tall, softwood evergreen trees. Chir, pine, cedar are important variety of trees in these forests. Silver, fox, mink, polar bear are the common animals found here.

2. Describe different types of grasslands. [V. Imp.]

Answer: Different types of grasslands are:

1. Tropical grasslands
2. Temperate grasslands
3. Thorny bushes
4. Tropical grasslands. This type of vegetation grows in the areas of moderate to low amount of rainfall. The grass here can grow very tall, about 3 to 4 metres in height. Savannah grasslands of Africa are of this type. Common animals found here are elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer, leopards etc.
5. Temperate grasslands. This type of vegetation is found in the mid-latitudinal zones and in the interior part of the continents. Grass here is usually short and nutritious. Common animals found in this region are wild buffaloes, bison, antelopes etc.
6. Thorny bushes. These are found in the dry desert like regions. Tropical deserts are located on the western margins of the continents, which are characterised by scarce vegetation.

Vegetation in the polar regions is also limited. Only mosses, lichens and very small shrubs are found here. It grows during the very short summer. This is called Tundra type of vegetation. Polar animals have thick fur and thick skin which protect them from the cold climate conditions, for example, seal, walrus, musk-oxen, Arctic owl, etc.

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