

Lesson at a Glance

- **Weather** is about day to day changes in the atmosphere. It may be hot or cold, Sunny or cloudy, windy or calm.
- There are four main **seasons** in India—**cold** weather season (winter) December to February, **hot** weather season (summer) March to May, **southwest monsoon** season (rainy) June to September and season of **retreating monsoon** (autumn) October to November.
- Hot wind called **loo** blows during summer.
- **Climate** is about the average weather condition which has been measured over many years.
- The climate of India is monsoon type. It means, most of the rain is brought by monsoon winds.
- The climate of a place is affected by its location, attitude, distance from the sea and relief.
- Jaisalmer and Bikaner in Rajasthan are very hot, Drass and Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir are very cold and coastal places are moderate. Mawsynram in Meghalaya receives the world's highest rainfall.
- India has a wide range of natural vegetation—Tropical evergreen forest, Tropical deciduous forest, Thorny bushes, Mountain vegetation and Mangrove forests.
- **Tropical rain forests** occur in the areas which receive heavy rainfall.
- **Tropical deciduous forests** are also called monsoon forests.
- Thorny bushes are found in dry areas of the country.
- **Mangrove forests** are found in Sunderbans in West Bengal and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Forests are very useful for all the living beings. They are the natural habitat of wildlife.
- Van Mahotsav is a programme which involves more and more people in making the earth green.
- The tiger is our national animal. Gir forest of Gujarat is the home of Asiatic lions.

- The peacock is our national bird.
- There are several hundreds of species of snakes found in India.
- The government has started Project Tiger and Project Elephant to protect these animals.

IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED

1. What would happen if monsoons were weak, or even worse, failed to occur one year? Tick (✓) the correct answer. (NCERT Textbook, page 57)

1. Crops will be — affected/not affected
2. The level of the water in a well will — come-up/go-down
3. Summer will be — longer/shorter

Ans. 1. affected 2. go-down 3. longer

2. Read the following news report and answer the questions that follows: (NCERT Textbook, page 63)

Largescale poaching alleged in Simlipal reserve



Will Centre, wildlife lovers finally kiss and make up?

More Sariskas in the making

Villages in tiger reserves must be relocated

Tiger crisis: Have we done enough to check poaching?

Cramped in Gir, lions pine for grassland

Task force begins two-day meet

Why do poachers kill tigers?
 What will happen if tigers vanish from our forests?
 Have you ever visited any tiger reserves or a zoo where tigers are kept?

- (a) Why do poachers kill tigers?
 (b) What will happen if tigers vanish from our forests?
 (c) Have you ever visited any tiger reserve or a zoo where tigers are kept?

- Ans.** (a) Poachers kill tigers for their skin, hides, bones etc. They smuggle these items to other countries and earn huge money. They also kill tigers for fun.
 (b) Ecological imbalance will occur on the earth.
 (c) Yes, I have visited several tiger reserves.

■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

Q. 1. Answer the following questions briefly.

- (a) Which winds bring rainfall in India? Why is it so important?
 (b) Name the different seasons in India.
 (c) What is natural vegetation?
 (d) Name the different types of vegetation found in India.
 (e) What is the difference between evergreen forest and deciduous forest?
 (f) Why is tropical rainforest also called evergreen forest?

- Ans.** (a) Monsoon winds bring rainfall in India. Agriculture in India depends on rains. Good monsoons mean sufficient rain and a good crop. Hence, monsoon winds are very important. Our prosperity depends on these winds.
 (b) The different seasons in India are:
 (i) Cold Weather Season (Winter)
 (ii) Hot Weather Season (Summer)
 (iii) Southwest Monsoon Season (Rainy)
 (iv) Season of retreating Monsoon (Autumn).
 (c) The grasses, shrubs and trees that grow on their own without any human interference or help are termed natural vegetation.
 (d) The different types of vegetation found in India are:
 (i) Tropical evergreen forest
 (ii) Tropical deciduous forest
 (iii) Thorny bushes

- (iv) Mountain vegetation
 (v) Mangrove forests.
 (e)

Evergreen Forest	Deciduous Forest
1. Evergreen forests are so dense that sunlight doesn't reach the ground.	1. Deciduous forests are not so dense.
2. They shed their leaves at different times of the year.	2. They shed their leaves at a particular time of the year.
3. These forests are found in the areas which receive heavy rainfall.	3. These forests are found in a large part of the country.
4. Important trees found in these forests are—mahogany, ebony and rosewood.	4. Important trees of these forests are sal, teak, peepal, neem and shisham.
5. These forests are found in Andaman and Nicobar, Islands, part of North-Eastern states and a narrow strip of the western slope of the Western Ghats.	5. These forests are found in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and in part of Maharashtra.

- (f) Tropical rainforest always appears green and therefore it is called evergreen forest.

Q. 2. Tick the correct answer.

- (a) The world's highest rainfall occurs in
 (i) Mumbai (ii) Asansol
 (iii) Mawsyuram.
- (b) Mangrove forests can thrive in
 (i) saline water (ii) fresh water
 (iii) polluted water.
- (c) Mahogany and rosewood trees are found in
 (i) mangrove forests
 (ii) tropical deciduous forests
 (iii) tropical evergreen forests
- (d) Wild goats and snow leopards are found in
 (i) Himalayan region (ii) Peninsular region
 (iii) Gir forests.

- (e) During the South-west monsoon period, the moisture laden winds blow from
- (i) land to sea (ii) sea to land
- (iii) plateau to plains.

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

Q. 3. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) Hot and dry winds known as blow during the day in summers.
- (b) The states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu receive a great amount of rainfall during the season of
- (c) forest in Gujarat is the home of
- (d) is a well-known species of mangrove forests.
- (e) are also called monsoon forests.

Ans. (a) loo, (b) retreating monsoon, (c) Gir, Asiatic lions, (d) Sundari, (e) Tropical deciduous forests.