

Natural Vegetation is the primeval plant cover unaffected by man either directly or indirectly. Thus, grasses, shrubs and trees, which grow on their own without any interference constitute the natural vegetation of an area. The word forest is derived from Latin word 'fores' meaning 'outside' in reference to village boundary. Ecologically, a forest is a plant community, predominant of trees and other woody vegetation.

Factors influencing natural Vegetation:-

1. Climate:- Under climate temperature and rainfall are two important elements which influence the growth of vegetation, where rainfall predominates temperature (except Himalayas) for eg. area receives 200cm or more rainfall have evergreen forests and areas receiving 100-200cm rainfall have monsoon deciduous forests.
2. Topography / Relief:- In higher altitudes of Himalayas and hills of Peninsula, temperature plays an important role. As the temperature decreases with the altitude the vegetation cover changes from tropical → subtropical and finally Alpine.

Geography Class: X Ch-6.

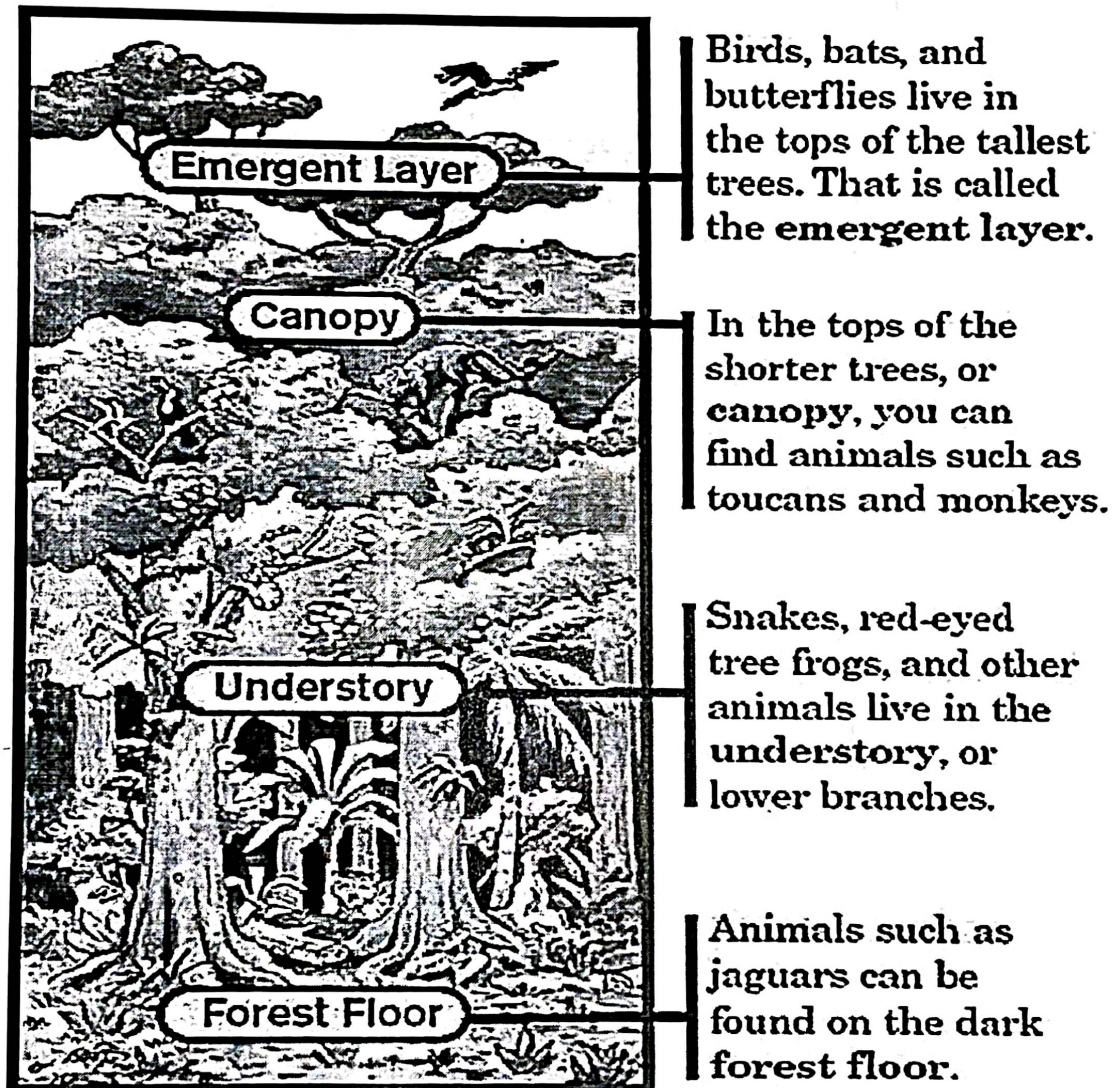
3. Soil:- Change in soil condition give birth to different types of vegetation for eg. Mangrove forest, Swamp forest and sandy coastal forests.

TYPES OF NATURAL VEGETATION IN INDIA.

1. TROPICAL EVERGREEN FORESTS:-

- These are typical rainforests, grows in the areas where annual rainfall exceeds 250cm; annual temperature of 25°C to 27°C ; average annual humidity exceeds 77%.
- These forests are found in Western parts of Western Ghats, Arunachal Pradesh, Upper Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- Characteristic Features:
 - i) The trees do not have a fixed time to shed their leaves, to flower or fruition. That is why these forests appear green all the year round (Evergreen).
 - ii) They are dense, multi-layered and have many types of trees and shrubs.
 - iii) Trees reach great heights of 60m or above.
 - iv) The carpet layer of herbs and grasses cannot grow because of dense canopy of trees which do not allow enough sunlight to reach the ground.
- ★- The timber/wood of these forests is fine-grained, hard and durable as a result of which it has high commercial value. Due to tangled mass of canes, palms, ferns and climbers along with lack of means of transport, these forests have not been fully exploited.

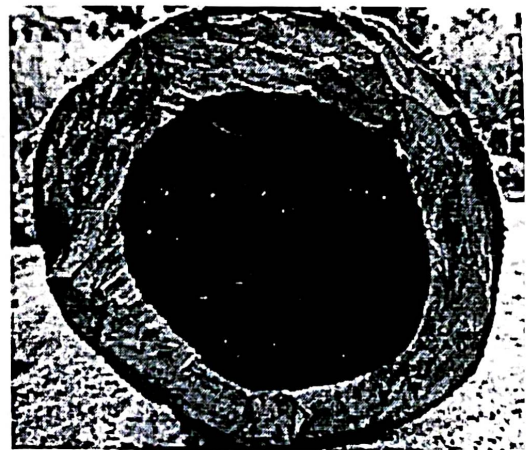
Layers of Rainforest



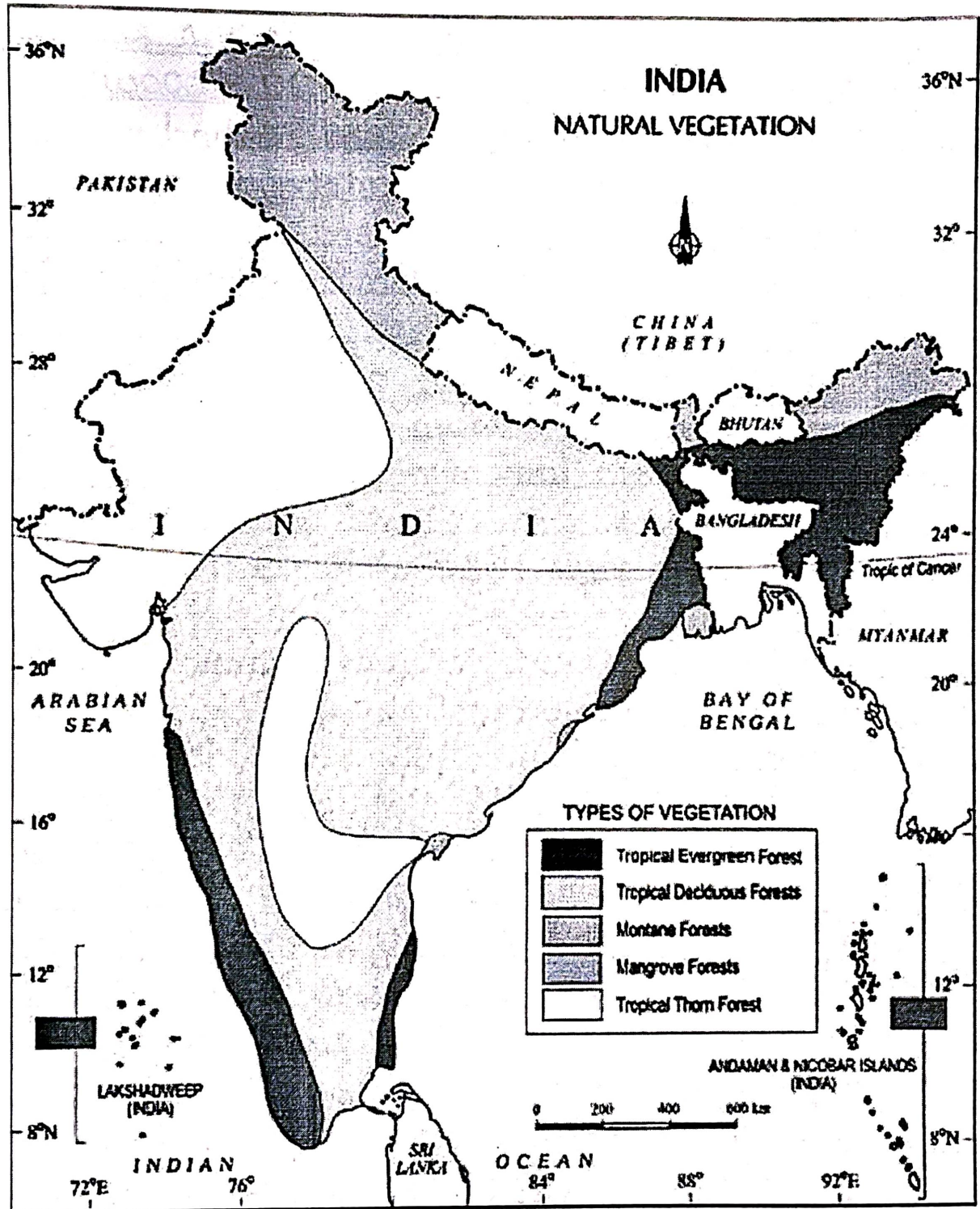
Rosewood.



Ebony



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- Species and their use:-

- i) Rosewood - used in premium furniture making, guitar bodies, boats, showpieces.
- ii) Ebony :- Foundation of Taj Mahal made by this wood, black chess pieces, musical instruments.
- iii) Mahogany :- boat making, musical instruments.

2. Deciduous Monsoon or Tropical Deciduous Forests:-

- These are found in areas of moderate rainfall of 100 to 200 cm per annum and mean annual temperature of 27°C.
- Such areas include a belt running along Western Ghats surrounding evergreen forests. A strip along Shiwalik range including terai and bhabar region. States of Manipur, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, parts of West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- Characteristic features:-
 - i) Trees of these forests drop their leaves for 6-8 weeks during Autumn and early summer when sufficient moisture is not available.
 - ii) These forests presents irregular top storey of different species 25 to 60m high with heavy buttressed trees and shrubby undergrowth.
 - iii) A particular species can be found over a large area.
- These forests are commercially most exploited, they provide timber, fruits and other products even large tracts of these forests ~~to~~ have been cleared for agricultural activities.

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Species and their uses:-

1. Teak - furniture making; shipbuilding.
2. Sal - housebuilding; making of railway sleepers.
3. Sandalwood - Perfumes; Cosmetics; religious material
4. Semul - Package boxes; matchboxes.
5. Palas - dying agent (flower); medicinal use.
6. Eucalyptus - Paper industry; medicinal purposes.

3. Tropical Thorn forests (Desert and Semi-desert):-

- These forests are found in areas of low rainfall less than 75 cm; low humidity less than 50% and high temperature of 25°C to 30°C .

- Forests/Vegetation is found in North West Rajasthan, South West Punjab, Western Haryana, Kachch and Saurashtra, leeward slopes of Western ghats.

- Characteristic features:-

- i) Trees are of 6-10m height and are widely scattered. These forests have Xerophytic Vegetation (plant adapted for life with a limited supply of water).
- ii) The forests remain leafless for most part of the year. There is luxuriant growth of ephemeral herbs and grasses during rainy season.
- iii) Moving towards deserts from semi-deserts regions vegetation starts diminishing and in arid parts there is almost no vegetation just the sand cover.

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Species and their Uses:-

- i> Babool - its bark and gum have medicinal value
- ii> Date Palm - eaten raw; use as syrup or paste for fever
- iii> Neem - bark and roots have medicinal properties
- iv> Khair - dying agent. (tanning)

Cactus, Kikay, Khajri are some other species.

These are the three types of natural vegetation of India the remaining two ^{we} will discuss in next session.

HOME WORK:- On the basis of the summary provided above, you are able to attempt following questions on your own:-

Question No. 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 26 a and b.

Note:- Read the Summary two to three times to understand the topic (use the map to identify the extension of each type of forests) as well as read the Book from Page no. 140 to 143.

Parents please ensure that child completes the Homework assigned.