NCERT - CLASS 6 GEOGRAPHY - CHAPTER 8: INDIA - CLIMATE, VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

- Weather: day-to-day changes in the atmosphere, temperature, rainfall, sunshine, air pressure and moisture
- Season: changes in weather, ecology, daylight

Major seasons in India

Winter:
- Cold weather season
- December to February
- Sun rays do not fall directly
- Temperature is quite low - especially in North India

Summer:
- Hot weather season
- March to May
- Sun rays more or less fall directly
- Temperature becomes very high
- Hot and dry winds → loo → blow during the day

Monsoon:
- South-west monsoon/rainy season
- June to September
- Onset/advance of monsoon
- Winds from Arabian Sea/Bay of Bengal → carry moisture → blow towards land → strike the mountain barriers → rainfall occurs

Autumn:
- Retreating monsoon
- Winds move back from → from mainland → to the Bay of Bengal
- Southern parts of India → Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh receive rainfall

- Climate: average weather condition measured over a long period of time
- The climate of India → 'Monsoon' type → Arabic word - 'mausim' → season
- India is located in the tropical region → most of the rain is brought by monsoon winds
- Indian agriculture → is rain-fed
- The climate of a place → affected by its location, altitude, distance from the sea, relief
- Example:

Jaisalmer, Bikaner	Very hot
Drass, Kargil	Freezing cold
Mumbai, Kolkata	Moderate climate, very humid
Mawsynram	World's highest rainfall
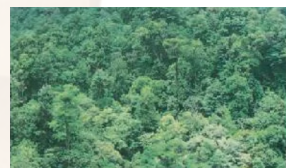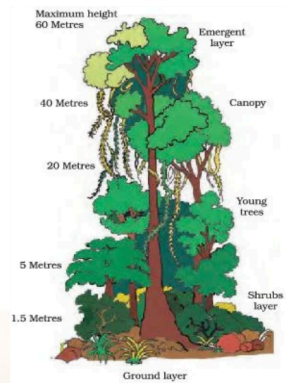
NATURAL VEGETATION

- Natural vegetation: grasses, shrubs and trees growing independently without human interference or help.
- India has different types of natural vegetation → due to different climatic conditions

FORESTS

- Plants: Release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide
- Roots of plants bind soil → control erosion
- Provides timber for furniture, fuel wood, fodders, medicinal plants, herbs, lac, honey, gum, etc
- Are the natural habitat for wildlife
- Destruction → due to the cutting of trees to a large extent
- We should: plant more trees; protect existing ones; create awareness about the importance of trees
- Van Mahotsav → special programme involves people caring about our environment

WILDLIFE

- Animals, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, insects, worms → live in the forest

Animals:

- Tiger → our national animal → found in various parts of India
- Asiatic Lion → Gir forest, Gujarat
- Elephants, one-horned rhinoceros → Assam
- Elephants → Kerala, Karnataka
- Camel, Wild Asses → Great Indian desert, Rann of Kuchchh
- Wild Goats, Snow Leopard, Bears → Himalayas
- Monkey, Wolf, Jackal, Nilgai, Cheetal → found in different forest in India

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Birds:

- Peacock → our national bird
- Other common birds → Parrots, Pigeons, Mynah, Geese, Bulbul, Duck
- Bird Sanctuary → to give birds their natural habitat and protect them from hunters
- Migratory birds: Pintail Duck, Curlew, Flamingo, Osprey, Little Stint → migrate to India during the winter season every year
- Smallest migratory bird - Little Stint - as low as15 grams → travels 8000 km from Arctic region → to reach India

Snake:

- Several hundreds of species are found in India
- Important → Cobra, Krait

Protecting Wildlife

- Cutting of forests and Hunting → decline of wildlife in India → many species have become extinct
- To protect them → National Parks, Sanctuaries, and Biosphere Reserves have been set up
- Project Tiger and Project Elephant → Government of India initiative