



LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What are the major occupations of the people in the prairies?
What factors contributed to the industrialisation of this region. [V. Imp.]

Answer: The people living in the prairies are hardworking. Their main occupations are cultivation and dairy farming. People use scientific methods in cultivation. They use tractors, harvesters and combines and produce surplus food. The prairies are known as the 'Granaries of the world' due to the huge surplus of wheat production.

Another main occupation of the people of the prairies is dairy farming. The dairy belt extends from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic coast in the east. Dairy farming and extensive agriculture both promote setting up of food processing industries. The factors that led to the industrialisation of this region are:

- Large mineral deposits such as coal and iron.
- A good network of roads, railways and canals.

2. What various activities are performed by the people living in the velds?

Answer: Cattle rearing and mining are the two major activities of the people living in the velds. However, some people are engaged in agriculture also, though it is not a main occupation of this region. The soils are not very fertile in the velds. Where the land is fertile enough to grow crops, maize, wheat, barley, oats and potato are cultivated. Cash crops like tobacco, sugarcane and cotton are also grown. People of the velds are mostly engaged in sheep rearing. Sheep is bred mainly for wool and has given rise to the wool industry in the velds. Dairy farming is next important occupation. Cattle are reared in warmer and wetter regions and the dairy products such as butter, cheese are produced for both domestic supply and also for export.

As velds are very rich in mineral reserves, gold and diamond mining are also the chief occupations of the people of this region. Johannesburg is known for being the gold capital of the world. Kimberley is famous for its diamond mines.

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