

Plains in the North



Identify the landforms given in the picture and discuss their features.

The Northern Plains stretch between the states of Punjab in the north-west and Assam in the north-east. This region is also known as the Indo-Gangetic plains. The rivers Indus and Sutlej, Ganga and Brahmaputra originate from the Himalayas and flow through the Northern Plains. These rivers carry silt or alluvium, which make the land fertile.

A river basin is an area of land drained by a river and its tributaries. The Northern Plains can be divided into the following three basins:





- Indus Basin
- Ganga Basin
- Brahmaputra Basin

Let us learn more about these river basins.

1. Indus Basin

The Indus Basin lies in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The river Sutlej along with the rivers Jhelum, Ravi, Beas and Chenab flow in this basin.



The Bhakra-Nangal Dam

The Bhakra-Nangal multipurpose dams, built across the Sutlej river, supply electricity and water for irrigation to the states of Punjab and Haryana.

2. Ganga Basin

The Ganga Basin is spread across the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The river Ganga originates from the *Gangotri* glacier in the Himalayas. The river Saraswati and Yamuna join the Ganga at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh.

Triveni Sangam in Allahabad is a **confluence** of these three rivers.



3. Brahmaputra Basin

The Brahmaputra basin forms a narrow strip of area in the state of Assam. The Brahmaputra river originates in Tibet and is called the *Tsangpo*. It enters India through Arunachal Pradesh and then flows through Assam and empties into the Bay of Bengal.

Life in the North

Climate

Most of the peaks of the northern mountains remain covered by snow. Most of the states in this region remain cool in summers and cold in winters.