



SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Enumerate the major features of the prairies. [Imp.]

Answer: The major features of the prairies are:

- These are the temperate grasslands of North America.
- It is a region of flat, gently sloping or hilly land.
- Prairies are almost treeless for the most part, but near the low lying plains, flanking river valleys, woodlands can be found.
- The landscape is dominated by tall grass, upto two metres high. It looks like a 'sea of grass'.

2. Write a brief note on the climate of the prairies.

Answer: Prairies are located in the middle of the continent (North America). It is therefore, we find there continental type of climate, characterised by extreme temperatures. The summers are warm with temperatures of around 20°C, while in winter -20°C has been recorded in Winnipeg and Canada, the important cities of the American prairies. In winters a thick blanket of snow covers this region. The annual rainfall is moderate. A local wind called Chinook blows here.

3. Write some effects of Chinook? [V. Imp.]

Answer: Chinook is a hot wind that blows in winter. Being hot it raises the temperature within a short time. This increase in temperature results in the melting of snow, making the pasturelands available for grazing of animals.

4. Describe the climate of the velds.

Answer: The velds are under the influence of the Indian Ocean. Therefore they have a mild climate. Winters are cold and dry. Temperatures vary between 5°C and 10°C and July is the coldest month. Summers are short and warm. Rainfall occurs in the summer months from November to February. Drought may occur if the rainfall is poor in the winter months from June to August.

5. Describe the flora and fauna of the prairies. [V. Imp.]

Answer: Flora. Prairies don't have many trees. A few trees such as willows, alders and poplars grow where water is available. Fertile soil is found in the places that receive rainfall of over 50 cm. The crops grown here are maize, potatoes, soyabean, cotton and alfalfa. In the areas receiving poor rainfall, short grasses can be found.

Fauna. Cattle rearing is suitable in these areas. Large cattle farms called ranches are found here. Bison or the American buffalo is the important animal of this region. Other animals are rabbits, coyotes, gophers and Prairie dog.

6. Describe the flora and fauna of the velds.

Answer: Flora. Velds are not rich in vegetation. Grasses dominate the landscape. Red grass grows in bush velds. High velds are characterised by grasses like acacia and maroola.

Fauna. The animals found in the velds are lions, leopards, Cheetah

and Kudu.

***** END *****