

6

Major Landforms
of the Earth

Lesson at a Glance

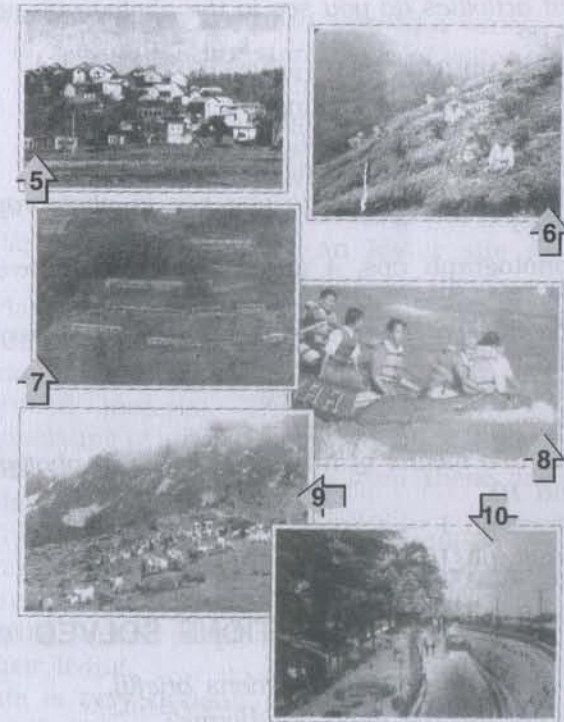
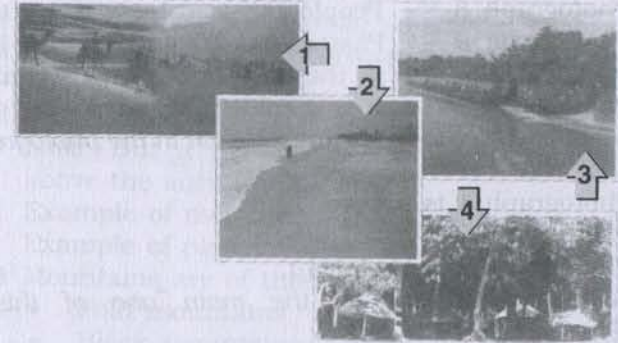
- The surface of the earth is not the same everywhere.
- Mountains, plateaus and plains are different landforms of the earth.
- A **mountain** is a natural elevation of the earth surface. There are three types of mountains—**Fold mountains**, **Block mountains** and **Volcanic mountains**.
- A **plateau** is an elevated flat land. It is a flat-topped table land standing above the surrounding area. A plateau may have one or more sides with steep slopes.
- The Deccan plateau is one of the oldest plateaus.
- The Tibet plateau is the highest plateau in the world.
- **Plains** are large stretches of flat land. Some plains are extremely level while others may be slightly rolling and undulating.
- Plains are generally thickly populated regions of the world.
- Human **habitation** is found on different kinds of land forms. But population varies on these landforms. Mountains are generally not thickly populated. But plains are the regions where thick population is found.
- Land is precious. We must not use it in a wasteful manner. Construction work of any type should not be carried on fertile land. Also, we should not throw garbage on land. It is our duty to take care of the land or any other natural gift. If we do this we will be conscious citizens.

IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED

- Q. 1. Look carefully at photograph nos. 1–10. Write one sentence about each of the photograph.

See NCERT Book Page 44–55

- Ans. Photograph 1 — It is a desert, where camels are used to carry loads.
Photograph 2 — A person is standing on the sea beach.



Photograph 3 — Children are enjoying.

Photograph 4 — It is a forest area.

Photograph 5 — A thickly populated region in the plains.

Photograph 6 — Several women are engaged in plucking tea leaves from tea gardens.

Photograph 7 — It is a plateau.

Photograph 8 — People are seen busy in rafting.

Photograph 9 — Pastoralists are grazing their livestock in the hilly slopes of the Himalayas.

Photograph 10 — It is a cold desert area.

Q. 2. Name the landform features shown in the photograph nos. 1, 2 and 7.

Ans. Photograph 1 is a desert.

Photograph 2 is a sea beach.

Photograph 7 is a plateau.

Q. 3. What appears to be the main use of this land? (Photograph 9)

Ans. This land is used mainly in grazing sheep and cattle.

Q. 4. What activities do you see in the photograph nos. 3, 6, 8 and 9?

Ans. Photograph 3 — Boat race

Photograph 6 — Plucking tea leaves

Photograph 8 — Rafting in a river

Photograph 9 — Grazing

Q. 5. What type of houses do you see in photograph nos. 4 and 5?

Ans. In photograph nos. 4 and 5 the houses have slanting roofs.

Q. 6. Name the water sport/games shown in photograph nos. 3 and 8.

Ans. Photograph 3 — Boat race

Photograph 8 — Rafting

Q. 7. Name two means of transport shown in photograph nos. 1 and 10.

Ans. Photograph 1 — Camels

Photograph 10 — Car.

■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

Q. 1. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) What are the major landforms?

(b) What is the difference between a mountain and a plateau?

(c) What are the different types of mountains?

(d) How are mountains useful to man?

(e) How are plains formed?

(f) Why are the river plains thickly populated?

(g) Why are mountains thinly populated?

Ans. (a) The major landforms are—mountains, plateaus and plains.

(b) A mountain may have a small summit and a broad base. But a plateau is flat-topped table standing above the surrounding area.

Example of mountain—The Himalayan mountains.

Example of plateau—The Deccan plateau.

(c) Mountains are of three types—

- Fold mountains
- Block mountains
- Volcanic mountains

(d) Mountains are useful to man in a variety of ways:

(i) Mountains are storehouse of water which is the basic need of the human beings. Reservoirs are made and the water is harnessed for the use of people. Water is used for irrigation and generation of hydroelectricity.

(ii) Mountains have a rich variety of flora and fauna.

(iii) Mountains provide an idyllic site for tourists.

They visit the mountains for their scenic beauty.

(e) Plains are generally formed by rivers and their tributaries. The rivers flow down the slopes of mountains and erode them. They carry forward the eroded material. Then they deposit their load consisting of stones, sand and silt along their courses and in their valleys. It is from these deposits that plains are formed.

(f) The river plains are very suitable for human habitation. People get flat land for building houses and for cultivation. The soil of river plains is very fertile. Hence people live here and cultivate land for their living.

(g) Life is very difficult in mountain areas because of harsh climate. It is quite difficult to grow crops, build houses or roads in a mountain. Hence, people do not prefer to live here.

Q. 2. Tick the correct answer.

(a) The mountains differ from the hills in terms of

(i) elevation

(ii) slope

(iii) aspect.

- (b) Glaciers are found in
 (i) the mountains (ii) the plains
 (iii) the plateaus.
- (c) The Deccan plateau is located in
 (i) Kenya (ii) Australia
 (iii) India.
- (d) The river Yangtze flows in
 (i) South America (ii) Australia
 (iii) China.
- (e) An important mountain range of Europe is
 (i) the Andes (ii) the Alps
 (iii) the Rockies.

Ans. (a)—(i), (b)—(i), (c)—(iii), (d)—(iii), (e)—(ii).

Q. 3. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) A is an unbroken flat or a low-level land.
 (b) The Himalayas and the Alps are examples of
 types of mountains.
 (c) areas are rich in mineral deposits.
 (d) The is a line of mountains.
 (e) The areas are most producing for farming.

Ans. (a) plain, (b) young fold, (c) Plateau, (d) range, (e) plain.

THINGS TO DO

Q. 1. What kind of landforms are found in your state? Based on the reading of this chapter, say how they are of use to the people.

Ans. Plains are found in my state. Plains are generally very fertile. Hence, people can easily engage themselves in farming activities and get high produce. As the land is plain and level, construction of transport network is very easy. Construction of houses is also carried on large scale. Thus, plains provide all facilities for human habitation. Perhaps therefore, thick population is found here.

MAP SKILLS

- On an outline map of the world, mark the following :
 (a) Mountain ranges: Himalayas, Rockies and Andes.
 (b) Plateau: Tibet.

Ans.

