



About the Chapter

- Mountains - Deserts
- Plains - Island groups
- Plateaus - Climate

Unit 2 : We and Our Country

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India and its Physical Divisions

India is a vast country. It is the world's seventh largest in area and second most populous country.

India's land is not the same at every place. It has high mountains, plains, plateaus and deserts. At some places, the land is rocky, at some places it is sandy and at others, it is clayey.

Some places have beautiful valleys while some other have green forests. Here, we have rivers, waterfalls, beaches, islands, bays and seas also.

Physically, India can be divided into five parts – mountains, plains, plateaus, desert and island groups. Come, let's know about them in detail.

Mountainous Area

In the north of India is located the Great Himalayan range. Most of its peaks are covered with snow all the year round. The highest peak of the world, **Mount Everest**, is in this range. It lies in Nepal. The central and southern parts of India too have some mountain ranges but they are not as high as the Himalayas.



Interesting Fact

- From north to south, India extends for 3200 km. and from west to east, it extends for 3000 km.
- China is the world's most populous country.



Map of India



Remember

- * The highest peak of India is K2 (Mt. Godwin Austen). It is in Jammu and Kashmir.
- * Ooty is a very beautiful hill station of South India.



Mount Everest



Nainital



Shimla



The middle range of the Himalayas has beautiful hill stations like Manali, Shimla, Mussoorie, Nainital, Darjeeling, etc.

Plains Area

In the northern part of India lies a vast plain area, spread from Punjab in the west to Assam in the east. Many rivers flow through the plains. This area is made up of the fertile soil brought by these rivers such as the Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Krishna, Kaveri, etc.



Due to the fertile soil of the plains, many crops are grown here throughout the year. That's why it is also called the **Food Bowl of India**.

This area is hot in summer and cold in winter. It is covered by a network of roads and railways. Lucknow, Kanpur, Patna, Delhi, Kolkata, etc. are its important cities.

Plateau Area

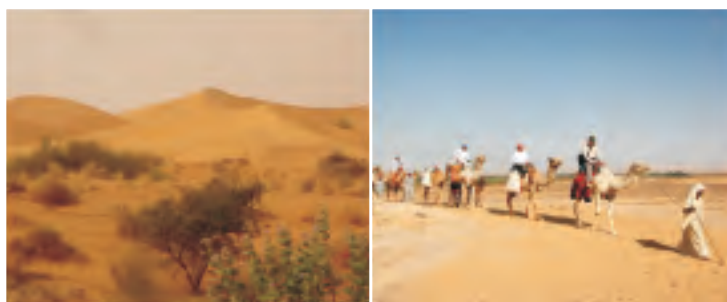


A plateau is a raised area which is almost flat and plain. The southern part of India is a plateau. Most of the land here is rocky, as a result, it is very less fertile. Here the rivers such as Narmada, Tapti, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and Kaveri flow very fast. These rivers dry up in the summer. This area is very rich in minerals. So, it is also called the **Storehouse of Natural Resources**.

The shape of this plateau is uneven and triangular. The climate is hot in summer but not very cold in winter. Some areas are covered with forests. Important cities of this area are Nagpur, Bhopal, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Desert Area

The north-western part of India is covered with sand. This place gets very less rainfall due to which it has very less vegetation. Here, thorny bushes dominate the landscape. Indian desert is called the **Thar Desert**. Most part of Rajasthan is the desert.



Majority of the people who live in deserts rear camels. The camel is also called the **Ship of the Desert**. Life is very hard in the desert.

This place becomes extremely hot in summer. Here the days are hot and the nights are cool. Hot dust storms laden with sand blow in summer. This place has less population. The famous cities of this area are Jaipur, Kota and Jodhpur.



Island Group

The southern part of India is surrounded by sea on three sides. In the south lies the **Indian Ocean**, in the east the Bay of Bengal and in the west the Arabian Sea. This place is also called a **peninsula**.

Two island groups are also an integral part of India. The land surrounded on all sides by water is called an **island**. One such Island group is located in the Arabian Sea. It is called the Lakshdweep. The other island group is located in the Bay of Bengal. It is known as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Do You Know

Before India's independence, Andaman Islands were called "Kaala Paani".

Climate

Just as the various land surfaces, the climate of India too differs from each other at different places. The climate in the northern mountains is cold whereas the northern plains are very cold in winter and very hot in summer.

The southern plateau area has hot and dry climate. The coastal areas near the seas are neither very hot nor very cold. The climate here is the same throughout the year. The climate in the desert is dry because of very less rainfall.



Remember

Though the last southern part of the Indian mainland is Kanyakumari, the last point of the Indian Union is Indira Point, located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Learnt by Now



- India is the world's seventh largest in area and second most populous country.
- Physically, India can be divided into five parts.
- The Great Himalayan range lies in the north of India.
- The northern plains are very fertile.
- The area which rises higher than the plains is called the plateau.
- India's north-west part is the desert.
- The two island groups, Lakshdweep and Andaman and Nicobar islands, do lie in India.
- India's climate is too diverse.



Exercise

A. Tick (✓) the correct answer : (MCQs)

1. In terms of area, what is India's rank ?

(a) Fifth



(b) Seventh



(c) First





- 2. How is India's surface ?
 (a) Even (b) Uneven (c) Normal
- 3. Physically, India can be divided into how many parts ?
 (a) Into five (b) Into two (c) Into one
- 4. What is called the Ship of the Desert ?
 (a) Dog (b) Horse (c) Camel

B. Write answers to the following questions :

- 1. How is India's surface ?
- 2. Physically, how many parts can India be divided into ?
- 3. What kind of mountain ranges are in the central and the southern India ?
- 4. How was India's plain part formed ?
- 5. How is India's climate ?

C. Fill in the blanks

- 1. Nainital, Shimla and Mussoorie are located in the _____.
- 2. The northern plains are made up of the _____ soil.
- 3. The southern part of India is a _____.
- 4. Indian desert is called _____ desert.
- 5. Andaman and Nicobar Islands are located in _____.

D. Write True or False :

- 1. India's surface is same everywhere. _____
- 2. Mount Everest is the world's highest peak. _____
- 3. The land to the south of the Himalayas is a plain. _____
- 4. Most of the land in Southern India is fertile. _____
- 5. The climate of northern mountains is dry. _____

E. Write the following :

- 1. India's rank in terms of area. _____
- 2. India's rank in terms of population. _____
- 3. India's highest mountain peak. _____
- 4. The animal that lives in the desert. _____
- 5. The climate of the coastal areas. _____

■ Creative Task



- 1. Find the names of the rivers flowing through your state.
- 2. Find out the climate of your state.
- 3. Colour the mountainous, plains and desert areas of India on a map.