

## About the Lesson

- Terrestrial plants
- Aquatic plants
- Some special plants



# 2 Different Types of Plants

All the plants around us have different shapes and sizes. Plants can be found on mountains, deep oceans, hot and cold areas and dry and humid areas. Different places have different land and climate. So, the plants at different places too are different.

Plants can be divided mainly into two categories :

1. Terrestrial plants
2. Aquatic plants



## 1. Terrestrial plants

Plants growing on the land are called **terrestrial plants**. Terrestrial plants too can be classified on the basis of local climate.

• **Trees in plains** : In the plains, we generally find mango, peepal, banyan, sheesham, neem and gulmohur trees. Their trunks are solid and strong. They have more of branches and are big in size. Due to a large number of leaves, they provide a dense shade in summers. The leaves are shed in winters.



Peepal

Banyan

Sheesham

Gulmohur

## Do You Know ?

\* Tea plant is grown on the hilly slopes. In India, Darjeeling and Nilgiri hills are famous for tea.



• **Trees in mountainous region** : Extreme cold conditions prevail on the mountains. Coniferous trees are found here. These have needle-like leaves. Their branches are shaped like a slope so that the snow slides down. The trunks of these trees are long and straight. The examples of such trees are deodar, fir, spruce, cedar, etc.

● **Trees in coastal regions** : Coastal areas have hot and humid climate. So, evergreen trees are found here. Coconut, rubber, bamboo and teak are chiefly found in these regions.

● **Trees in desert region** : Desert region has hot and dry climate. This place lacks water also. Plants growing here are suitable to these conditions only. The trunks of such trees are thick, fleshy and green and have a waxy surface. This way, transpiration does not happen. Food is made in the trunk which contains chlorophyll.

The roots of such trees penetrate deep into the soil to absorb water. Date palm and keekar are two such trees.

● **Plants in swampy region** : Swampy regions have clayey soil which retains water for a long time. Plants growing in this soil are called **mangroves**. Since the air is less in such soil, the roots of the plants growing here, come out of the soil to breathe. These are also called shore vegetation.



Mangrove Vegetation

## 2. Water Plants or Aquatic Plants

The plants which grow in water are called water or aquatic plants. The structure of these plants is different and special which helps them to survive in aquatic conditions.

On the basis of structure, these plants can be classified into three types :

● **Plants which float on the water**: Some plants float on the surface of the water. The leaves of these plants are long and broad with a waxy surface. There are air bags in the roots, stems and leaves which help them to float on the water. Water hyacinth, pistia and wolffia are some such plants.



Water Hyacinth



Pistia



Wolffia

● **Fixed Plants** : Such plants grow in the shallow waters, on the banks of ponds or rivers. The stems of these plants are hollow and the leaves are broad. These help them to float on water. Lotus and water lily are such plants.



Lotus



Water lily

● **Plants which are submerged in the water :** Some plants are completely submerged in the water. They are like green ribbons and grow on the bottom of the pool. The leaves are thin and do not have stomata. They breathe through their outer surface only. These plants absorb the gases dissolved in the water. Hydrilla is one such plant.



Hydrilla

## Some Special Plants

Some plants are so small that one cannot see them through the naked eye.

These are **microscopic** plants.



Venus Flytrap



Sundew

Some plants are **insectivorous**. Such plants trap insects in their leaves and feed on them. Two such plants are pitcher plant and sundew.



### Strange But True

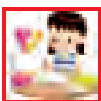
\* Pitcher plant releases a sweet nectar to trap insects. The insects climb up the flower and fall into it, where they die.

Some plants do not have chlorophyll. So, they depend on different plants for their food. These are **parasitic** plants. Fungi and mushroom are two such plants.



### Looking Back.....

- ❖ Due to variation in land and local climate, we get to see different plants.
- ❖ Plants which grow on land are called land plants or terrestrial plants.
- ❖ Trees growing on land are very big in size.
- ❖ Coniferous trees grow in mountainous region.
- ❖ Coastal area has hot and humid climate.
- ❖ Mangrove vegetation is found in swampy region.
- ❖ Plants growing in water are called aquatic plants.
- ❖ Some plants are insectivorous. Some plants are parasitic which depend on other plants for food.



## Exercise

A. Tick (✓) on the correct option : (MCQs)

1. The trunks of trees in the plains are :

(a) solid and strong       (b) soft and weak       (c) Both     

2. The leaves of trees of mountainous region are :

(a) broad and thick       (b) pointed and smooth       (c) Both

3. The roots of desert trees go deep in the soil to :  
 (a) absorb water      ● (b) collect food      ● (c) Both      ●
4. How are the leaves of aquatic plants ?  
 (a) Small, thin and rough      ● (b) Long, broad and smooth      ● (c) Both      ●

**B. Answer the following questions :**

1. Why do different plants grow at different places ?
2. What are terrestrial plants ?
3. What kind of plants are found in the plains ?
4. Why do coniferous plants grow in the mountains ?
5. What are aquatic plants ? What are their kinds ?
6. What is the speciality of floating plants ?

**C. Fill in the blanks :**

1. Plants of the plains shed their \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Plants of mountainous region have \_\_\_\_\_ and straight trunks.
3. Plants of \_\_\_\_\_ have a smooth surface.
4. Floating plants have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ leaves.
5. Plants of \_\_\_\_\_ water have \_\_\_\_\_ trunks and \_\_\_\_\_ leaves.

**D. Write the following :**

- |                            |   |       |       |       |
|----------------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. Plants of plains        | : | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Plants of coastal areas | : | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Plants of deserts       | : | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Plants of mountains     | : | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Aquatic plants          | : | _____ | _____ | _____ |




## Creative Task

**Do the following :**

1. Go with your science teacher to a water body close by. Get knowledge about the vegetation found there. Collect pictures of some such plants and paste in your scrapbook.
2. Collect some plants growing around you. Press them in a newspaper. After drying them, paste them in your scrapbook and write their names.

**Investigation :**

 For more information about plants, log on to :  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/plant>