



UNIT IV
NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE

SOLUTIONS

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

EXERCISES

1. Choose the correct answer from the four alternatives given below:

- (i) **Rubber trees are found in the areas of rainfall between**
(a) 50 – 70 cm
(b) 70 – 100 cm
(c) 100 – 150 cm
(d) 200 – 300 cm
Ans - (d) 200 – 300 cm
- (ii) **To which one of the following types of vegetation do cinchona tree belongs?**
(a) Tidal
(b) Tropical evergreen
(c) Tropical deciduous
(d) Himalaya
Ans - (b) Tropical evergreen
- (iii) **Teak is the most important species of the**
(a) Tropical Evergreen Forests
(b) Tropical Deciduous Forests
(c) Mangrove Forests
(d) Thorn Forests
Ans - (b) Tropical Deciduous Forests
- (iv) **Which one of the following is included in the world network of Bio – Reserve?**
(a) Simlipal
(b) Nokrek
(c) Sundarbans
(d) Pachmari
Ans- (c) Sundarbans
- (v) **In which of the following states is the Manas Bio – Reserve located?**
(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Assam
(c) Odisha
(d) West Bengal
Ans - (b) Assam



2. Answer the following questions briefly.

(i) How does an ecosystem form?

Ans- Groups of plant communities occur in areas having similar climatic conditions. In general the nature of the plants in an area determines the animal life in that area. Hence all the plants and animals in an area are interdependent to each other and form an ecosystem.

(ii) What is biome? On what basis are biomes identified?

Ans- A biome is a large ecosystem on land having distinct types of vegetation and animal life. The biomes are identified on the basis of plants.

(iii) Why are biosphere reserves set up in India? Give two examples.

Ans- To protect and preserve the flora and fauna the government has set up biosphere reserves in various part of the country. Two examples are the Sundarbans in West Bengal and the Gir Forest in Gujarat.

(iv) What are the factors affecting the distribution of plants and animals in India?

Ans- The main factors affecting the distribution of plants and animals in India are relief, soil, climate, photoperiod, precipitation etc. The nature of land – mountains, plateaus and plains have different types of forests. Different types of soils support different types of vegetation. Different climatic conditions affect natural flora and fauna. Sunlight varies at different places. Precipitation differs from place to place.

(v) Name two animals having habitat in Mangrove and Mountain Forests.

Ans- Tiger and Crocodile take habitat in Mangrove forests in West Bengal while Kashmir Stag and Snow Leopard are found in mountain forests.

3. Distinguish between:

(i) Flora and Fauna

Ans – All the plants of a particular region are known as flora (vegetation) whereas the species of animals are called fauna (animal)



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(ii) Tropical Evergreen and Tropical Deciduous Forests.

Ans –

(a) Tropical Evergreen Forests are found in heavy rainfall (more than 200cm) areas of the Western Ghats, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar island, Upper parts of Assam and Tamil Nadu coast. The tree never shed their leaves.

(b) Tropical Deciduous Forests are found in region having rainfall between 70cm and 200cm. The trees shed their leaves during hot, dry summer that lasts for about two months.

(ii) What are the different types of the vegetation found in India? Write a brief account of the vegetation of semi – arid regions.

Ans – Different types of vegetation found in India are Tropical Evergreen Forests, Tropical Deciduous Forests, Tropical Thorn Forests and Scrubs, Mountain forest and Mangrove forests. The vegetation of semi – arid regions consists of thorny trees and bushes. They are found in areas where the rainfall is less than 70cm. These stunted forests are found in the semi – arid region of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, U.P, Punjab and Haryana. These trees have long roots, thick bark. The thorny bushes – Acacias, Palms, Euphorbia and Cacti are the important species. These form the typical desert vegetation. Rat, mice, rabbits, fox, wolf, tiger, lion, wild ass and camels are found in these forests.

(iii) Give an account of the wild life in India?

Ans – India is rich in wild life. She has more than 89000 of animal species 1200 species of birds and 2500 species of fish. Among the mammals, elephants are the most important ones. It is a typical animal of hot – wet equatorial forests of Assam, Karnataka and Kerala. One horned rhinoceros are found in Kaziranga in Assam. Arid regions are the habitat for camels and wild ass. Indian bison, Nilgai (blue bull), Chousingha (four horned antelope), Gazelle and various species of deer, species of monkeys are the other mammals. Tigers in the Sundarbans and forests of West Bengal, lions in the Gir Forest in Gujarat, leopards, yak, shaggy horned wild ox, crocodile, gharials and turtles are the other important animals of India. Among the birds – peacocks, pheasants, ducks, parakeets, cranes and pigeons are important.



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- (iv) **What are the various measures taken by the government to protect the natural ecosystem of the country?**

Ans –

- (a) To protect the flora and fauna, the government has set up **14 Biosphere Reserves** – e.g. the Sundarbans in West Bengal, Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand, etc. in different parts of the country.
- (b) The government has been giving financial and technical aids to many Botanical Gardens since 1992.
- (c) The government has set up many eco – development projects like Project Tiger, Project Rhino, Project Great Indian Bustard etc.
- (d) The government has set up 89 national parks, 49 wildlife sanctuaries and zoological gardens to preserve natural heritage. As the natural ecosystem is necessary for our survival every one of us has to protect and preserve the flora and fauna of the country.

- (v) **Why does the need for conservation of flora and fauna arise ? What causes imbalance in the ecosystem?**

Ans – We get our useful things and crops from the forests of edible plants. We procure many medicinal plants from the forests. The animals provide us draught power, transportation, meat and eggs. Fish give us protein, the insects help in pollination of crops and fruit trees. Thus every species has a role to play in the ecosystem. Hence the need for conservation of flora and fauna arises.

However, the ecosystem has been disturbed due to excessive exploitation of plant and animal resources by human beings. Plant species and animal species are endangered and some have become extinct. The major threat to ecosystem is the hunting and killing of animals for commercial purposes. Cutting of the forests for cultivation and settlement, pollution of air, industrial wastes, and acid deposit etc. are responsible for ecological imbalance.



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- (vi) 'Quite a few species of plants and animals are endangered in India'. Explain this statement.

Ans – Human beings cause much damage to the ecosystem. The greed of human beings leads to over exploitation of natural vegetation and wildlife. They cut the trees and kill the animals, causes pollution of air, land and water creating ecological imbalance. Therefore, some the plants and animals are on the verge of extinction. In fact, more than 1200 plant species are endangered and 20 species were extinct. A few animal species and fish species also are endangered and some have become extinct. Hence quite a few species of plants and animals are endangered in India.



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