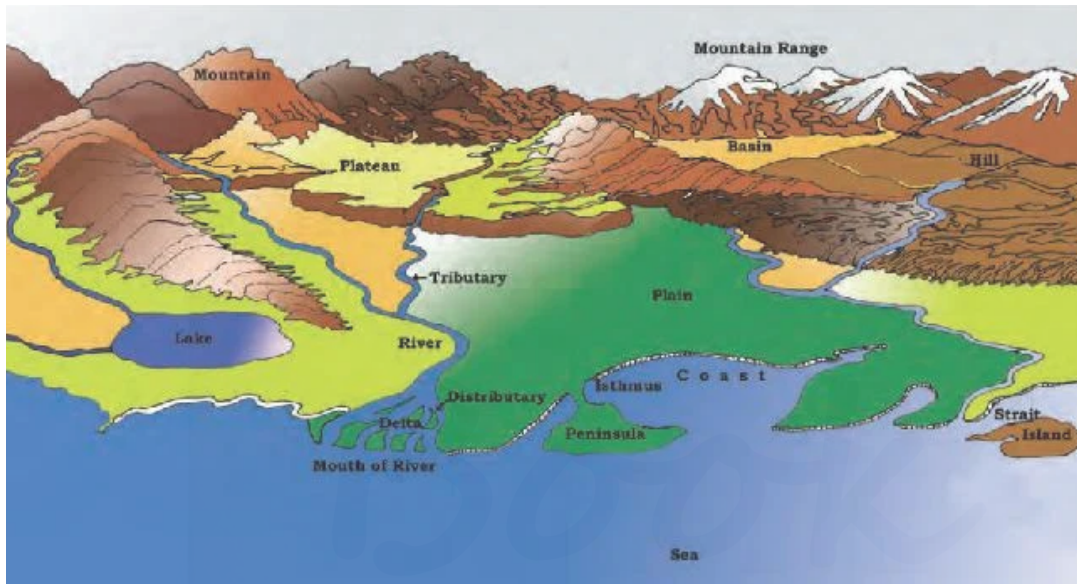


NCERT - CLASS 6 GEOGRAPHY - CHAPTER 6: MAJOR LANDFORMS OF EARTH

LANDFORMS



- Lithosphere → result of two processes: Internal and External
- Internal process → Upliftment & sinking of earth's surface at several places
- External process → Continuous wearing down & rebuilding of land surface → Done by running water, ice, wind
- Erosion: Wearing away of the earth's surface - the surface is lowered
- Deposition: Rebuilding of the earth's surface
- Landforms grouped based on elevation and slope: Mountains, plateaus, plains

MOUNTAINS

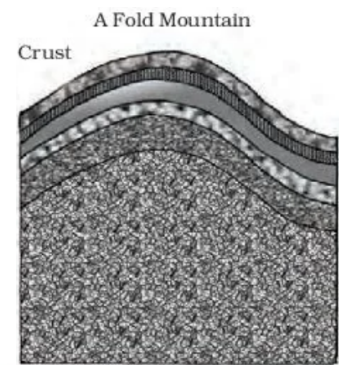
- Any natural elevation of the earth's surface → Hill - more than 600m steep elevation → Mountain
- Has a small summit and a broad base
- Higher than the surrounding area or even higher than the clouds
- Colder at heights
- Glaciers → Permanently frozen rivers of ice
- Undersea mountains → Mauna Kea (Hawaii, Pacific Ocean - 10,200m)
- Harsh climate → Less population
- Steep slope → Less land for farming
- Mountains arranged in a line → range
- Mountain system → contains a series of parallel ranges extending over hundreds of km

- Ex: Himalayas (Asia), Alps (Europe), Andes (South America)

Types of Mountains

Fold mountains:

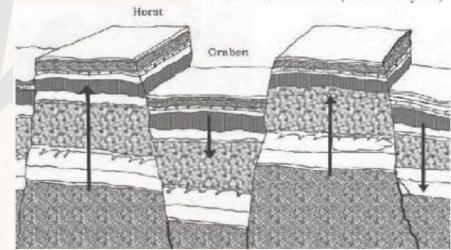
- Earth's surface fold and rise into peak
- Young fold mountains - Himalayas, Alps
- Rugged relief, high conical peaks
- Old fold mountains - Aravalli range (India) - among oldest in the world → worn out due to erosion
- Appalachian (North America) and Ural Mountains (Russia) → Rounded features, low elevation - very old fold mountains



Fold Mountains (Himalayas)

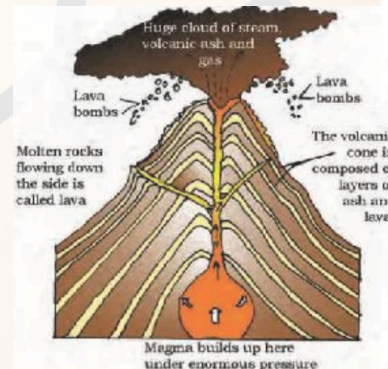
Block mountains:

- large areas are broken and displayed vertically into blocks
- uplifted blocks → called Horsts
- lowered blocks → called Graben
- Ex: Rhine Valley, Vosges Mountain → Europe



Volcanic mountains:

- Formed by volcanic activity
- Ex: Mt. Kilimanjaro (Africa) and Mt. Fujiyama (Japan)



Uses of Mountains

- Storehouse of water
- Glaciers → major source of river water
- Reservoirs are made → water is harnessed for human use
- Water from mountains → used for Irrigation and hydroelectricity
- River valleys and terraces → ideal for the cultivation of crops
- Has rich flora and fauna
- Forest → provide fuel, fodder, shelter, and other products (gums, raisins, etc)
- Tourism → scenery, sports - paragliding, hang gliding, river rafting, skiing



PLATEAUS

- Elevated flat land/ flat-topped table land above the surrounding area
- May have one or more sides with steep slopes
- Height varies from a few 100 meters to more than 1000 meters
- Young or old plateaus
- Ex: Deccan Plateau (India) - one of the oldest; East African plateau (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda); Western Plateau (Australia)
- Tibet plateau - the world's highest (4000-6000m above sea level)
- Rich in mineral deposits → mining areas of the world
- African plateau → famous for gold, diamond
- Chhotanagpur plateau (India) → huge reserves of iron, coal, manganese
- Waterfalls → Ex: Hundru Falls - Chhotanagpur plateau on river Subarnarekha and Jog Falls - Deccan Plateau on river Sharavathi
- Lava plateaus → rich in black soil → fertile and good for cultivation
- Has tourist attractions with scenic spots



PLAINS

- Large stretches of flat land
- Generally more than 200m above sea level - some extremely level, slightly rolling and undulating



- Most are formed by rivers and their tributaries → Flow down slopes of mountains → cause erosion carrying stones, sand, and silt → then deposition along courses and river valley
- Construction of transport network easy → Hence, thickly populated
- Largest plains in Asia, North America
- Ex: Ganga & Brahmaputra plains (India), Yangtze (China)
- Useful for human habitation → Land available for the construction of houses
- Fertile soil → highly productive for cultivation → Ex: Indo-Gangetic plains

LANDFORMS AND PEOPLE

- Difficult to live in the mountains than in the plains
- Plains provide better conditions → Cultivation, building houses and roads
- Natural calamities → Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, storms, floods → cause widespread destruction, huge loss of life & property
- Creating awareness might lower the risks
- Swachh Bharat Mission → Government of India initiative → For a healthy body and a clean environment, clean water, air and hygienic surroundings
- Our surroundings → We construct houses on fertile land, throw garbage on land or water
- Our duty to make the earth a better place for our future generations

