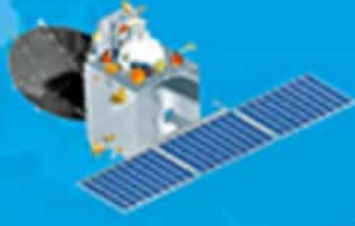




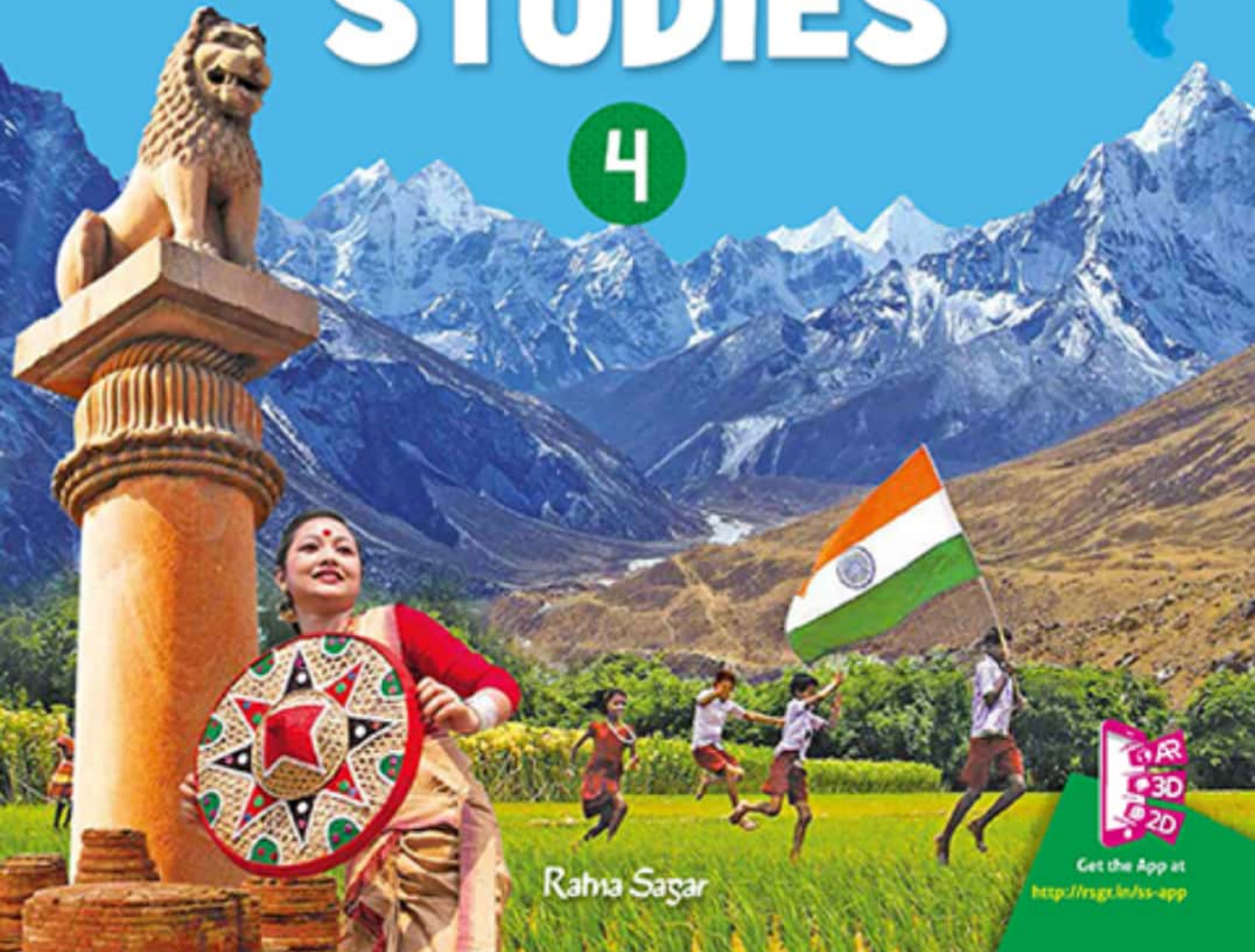
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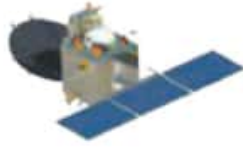


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Rahna Sagar



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Clean and Green

Janet, Fatima, Manpreet and Richa think of a clever idea to spend their holidays in a meaningful way.



A little later ...





Illustrations by ARJIT DUTTA CHOWDHURY



I Love My India



Get Set!

Write what comes to your mind when you think of INDIA.

India is in Asia. India is the seventh largest country in the world in area, and the second largest in population.

- The northern boundary of India is protected by very high mountain ranges – the Himalayas.
- The southern part of India is a peninsula. It is surrounded by water bodies, namely the Arabian Sea in the west, the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Indian Ocean

in the south.

- Kanniyakumari is the southernmost tip of the



Map 1.1 India is located in the continent of Asia.



This is the famous Vivekananda Rock Memorial at Kanniyakumari (Tamil Nadu).

mainland of India. However, the southernmost tip of the country is

FactWise

The boundary between India and Pakistan is called Radcliffe Line.

Indira Point. It is in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Locate these places in Map 1.2.

- India shares land boundaries with Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan,

Myanmar and Bangladesh.

- Our neighbours across the sea are Sri Lanka and Maldives.



Map 1.2 This is a political map of India. It shows the states and the Union Territories.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS

India became an independent country on 15 August 1947. Today India is a union of 28 states and eight Union Territories, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi (see Map 1.2). The names of all the states and the Union Territories, and their capitals, are given in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES OF INDIA

State	Capital
1 Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati
2 Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
3 Assam	Dispur
4 Bihar	Patna
5 Chhattisgarh	Raipur
6 Goa	Panaji
7 Gujarat	Gandhinagar
8 Haryana	Chandigarh*
9 Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
10 Jharkhand	Ranchi
11 Karnataka	Bengaluru
12 Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
13 Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
14 Maharashtra	Mumbai
15 Manipur	Imphal
16 Meghalaya	Shillong
17 Mizoram	Aizawl
18 Nagaland	Kohima
19 Odisha	Bhubaneswar
20 Punjab	Chandigarh*

* Chandigarh is a Union Territory and the capital of two states.

State	Capital
21 Rajasthan	Jaipur
22 Sikkim	Gangtok
23 Tamil Nadu	Chennai
24 Telangana	Hyderabad
25 Tripura	Agartala
26 Uttarakhand	Dehra Dun
27 Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
28 West Bengal	Kolkata

Union Territory	Capital
1 Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
2 Chandigarh	Chandigarh
3 Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Daman
4 Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar; Jammu*
5 Ladakh	Leh
6 Lakshadweep	Kavaratti
7 National Capital Territory of Delhi	Delhi
8 Puducherry	Puducherry

* Srinagar is the summer capital. Jammu is the winter capital.

Here are a few more facts.

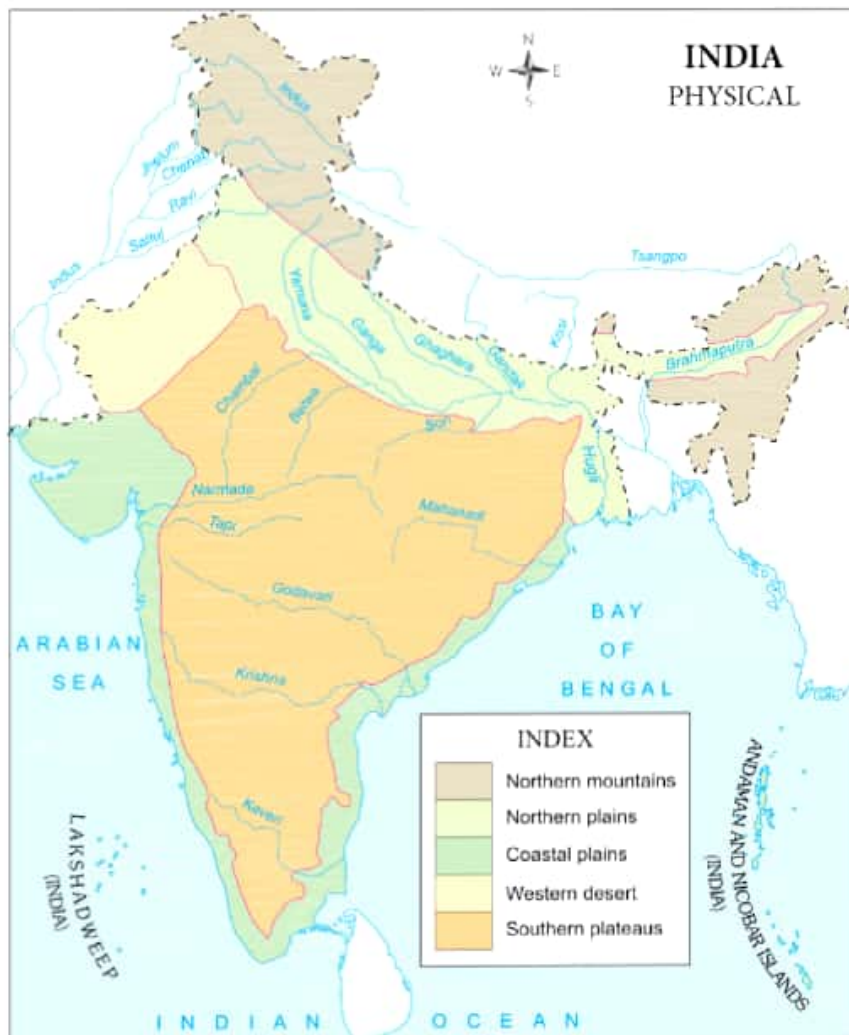
- Rajasthan is the largest state in area. Goa is the smallest.
- The seven states in north-eastern India are called the Seven Sisters. These are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Telangana was carved out of Andhra Pradesh. Hyderabad is the capital of Telangana. Amaravati is the capital of Andhra Pradesh.



Checkpoint

Fill in the blanks.

1. The _____ Ocean lies to the south of India.
2. Kanniyakumari is in _____
3. India has _____ Union Territories.
4. _____ is the capital of Meghalaya.
5. The state carved out of Andhra Pradesh is _____



Map 1.3 This is a physical map of India. It shows landforms.

PHYSICAL DIVISIONS

The landforms of our country vary from place to place. India can be broadly divided into five physical divisions (see Map 1.3).

- The northern mountains
- The plains – northern and coastal
- The western desert
- The southern plateaus
- The islands

We will read about these physical divisions in the next four lessons.

Words to know

population	the total number of people living in a country
mountain range	a group of mountains
mainland	the major part of a country that does not include the islands



Quick recap

- India is located in Asia. It is surrounded by the Himalayas and three large water bodies.
- Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives are our neighbours.
- There are 28 states and eight Union Territories in India.
- India can be divided into five physical divisions – the northern mountains, the northern and coastal plains, the western desert, the southern plateaus and the islands.



Read and answer



A Tick (✓) the correct answers.

- Which is the southernmost tip of India?
a. Kerala _____ b. Indira Point _____ c. Puducherry _____ d. New Delhi _____
- Which of these countries is not one of our neighbours?
a. Iran _____ b. Pakistan _____ c. Sri Lanka _____ d. Bhutan _____
- How many states are there in India?
a. 7 _____ b. 36 _____ c. 25 _____ d. 28 _____
- Kavaratti is the capital of which Union Territory?
a. Assam _____ b. Puducherry _____ c. Lakshadweep _____ d. Kerala _____

B The underlined word in each sentence is incorrect. Write the correct word.

- India is in Africa. _____
- The northern boundary of India is protected by the Alps. _____
- Silvassa is the capital of both Punjab and Haryana. _____
- Maharashtra is the largest state of India. _____
- The capital of Telangana is Amaravati. _____

C Answer these questions.

1. Write the names of the water bodies that surround India.
2. Write the names of any five of our neighbouring countries.
3. Which Union Territory has got two capitals?
4. Write the names of the 'Seven Sisters'. In which part of India are they located?
5. What are the five physical divisions of India?

D Think and answer.

Why does the capital of Jammu & Kashmir shift from Srinagar to Jammu in winter?



Do and learn

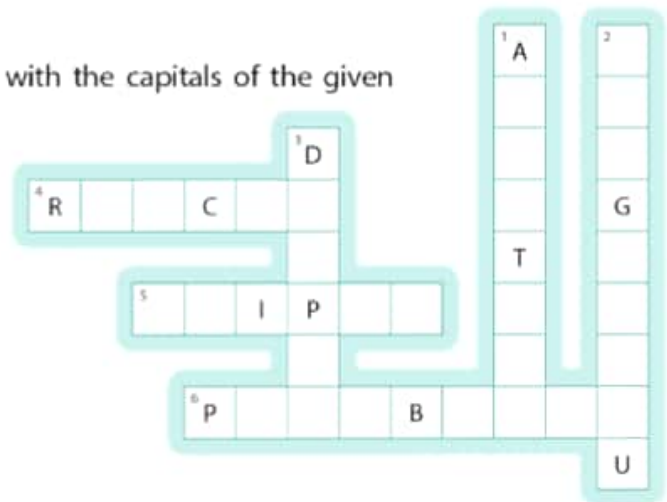
E WORD PUZZLE Fill in the word puzzle with the capitals of the given states and Union Territory.

ACROSS

- 4 Jharkhand
- 5 Chhattisgarh
- 6 Andaman and Nicobar Islands

DOWN

- 1 Tripura
- 2 Karnataka
- 3 Assam



F RESEARCH Find out the following about any one neighbouring country of India.

- its capital
- the language spoken
- a famous monument
- a popular festival celebrated

G MAP WORK Mark and label these places on the map of India given on page 133.

1. the state carved out of Andhra Pradesh
2. the capital of India
3. the southernmost tip of the mainland
4. the group of islands in the Bay of Bengal

H WEBLINK To attempt a quiz on India, visit rsgr.in/bss401.

I VALUE How will you show that you love your country?

- By keeping it clean. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The Northern Mountains

2

Get Set!

Circle the words that are related to the word MOUNTAIN.

height beach valley comet peak
slope range oasis snow

- The northern mountains include:
- the Himalayan and the Karakoram mountain ranges
 - the Purvachal Hill Ranges

THE HIMALAYAS

The Himalayas stretch from Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh (see Map 2.1). Most peaks remain snow-covered throughout the year. The Mount Everest, in the Himalayas, is the highest peak in the world. It lies



FactWise

Before the Himalayas were formed, there existed a sea, called the Tethys Sea, in its place.

on the border between Nepal and China.

The Himalayas consist of three parallel ranges. They are:

- The Greater Himalaya (Himadri)
- The Middle Himalaya (Himachal)
- The Outer Himalaya (Shiwalik)

THEY CLIMBED THE MOUNT EVEREST.



EDMUND HILLARY
New Zealand, 1953



TENZING NORGAY
Nepal-India, 1953



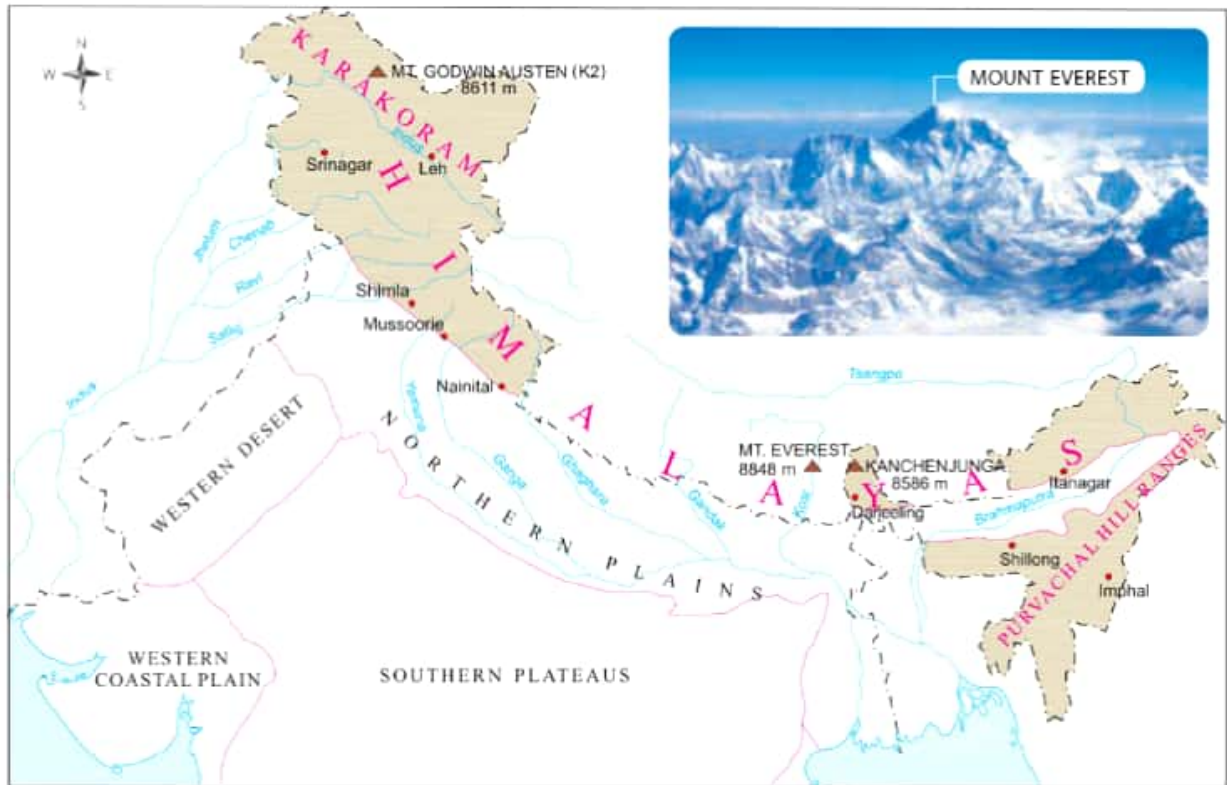
JUNKO Tabei
Japan, 1975



BACHENDRI PAL
India, 1984



ERIK WEIHENMAYER
USA, 2001



Map 2.1 Location of the northern mountains

The Greater Himalaya

The Greater Himalaya is in the extreme north. It is the highest of the three ranges. It remains covered with

snow throughout the year. Glaciers are found in these mountains. Many rivers such as Indus, Ganga, Yamuna and Brahmaputra originate from these glaciers. Kanchenjunga is a very high peak in this range.



16

A glacier is a slow-moving river of ice and snow.

The Middle Himalaya

The Middle Himalaya lies towards the south of the Greater Himalaya. It is lower in height than the Greater Himalaya. The mountain slopes are covered with thick forests of pine, fir and deodar. Hill stations such as Shimla, Nainital and Darjeeling are situated here.

The Outer Himalaya

The Outer Himalaya is located south of the Middle Himalaya. It is the lowest in height. This range is covered with forests. Many wild animals are found in these forests.

KARAKORAM MOUNTAINS

To the north-west of the Himalayas, beyond River Indus, lies the Karakoram Range (see Map 2.1). Mount Godwin Austen (K2) lies in this range. It is the highest peak in India and the second-highest peak in the world.

LIFE IN THE REGION

Ladakh lies in the Himalayas and the Karakoram Range. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Darjeeling in West Bengal and some part of Arunachal Pradesh fall in the



The availability of pastures has made sheep rearing an important occupation in the mountains.

Himalayan region.

Farming is the main occupation of the people. Due to lack of plain land, farmers have cut steps or terraces along the slopes. On these steps they grow rice, maize, barley and potatoes. Such farming is called terrace farming. Some people also engage in sheep rearing and wood carving.



Terrace farming is popular in the hills.



Kullu Dussehra is celebrated in October in the Kullu valley of Himachal Pradesh.

Jammu & Kashmir

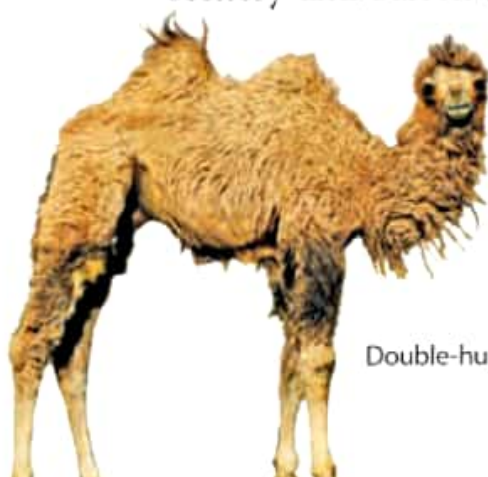
Jammu & Kashmir is famous for its apple orchards and saffron cultivation. Men and women wear a long woollen kurta, called **phiran**, and salwar. During winter, they use **kangri** to keep themselves warm. People drink kahwa, a special type of tea. Some places of tourist attraction are Srinagar, Gulmarg and Amarnath.



Kahwa

Ladakh

Ladakh is known for its beautiful scenery and barren mountains. Men wear a thick woollen robe called **goncha**. Women wear a similar robe called **kuntop**.



Double-humped camel

They also wear colourful shawls. The double-humped camel is only found here in India. The Zaskar Valley, Pangong Lake and Leh Palace are a few places of tourist interest.

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is famous for its apple orchards. Men wear embroidered caps called Kullu caps. Women wear scarves called **dhazu**. The most popular festival is the Kullu Dussehra. Many tourists visit Shimla, Dalhousie and Manali.



Kullu cap

Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand is famous for basmati rice, lychees and plums. Some people weave woollen shawls, scarves and rugs. Mussoorie, Nainital and Haridwar attract a large number of tourists.

Sikkim

Sikkim is famous for oranges, cardamom and orchids. Some men and women wear a loose gown, fastened at the waist. It is called **bakhu**. They also wear colourful jewellery made from beads. The main tourist places are Gangtok and Pelling.



A Sikkimese girl dressed in bakhu



Checkpoint

Circle the correct words.

1. Mount Godwin Austen / Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world.
2. The Outer Himalaya are also known as Himadri / Shiwalik.
3. Kashmiri men and women wear phiran / bakhu.
4. Basmati rice is grown in Sikkim / Uttarakhand.
5. Pelling / Ladakh is a place of tourist attraction in Sikkim.



Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh is a popular tourist destination. It has the largest monastery in India.

PURVACHAL HILL RANGES

In the north-east are the Purvachal Hill Ranges, also known as the North-Eastern Hills (see Map 2.1). These hills are not very high. They are covered with thick forests.

LIFE IN THE REGION

The Purvachal Hill Ranges include the north-eastern states, namely the eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. Farming and weaving are the main occupations of the people living here. They grow rice, maize, potatoes, ginger, pulses and oilseeds. They also grow oranges, pineapples and bananas for sale in the market.

Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh is famous for

fruit orchards and orchids. Some people do wood carving, carpet weaving and make bamboo and cane products. Itanagar, Ziro and Tawang are a few places of tourist interest.

Nagaland

Apart from farming and weaving, wood carving and pottery are also



Baskets made from bamboo are a traditional handicraft of the north-eastern states.



Cheraw or the bamboo dance is an important part of the Chapchar Kut festival.

important occupations. The Nagas wear shawls of different designs. We can tell the tribe a Naga belongs to from the design on her/his shawl. Kohima and Dimapur are places of tourist interest.

Manipur

A variety of fruits such as lychee, chestnut, walnut, papaya and passion fruit are grown in Manipur. Craftsmen make articles from bamboo, cane and leather. The Manipuri dance is very popular. Imphal and Ukhrul attract many tourists.

Mizoram

The traditional farming of Mizoram has now been replaced with fruit and rose cultivation. Some people make

silk from silkworms. Chapchar Kut is an important festival celebrated in March.

Tripura

Jute, rubber and bamboo are grown in Tripura. Bamboo is used to make handicrafts. People mostly speak Bangla and Kokborok. Agartala and Unakoti attract tourists throughout the year.



A bamboo handicraft

Meghalaya

People of this state belong to the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia tribes. Khasi and Garo are widely spoken languages. The Strawberry Festival is a big tourist attraction. Shillong and Cherrapunji are popular places to visit.

Words to know

kangri a small earthen pot with burning coal used as a means to keep oneself warm



Quick recap

- The northern mountains include the Himalayan and the Karakoram mountain ranges, and the Purvachal Hill Ranges.
- The Himalayas have three parallel ranges – Greater Himalaya, Middle Himalaya and Outer Himalaya.
- The northern mountains cover the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Darjeeling in West Bengal and some part of Arunachal Pradesh. Most people are engaged in farming, sheep rearing and wood carving.
- The Purvachal Hill Ranges cover Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. Farming and weaving are the main occupations.



Read and answer

A Match the columns.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. kahwa | a. a tribe in Meghalaya |
| 2. dhazu | b. a special tea popular in Jammu & Kashmir |
| 3. bakhu | c. a language spoken in Tripura |
| 4. Garo | d. dress worn by men and women of Sikkim |
| 5. Kokborok | e. scarf worn by women of Himachal Pradesh |

B Write two examples of each.

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. Rivers that originate in the Himalayas | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Woven products of Uttarakhand | _____ | _____ |
| 3. States lying in the Purvachal Hill Ranges | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Fruits grown in Manipur | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Places of tourist interest in Meghalaya | _____ | _____ |



Orchids grow in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

C Answer these questions.

1. Which are the three parallel ranges of the Himalayas?
2. What is terrace farming? Why is it popular in the mountains?
3. What is Sikkim famous for?
4. What are the main occupations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh?
5. How can we tell the tribe a Naga belongs to?

D Think and answer.

Can we grow crops on Mount Everest? Give reasons for your answer.



Do and learn



E ACTIVITY If A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, and so on, decode the names of the following dresses. Then use the Internet. Find out the names of the state/s where people wear these dresses.

	NAME OF THE DRESS	STATE WHERE IT IS WORN
1. 16 21 1 14	_____	_____
2. 22 1 20 3 8 9	_____	_____
3. 18 9 11 21 20 21	_____	_____
4. 19 1 18 15 14 7	_____	_____
5. 10 1 9 14 19 5 13	_____	_____

F RESEARCH Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world. It is in Asia. Find out the names of the highest mountain peaks in the other six continents.

G MAP WORK Mark and label these peaks and ranges on the map of India given on page 134. Mount Godwin Austen, Kanchenjunga, Himalayas, Purvachal Hill Ranges, Karakoram Range

H WEBLINK To watch a video of Cheraw dance, visit rsgr.in/bss402.

I LIFE SKILL It gets very cold in the mountains. Here are a few tips to keep warm.

- Wear thermals.
- Eat more, especially fatty foods.
- Drink a lot of water.
- Cover your ears, head and neck to prevent heat loss.
- Wear tight clothes.
- Wear gloves and warm socks.



The Northern and Coastal Plains



Get Set!

A. Rearrange the letters to get the names of a few cities located in the plains. Write the names on the blanks.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. BMMUI | _____ | 4. NIECHNA | _____ |
| 2. GHTAWUAI | _____ | 5. TANAP | _____ |
| 3. EHLID | _____ | 6. TAAKKOL | _____ |

B. Which of these cities are located on the coast? _____

A flat and level land is called a plain. The plains of India include

- the northern plains, and
- the coastal plains.

THE NORTHERN PLAINS

The northern plains lie towards the south of the Himalayas. They stretch from Punjab to Assam (see Map 3.1).

Many rivers which originate in the Himalayas flow through the northern plains. These rivers carry water throughout the year. They also bring with them broken pieces of rocks, sand and silt. The fine silt deposited by the rivers is called alluvium. It is fertile and very good for crops.

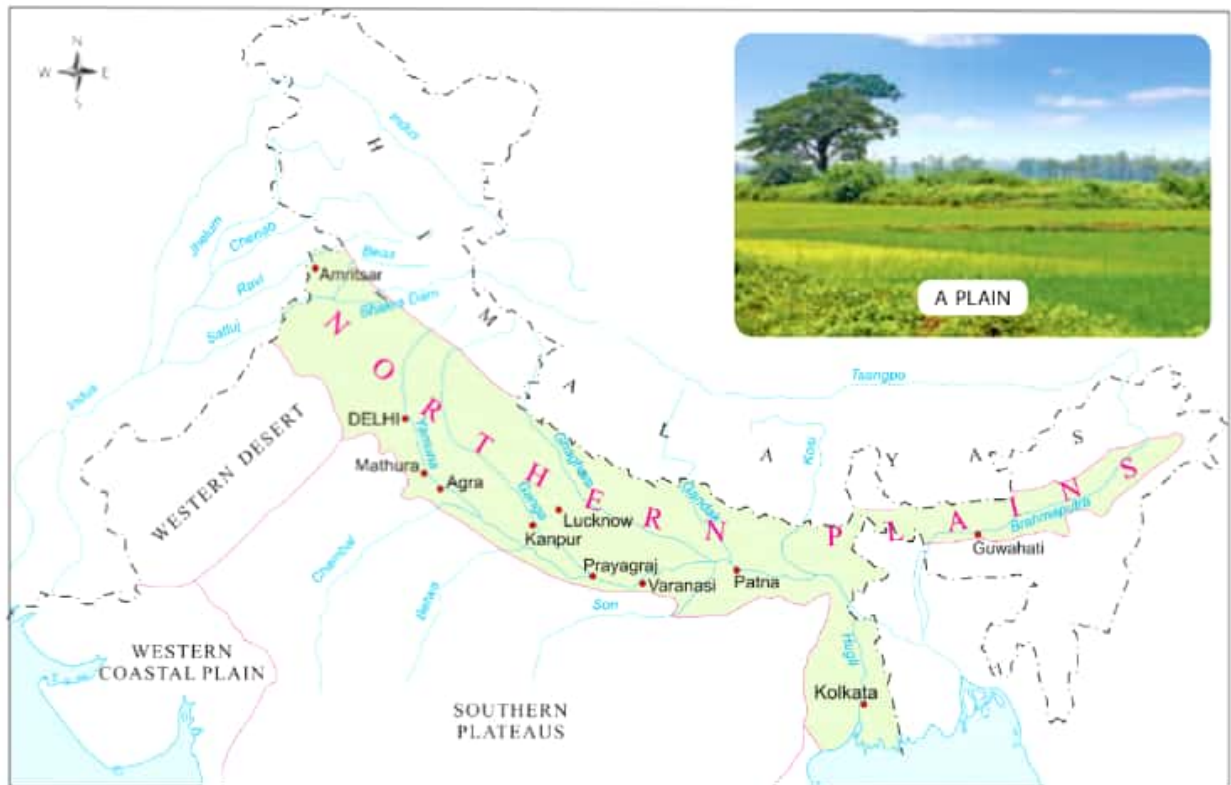
The area watered by a river and its tributaries is called its basin. Three rivers – Satluj, Ganga and Brahmaputra – and their tributaries have formed the northern plains.

The Satluj river basin

River Satluj originates in Tibet. Beas is



A smaller river that flows into a bigger river is the tributary of the bigger river.



Map 3.1 Location of the northern plains

its main tributary. Punjab and Haryana are part of the Satluj river basin. The Bhakra Dam, built across River Satluj, generates electricity and provides water for irrigation.



24

A delta is a triangular-shaped land formed by a river before it flows into the sea.

The Ganga river basin

River Ganga originates from the Gangotri glacier in the Himalayas. Yamuna is its main tributary. The Ganga and its tributaries flow through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. In West Bengal, the river splits into two branches. One branch enters Bangladesh and is called Padma. It joins the Brahmaputra. The other branch flows through West Bengal and is called Hugli.

The Brahmaputra river basin

River Brahmaputra originates in Tibet, where it is called Tsangpo. It enters

India through Arunachal Pradesh and flows through Assam, before entering Bangladesh. The Brahmaputra and the Ganga rivers form the largest delta in the world, before falling into the Bay of Bengal. This is the Sundarban delta.

LIFE IN THE REGION

Punjab, Haryana, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam lie in the northern plains. Farming is the main occupation. People grow rice, wheat and sugarcane.

Punjab

The farmers of Punjab use modern machines such as tractors and harvesters. People are fond of makke ki roti, sarson ka saag and lassi. They celebrate Baisakhi and Lohri. Bhangra and Gidda are popular folk dances. Many tourists visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar.



Makke ki roti and sarson ka saag

Haryana

Like the farmers of Punjab, the farmers of Haryana also use modern machines for farming. Many people are engaged in cattle rearing and dairy farming.



In the northern plains most farmers use tractors to plough their fields.

Faridabad and Gurugram have many industries such as information technology and automobiles.

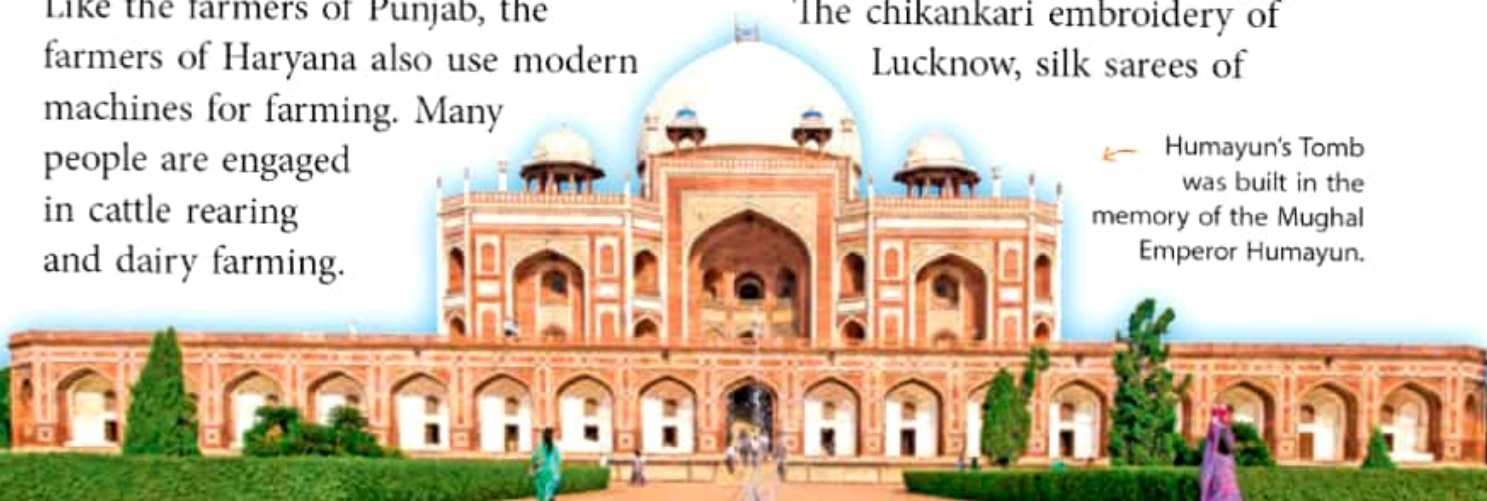
National Capital Territory of Delhi

Most people here work in offices. Many of them have business. Delhi has many famous monuments such as the Red Fort, Qutb Minar, India Gate, Humayun's Tomb, Jama Masjid, Lotus Temple and Akshardham Temple. Tourists from all over the world come to see these monuments.

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is famous for guavas and mangoes. There are many sugar, textile, leather and chemical industries.

The chikankari embroidery of Lucknow, silk sarees of



Humayun's Tomb was built in the memory of the Mughal Emperor Humayun.



Chikankari embroidery



Bhagalpuri silk

Varanasi and brassware of Moradabad are popular all over the world. The Kumbh Mela is held every 12 years in Prayagraj. Agra, Varanasi and Lucknow are cities of tourist interest.

Bihar

Bihar is famous for lychees. Bhagalpur is a centre of silk weaving. Litti-chokha and sattu parantha are popular dishes. Chhath is an important festival. Most people speak Maithili and Bhojpuri. Patna, Gaya and Rajgir are places of tourist interest.



Darjeeling (West Bengal) and Assam are famous for tea gardens. A large number of women work in tea gardens.

West Bengal

Rice, jute and tea are the main crops grown. Darjeeling has many tea gardens. Jute mills are located along both banks of the Hugli river. Fishing is an important occupation in the coastal region. People speak Bangla. Durga Puja is the most popular festival.

Assam

Assam is famous for tea and silk. Petroleum and natural gas are found in Digboi. Many women wear mekhela-chador and blouse. Most people speak Assamese. They celebrate Bihu.



Checkpoint

Fill in the blanks.

1. A _____ is a flat and level land.
2. The main tributary of River Satluj is _____.
3. River Brahmaputra is called _____ in Tibet.
4. Amritsar has the famous _____ Temple.
5. The people of Bihar celebrate _____.

THE COASTAL PLAINS

The plain land that lies along the coast is the coastal plain. It is divided into Western Coastal Plain and Eastern





Map 3.2 Location of the coastal plains

Coastal Plain. These plains stretch from Gujarat to West Bengal (see Map 3.2). The two coastal plains meet at Kanniyakumari.

Western Coastal Plain

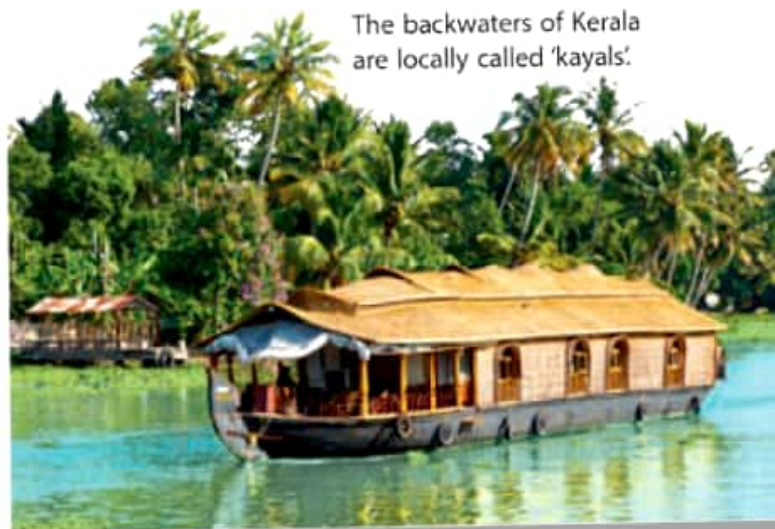
The Western Coastal Plain lies between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. It stretches from Gujarat to Kerala. It is divided into three parts.

- the Gujarat Coast towards the north
- the Konkan Coast in the middle
- the Malabar Coast towards the

south. Lagoons or backwaters are found along the Malabar Coast.

Eastern Coastal Plain

The Eastern Coastal Plain lies between the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of



The backwaters of Kerala are locally called 'kayals'.



Along the coast, seawater is collected in shallow artificial ponds called salt pans. When this water evaporates, salt is left behind. This salt is then taken to the factories for refining.

Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. Fishing and farming are the main occupations. Rice and coconut are the main crops grown. There are a number of ports that are used to export and import goods.

Bengal. It stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu. It is wider than the Western Coastal Plain. It is divided into two parts.

- The northern part, known as the Northern Circars
- The southern part, called the Coromandel Coast.

LIFE IN THE REGION

The two coastal plains cover some part of the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu,

Gujarat

People grow jowar, bajra, cotton and sugarcane. Many people are traders. Some are engaged in dairy farming. Along the coast, salt is made by drying seawater. There are many textile mills, oil refineries and diamond cutting centres in Gujarat. Most people speak Gujarati. Ras-Garba is a popular folk dance.

Goa

Goa is famous for cashewnuts and

Many Indian and foreign tourists visit Goa. Here are a few tourist attractions of the state.

mangoes. Iron ore and manganese deposits are also found here. Vindaloo and xacuti are famous dishes. Konkani is widely spoken. The beautiful

FORT AGUADA



VAGATOR BEACH



DUDHSAGAR FALLS



beaches are a big tourist attraction. St Xavier's Church, Fort Aguada and Dudhsagar Falls are visited by many tourists.



Kerala

Rubber, tea, coffee and spices are the important crops of Kerala, apart from rice and coconut. Coir making is an important activity. Kathakali and Mohiniattam are the popular classical dances. People speak Malayalam. Onam and Vishu are popular festivals.

Tamil Nadu

Tea and coffee are grown along the slopes of the Nilgiri hills. Kanchipuram and Madurai are the main centres of silk weaving. People are fond of idli, dosa, upma and sambar. Bharatanatyam is a popular dance. Tamil is the main language. Pongal is an important festival.

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is famous for Kondapalli toys and kalamkari work. Mica and

There are eight classical dances in India. Here are photographs of three of them.

limestone are found here. Kuchipudi is a popular dance. Visakhapatnam is an important seaport.

Odisha

Odisha is famous for its textiles, silver work and handicraft items. Coal, iron ore and manganese deposits are also found here. Cuttack and Raurkela are industrial cities. Odissi is a popular dance. Most people speak Odia. The Ratha Yatra is a popular festival. The Chilika Lake, with its bird sanctuary, attracts many tourists.

The Ratha Yatra or the Chariot Festival is held in Puri (Odisha).



Words to know

- silt fine sand and mud carried by rivers
harvester a big machine that is used to cut crops
lagoon a lake that is separated from the sea by sand
kalamkari a type of hand-painted cotton textile



Quick recap

- The northern plains extend from Punjab to Assam. They comprise the fertile river basins of Satluj, Ganga and Brahmaputra.
- Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam lie in the northern plains. Farming is the main occupation of the people.
- The Western Coastal Plain and the Eastern Coastal Plain are found along the western and eastern coasts of India respectively.
- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal share the coastline of India. Farming and fishing are the main occupations of the people in the coastal region.



Read and answer



A Write T for True or F for False.

1. The Bhakra Dam has been built across River Ganga. _____
2. The Humayun's Tomb is in Delhi. _____
3. The beaches of Goa are very famous. _____
4. Pongal is the main festival of Tamil Nadu. _____
5. Mohiniattam is the classical dance of Andhra Pradesh. _____



Onam sadya

B Write one-word answer for each.

1. Fine silt deposited by rivers along its banks _____
2. The branch of River Ganga that flows in Bangladesh _____
3. The state famous for sattu parantha _____
4. The Western Coastal Plain faces this sea _____
5. A popular festival of Kerala _____



Kondapalli toy of Andhra Pradesh



C Answer these questions.

1. How do the rivers of the northern plains make the land fertile?
2. Write the names of any four monuments that you would like to visit in Delhi.
3. Into how many parts is the Western Coastal Plain divided? Write their names.
4. What are the main occupations of the people living in coastal areas?
5. Write the names of crops grown in Kerala.

D Think and answer.

Why is salt-making restricted to the coastal areas?



Do and learn



E ACTIVITY Fill in this table.

State	Festival	Dance	Main language	City
KERALA				
TAMIL NADU				
WEST BENGAL				
GUJARAT				
ASSAM				
PUNJAB				

F GROUP WORK Your teacher will divide the class into groups of five. Each group can select a state given in the lesson. Make a chart on the state. You can include the following.

- occupations
- monuments
- main crops
- dresses

G VALUE Our country has many monuments. What do you do when you visit them?

Write Yes or No.

1. Do you write on the walls? _____
2. Do you take photographs in places where it is not allowed? _____
3. Do you throw things around? _____
4. Do you make noise and disturb others? _____

If you have answered No to all, you care for monuments.



The Western Desert



Get Set!

Tick (✓) what you find in a desert.

1.



2.



3.



4.



The land to the west of the Aravalli Hills, in Rajasthan, is rocky and sandy. This is the Great Indian Desert, also known as the Thar Desert. It stretches from the

Rann of Kachchh in Gujarat through Rajasthan to the borders of Haryana (see Map 4.1).

The land

The Thar Desert is covered with a thick sheet of loose sand. At some places, there are small hills of sand called sand dunes. Sometimes strong winds which blow here carry a large amount of sand with them. They can



Map 4.1 Location of the Thar Desert



FactWise

Sand dunes are also found on Mars. Wind can shift these sand dunes like the ones found in Earth's deserts.

shift the sand dunes.

There are very few streams in the Thar Desert. They mostly remain dry. Luni is the most important river. At some places, oases are found. The land around an oasis is fertile. People grow crops here. Thus, most villages are situated around an oasis.

Climate

The Thar Desert remains hot and dry throughout the year. There is very little or no rainfall. In summer, days are very hot and nights are cool. In winter, days are warm and nights are very cold.

Natural vegetation

A hot and dry climate means that mostly scattered bushes and thorny shrubs grow here. The khejri, kikar and babul trees grow in the eastern part of the desert. Animals such as camels, blackbucks, chinkaras and great



A lush green area surrounding a water source in a desert is called an oasis.

Indian bustards are found in this region. The camel is the most useful animal. Can you tell why?

Water supply

There is always very little water. Village women walk long distances to fetch water. The state government is trying to provide water for domestic use and irrigation. Water from River Satluj has been brought to the desert through the Indira Gandhi Canal. Farmers can thus grow wheat, mustard and cotton.

You will find sand dunes, thorny shrubs and camels in the Thar Desert.





Rainwater stored in a taanka is used during the dry period.



Checkpoint

Write T for True or F for False.

1. The Thar Desert is in Himachal Pradesh. _____
2. The Luni river flows through the desert. _____
3. The region receives very little rainfall. _____
4. The Jawaharlal Nehru Canal is in Rajasthan. _____

Occupations

People mostly rear sheep, goat, camel and cattle. Some of them are farmers. They grow bajra, jowar, maize, sesame and groundnut. Some people also travel from one place to another in search of food for themselves and their animals. Such people are called banjaras. Life in the Thar Desert is thus very hard.

The Jaisalmer Fort, also known as the Golden Fort, is a major tourist attraction.



Houses

Most houses have a flat roof and a few small windows. The walls are thick to keep the heat out so that the houses remain cool. Some houses have underground tanks to store rainwater. Such tanks are called taankas.

Lifestyle

Women in villages wear ghaghra, choli and odhni. Men wear dhoti, kurta and turban. People love to eat dal-baati-choorma. They celebrate Gangaur and Teej. Ghoomar and Kalbeliya are popular folk dances.



People of Rajasthan wear colourful clothes.

Major cities

Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner are some big cities. Jaipur is called the Pink City. It is famous for blue pottery. A large number of tourists from all over the world visit Rajasthan every year.

Words to know

- Rann of Kachchh** a part of the Thar Desert that gets flooded during the monsoon season but leaves behind salt when the water dries up during winter, thereby forming a salt desert
- Pink City** the city is so called because all buildings in the old city are built of pink stones



Quick recap

- The Thar Desert covers a large part of Rajasthan.
- The region remains hot and dry.
- There is not much water available. People store water in taankas.
- People rear animals and do farming.
- Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner are some big cities of Rajasthan.



Read and answer

A Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. What is the other name given to the Great Indian Desert?
a. Sahara _____ b. Thar _____ c. Kalahari _____ d. Atacama _____
2. Which of these trees is not found in the desert?
a. babul _____ b. kikar _____ c. coconut _____ d. khejri _____
3. Which of these is the most useful animal in the desert?
a. elephant _____ b. donkey _____ c. horse _____ d. camel _____
4. Which of these crops is cultivated in Rajasthan?
a. jowar _____ b. tea _____ c. jute _____ d. rubber _____
5. Which of these festivals is celebrated in Rajasthan?
a. Gangaur _____ b. Pongal _____ c. Onam _____ d. Lohri _____

B Fill in the blanks with words from the brackets.

1. The _____ (sand dunes/sand storms) are small hills of sand found in the desert.
2. An area in a desert where trees grow around a water source is called a/an _____ (lagoon/oasis).



Kikar tree

3. A _____ (canal/taanka) is an underground tank to store rainwater.
4. _____ (Kalbeliya/Kathakali) is a folk dance of Rajasthan.
5. _____ (Jodhpur/Jaipur) is called the Pink City of Rajasthan.

C Answer these questions.

1. Describe the climate of the Thar Desert.
2. Why do villages in the desert region grow up around oases?
3. Why is Indira Gandhi Canal important for the people of the region?
4. Who are the banjaras?
5. Why do houses in Rajasthan have thick walls?



Dal-baati-choorma

D Think and answer.

Why is rice not grown in this region?



Do and learn



E ACTIVITY Write the names of the continents where these deserts lie.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Sahara _____ | 4. Mojave _____ |
| 2. Atacama _____ | 5. Arabian _____ |
| 3. Gibson _____ | 6. Kalahari _____ |

F GROUP WORK Your teacher will divide the class into five groups. Each group can select a city of Rajasthan. Find out about a few things that these cities are famous for. Discuss them in class.

G MAP WORK Mark and label the Thar Desert on the map of India given on page 134.

H WEBLINK To see Rajasthan in pictures, visit rsgr.in/bss403.

I LIFE SKILL Here are a few ways you can save water at home. Tick (✓) what you do.

1. I take only as much water as I can drink. _____
2. I turn off the tap while brushing my teeth. _____
3. I take short baths. _____
4. I collect rainwater and use it to water plants. _____
5. I request my parents to call a plumber if I see a leaking tap. _____