

Date: 14/10/24

class: VI

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Subject: GEOGRAPHY

chapter 2 (continue)

Major Landforms

(A) Mountains

- Mountain is a natural elevation of Earth's Surface that has a summit or peak.
- Its height is 600 metres above sea level.
- It may have steep slope or Gentle Slope.

Types of Mountains

(A) Fold Mountains:

- when the layers of the earth's crust are pushed towards each other due to high pressure, it helps in the formation of fold mountains.
- They are of two types - old fold mountains and new fold mountains.
- The old fold mountains were formed 250 million years ago.
- The new or young fold mountains were formed 25 million years ago.
- examples - old fold mountains - Urals, Aravalli
- Young fold mountains - Rockies, Himalayas, Andes etc.

(B) Block Mountains

- when the part of the Earth's crust along the fault line either rises or sinks down it leads to the formation of block mountains.
- The raised block is known as block mountain and the lowered block is known as Rift Valley. eg Rhine Valley, Vosges Mountain.

(C) Volcanic Mountain

- They are formed due to Volcanic Eruption.
- They are found in Volcanic Regions of the Earth.
- eg Mt. Vesuvius, Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Importance of Mountains

Ans → They are source of rivers

→ They provide space to set up hydroelectric powerplant.

→ They determine the climate of the region

→ They are source of medicines.

→ They have rich variety of flora and fauna.

→ They are source of minerals and hardwood.

(2) Plateaus

→ Plateau is a large area of raised flat land.

→ It has steep slopes.

→ The height of plateaus varies from several hundred to thousands of metres.

Types of plateaus

(A) Intermontane Plateau:

→ The plateau surrounded by mountains on all sides is Intermontane plateau.

→ eg Tibetan plateau, Mexican Plateau etc.

(B) Piedmont plateau:

→ These are the plateaus that are formed at foot of mountains.

→ eg Patagonian plateau

(c) Dome shaped Plateau

- This plateau is formed when landmass is uplifted and the sides of it is rounded.
- Chota Nagpur plateau, Ozark plateau etc.

(d) Continental Plateau

- This plateau is formed due to upliftment on extensive spreading of lava on Earth's surface.
- They are very extensive and away from mountains.
- eg. Siberian Shield, Canadian Shield etc.

Importance of Plateaus

- They are rich in minerals.
- They are rich in black soil that is good for agriculture.
- The rivers of plateau has many waterfalls that helps in production of Hydro-electric.
- Plateaus has many scenic beauties.

(3) Plains

Ans → Structural plains:

They are formed by horizontally bedded rocks that is undisturbed by crustal movement. They are very extensive.

eg: Great plains of USA, Central lowlands of Australia.

→ Erosional Plains:

They are formed by action of wind, river and Glaciers.

eg: North-Western plains of Europe.

→ Depositional plains:

They are formed by deposition of sediments brought by Am, river and Glaciers.

eg: Loess plains of China, Northern plains of India.

Importance of Plains

- They are very good for Agriculture.
- They have good network of road and rail.
- They are good for human habitation.
- They are also rich in minerals.

(4) Isthmus:

- It is a narrow strip of land that connects two landmasses.
- It helps to divide two big water bodies.
- eg. Isthmus of Suez, Isthmus of Panama.

(5) Island

- It is a landmass that is surrounded by water from all sides.
- eg. Australia, Greenland, Cuba etc.

(6) Peninsula

- It is a landmass surrounded by water from three sides.
- eg. Southern part of India, Korean peninsula, Californian Peninsula etc.

Water Bodies

(1) Oceans

(A) Pacific Ocean

- It is largest and deepest Ocean.
- It is almost Circular in shape.
- Continents of Asia, Australia, N. America and S. America surrounds it.
- Mariana Trench, the deepest point of Earth is located in this ocean.
- It has many active Volcano, so it is known as Ring of fire.

(B) Atlantic Ocean

- It is second largest ocean.
- It has S-shaped basin.
- It is covered by N. America, S. America, Europe, Africa, Greenland.
- It is busiest ocean due to trade.
- It has many natural harbours and ports.

(C) Indian Ocean

- It is the only ocean named after a country India.
- It is 3rd largest ocean of world.
- It is the warmest ocean of the world.
- recently this ocean has become Geopolitically very Important.

(d) Southern or Antarctic Ocean

- It is the fourth largest ocean of the world.
- In the year 2000, International Hydrographic Organisation, added this ocean to list of Major Oceans.
- It is located around South pole.

(e) Arctic Ocean

- It lies near to Arctic Circle.
- It is smallest and shallowest ocean of world.
- It is connected to Pacific Ocean through Bering Strait.
- It is normally covered with ice through out the year.

Seas

- It is body of saline water that is part of ocean.
- It is smaller and shallower.
- It is located closed to continent or ocean.
- eg: Arabian sea, Caribbean Sea, North Sea.

(3) Gulf

- It is deeper
- It has narrow entrance and broad interior
- eg Gulf of Mexico, Persian Gulf etc

(4) Bay

- Bays are shallower.
- Bays have wide entrance
- Hudson Bay, Bay of Bengal.

(5) Lakes

- These are small waterbodies surrounded by land on all sides.
- eg Caspian sea, Aral sea, Lake Superior, Wular lake, Dal Lake.

(6) Lagoons

- It is a shallow body of water separated from sea by a sandbank or coral reef.
- eg Lake Chilka in Orissa.

(7) Rivers

- It is a stream of water that flows in a channel, down a mountain or hill into a sea, ocean or lake.
- The place where river originates is called source and where it ends is known as Delta or estuaries.

(8) Estuaries

- It is single channel opening at mouth of a river.
- It is situated along the coast.
- It has deep mouth and strong tidal current.
- eg Narmada and Tapi form estuary.

Importance of Oceans and Waterbodies

Ans → They are the main source of sea food.

→ They are the main source of water vapour.

→ Ocean currents of ocean modifies the climate of the adjoining areas.

→ Ocean acts as trade route.

→ Oceans are the major source of salt.