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LESSON
PART 2





In this lesson, we shall learn about :

- ◆ The physical features of our country —
 - (a) northern mountains (b) northern plains
 - (c) coastal plains (d) deccan plateau
 - (e) desert (f) islands

■ New Words

deccan, coastal, peak, terai, central, steeply, eastern, western

India is our homeland. It is also known as **Bharat** and **Hindustan**. It is the seventh largest country in the world. It is in the continent of Asia. It has an area of 32 million square km. It is the second most populous country in the world.



■ Some Facts :

China is the most populous country in the world.

Our country is famous for its beauty. It has different land surfaces. It has snowy mountains and fertile plains. Some parts of it are sandy and some are rocky. It has plenty of forests filled with wild animals and birds. It also has rivers, lakes, islands, seas and coasts.



■ Activity

Write the names of two famous rivers of your state.

1. _____
2. _____



Some Facts :

Our country is a **peninsula**. It is surrounded by water on three sides.

The main physical features of our country are the **Northern Mountains**, the **Northern Plains**, the **Coastal plains** and the **Deccan Plateau**.

The boundaries of our country are:-

India has the **Bay of Bengal** in the east, the **Arabian Sea** in the west, the **Himalayas** in the north, and the **Indian Ocean** in the south.

Remember : 'The Himalayas' means 'the Home of Snow'.

The Northern Mountains : There are high mountain ranges in the north of India. They are called the **Himalayas**. They are the highest mountains in the world. They are covered with snow throughout the year. These mountain ranges have some of the highest peaks in the world such as Nandadevi, Dhaulagiri, Annapurna and Kanchenjunga and K₂ (Godwin Austen). K₂ (Godwin Austen) is the highest peak in India. Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, is a part of Himalayas. It is in Nepal.



Some Facts :

Tenzing Norgay of Nepal and Edmund Hillary of New Zealand were the first to climb Mount Everest, in 1953.

Many rivers like the Ganga, the Yamuna, the Brahmaputra, the Indus, the Satluj originate from the Himalayas. These rivers are full of water throughout the year because of melting of snow of the Himalayas. The world famous valleys, **Kashmir** and **Kullu** are also in the Himalayas.

The lower slopes of the Himalayas are known as **Terai**. These are full of dense forests.

The Southern and Central part of India also have mountains. Some of them are the Aravalli Hills and the Satpura Hills in the central part and the Nilgiri Hills in the South. But these are not high enough to have snow covered peaks.



Activity

The great Urdu poet Iqbal praised India by saying “Sare Jahan Se Achchha, Hindustan Hamara.” What do these famous words mean ?

A hill is a rocky piece of land which is not as high as a mountain. Naga Hills, Garo Hills are famous hills of India.



Mountain



Hills

The Northern Plains : The plains are the low lands with flat surface. The Northern Plains are situated just to the south of the Himalayas. Many rivers which originate from the Himalayas flow through these plains and make them fertile and rich. Therefore, this region is densely populated.

Think and Discuss

Why are the northern plains so densely populated ?

These areas are noted as agricultural regions of the world. All types of crops are grown here. Most of our country’s food grains are produced in this region. That is why, this region is called the ‘**Food Bowl of India**’.



Wheat



This region is hot in summer and cold in winter. It has a good network of roads and railway lines. Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Patna, Kolkata are the important cities of this region.

The Coastal Plains : There are some plains in the southern part of India. They are called the coastal plains. The rivers like Mahanadi, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri flow into these plains and make the land fertile. Most of these rivers end in the sea.

The Deccan Plateau : A plateau is a **high land** that rises steeply above the plains. It has a **flat** top. Mountains are high but plateaus are not very high. The land is hard and has lots of rocks. The southern part of our country is a plateau known as the **Deccan Plateau**. The region is roughly triangular in shape. The land here is less fertile. The climate is hot in summer but not very cold in winter. Some regions are full of forests.



The important rivers are Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Kaveri and Tapti. These rivers are full of rainy water which dry up in summer. The region is very rich in minerals. That is why it is called the ‘**Store house of natural wealth**’. The famous cities of this region are Nagpur, Bhopal, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, etc.

□ **Think and Discuss**

What are the common features between a plateau and a mountain ?

□ **Activity**

Find out the area of the Deccan Plateau in the map of India and write how it looks like .



Thar Desert : Desert is a **dry** area with little or no rainfall. The land is full of sand and has very little plantation. It receives very little rain and the land is not fit for cultivation. Only bushes and thorny plants grow in this region. The western part of India has the great **Thar Desert**. It is in Rajasthan. It is very hot in summer. The days are very hot and the nights are very cool. Hot and dusty winds blow during summer. The region is scarcely populated. The life in a desert is very difficult. Camel is the most commonly used animal in the desert. So, it is known as the ‘**Ship of the Desert**’.



The eastern part is not very dry. Jaipur, Kota and Jodhpur are famous cities of this area. Some crops are also grown here.

□ **Think and Discuss**

Why is a camel called the ‘ship of the desert’?



The Coastal Regions : The lands near the coasts are called the **Coastal regions**. The Indian coastal region can be divided into two parts: Eastern Coastal region and Western Coastal region. The climate of eastern part is hot throughout the year. Coconut and rice are the main crops. The important cities of Eastern Coastal region are Chennai, Paradweep and Visakhapatnam.

The western part has Mumbai, Panaji and Kochi. Many rivers flow in these regions. So, the land is very fertile here.

□ **Some Facts :**

The coastal plains of the southern part of India has water on three sides. Such an area is called a **peninsula**.



Island: An island is a piece of land surrounded by water on all sides. India has two groups of islands on the western and eastern side of South India. On the western side, we have a group of islands, called Lakshadweep islands in the Arabian Sea. In the eastern side, we have the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal.



Some Facts :

‘Lakshadweep’ means ‘One lakh islands’.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. India is the seventh largest country in the world.
2. It has different land surfaces like mountains, deserts, plains, plateaus, etc.
3. It has high mountains in the north.
4. It has big and fertile plains in the north and south.
5. The Thar desert lies in the north-west part of India.
6. The southern part is a plateau.
7. The Indian peninsula is surrounded by water on three sides.



EXERCISE

A. Write ‘T’ for True and ‘F’ for False:

1. The Ganga originates from the Himalayas. ()
2. Mount Everest, the highest peak is in India. ()
3. India has two groups of islands. ()
4. A peninsula has water on all sides. ()
5. The Northern Plains are good for cultivation. ()
6. The Thar desert receives a lot of rainfall. ()
7. The Southern plateau is also called the Deccan plateau. ()

B. Fill in the blanks :

1. India lies in the continent of _____
2. _____ is the highest mountain peak in the world.
3. Dusty hot winds blow in the _____ season.
4. _____ and _____ are the main crops of the coastal region.
5. Plateaus have _____ tops.
6. The _____ and _____ islands lie in the Bay of Bengal.

C. Match the following :

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 1. Second most populous country | () | (a) Nepal |
| 2. Mount Everest | () | (b) Rajasthan |
| 3. The Northern Plains | () | (c) India |
| 4. Thar Desert | () | (d) Camel |
| 5. Ship of the desert | () | (e) Food Bowl of India |



D. Name the following :

1. The lower slopes of the Himalayas _____
2. This region is called the 'Food Bowl of India'. _____
3. This region is called the 'Store house of natural wealth'. _____
4. It is known as the 'Ship of the desert'. _____
5. A piece of land which has water on three sides _____
6. A piece of land surrounded by water on all sides _____

E. Answer the following questions :

1. Why is India called a peninsula ?
2. Why is life very tough in desert?
3. Name the main physical features of India.
4. Which of India's rivers are fed by melting snows ?
5. Name the two groups of islands of India. Where are they located ?

Project / Activity

F. Mark the following places in the given map of India :

1. The Northern Mountains
2. The Northern Plains
3. The Thar Desert
4. The Deccan Plateau
5. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

