

CLIMATE OF ASIA.

Asia is a vast continent and extends from the Arctic Circle to the Southern Hemisphere and through all climatic zones. The climate of Asia is influenced by several factors.

Factors affecting climate of Asia:-

1. Latitudinal extent:- The vast extent of Asia covering 10°S to 80°N latitudes experiences all the types of climate ranging from hot and wet equatorial type in the south to dry and cold Tundra type in the North. It experiences temperate and Tropical climate in Central Asia and South Asia.
2. Distance from the Sea:- Places close to the sea experience moderate climate, whereas places in the interior experience extremes of climate.

Asia, covering a vast area, experiences extremes of climates in the central parts eg. Verkhyanak experiences -50°C in winter and Jacobabad in Pakistan experiences 50°C during summer.

3. Winds: During summer when the mainland of Asia gets heated and develops low pressure, the Southwest Monsoon winds blow onshore. They pick up moisture from the Arabian Sea and give heavy rainfall. During winter, they blow offshore as dry North East Monsoons and do not give any rainfall.

4. Physical Feature:- The East West Trend of Himalayas in South Asia, ~~provide~~ prevents the cold winds from Central Asia to enter the subcontinent in winter. They force the monsoon winds to shed their moisture in the south during the rainy season.

5. Ocean Currents:- The cold and warm ocean currents affect the climate of a region eg, the Cold Oyashio current, which comes from the north and washes the western coast of Japan, affects the climate of Japan by making it extremely cold, whereas the East coast of Japan is washed by the warm Kuroshio current that makes the winter milder.

Now Students This is the Question-Time. Let me ask you a few questions after which you may pause the lesson for 3 min.

1. Places close to the sea experience _____ climate.
2. Name the ocean currents affects climate of Asia.
3. _____ prevents the cold winds from Central Asia to enter the subcontinent in winter.

Let us now discuss the answers:

1. Moderate or Equable.
2. Oyashio current and Kuroshio current.
3. Himalayas.

MAJOR CLIMATIC TYPES.

1. **Tundra Type Climate** :- This type of climate is found beyond the Arctic Circle including northern parts of Russia. In this region the winters are long and severe, summers are short and cool. The precipitation is in the form of snow.
2. **Taiga Climate** :- This region lies to the south of the Tundra between 55°N and 70°N , stretching across the North of Russia and Siberia. Summers are short and warm and this is when there is moderate to light rainfall. Most of the precipitation similar to the Tundra, is in the form of snow.
3. **Manchurian Type of Climate** :- This type of climate is experienced in the Eastern coastal regions of Asia including eastern Siberia, North China, Manchuria, parts of Korea and Northern Japan. Region has cold, very dry winter and very warm, exceptionally wet summers.

4. China Type of Climate :- It is similar to the monsoon type, except that the winters are colder. Snowfall occurs in winter while rainfall occurs in summer. The regions along the east coast of Asia in the warm temperate latitudes,
5. Mid-latitude Desert Climate :- It is found in the interior of the continent and on high plateaux — Gobi Desert and Plateau of Tibet. Very little rainfall is experienced and winters are very cold with temperatures below the freezing point. However, summers are very hot.
6. Temperate Grassland Climate :- The climate mainly occurs around the Caspian Sea region of Russia and in eastern Mongolia. Being in the interior, far removed from the oceanic influence, these regions have extreme climatic conditions. Summers are hot and dry while winters are cold and dry.
7. Mediterranean Climate :- The climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool wet winters. The climatic type gets its name from the Mediterranean region around which this type of climate prevails. Countries of west Asia such as Syria, Turkey, Lebanon and Israel have this type of climate.

Tropical Desert Climate:- This type of climate prevails in Arabia, Iran and the Thar Desert in Pakistan and India. These regions experience very hot dry summers and very cold winters. The daily and annual ranges of temperature are very high and the areas receive less than 25cm of rainfall annually.

Tropical Monsoon Climate:- These areas have distinct seasons - hot wet summers and cool dry winters. The summer rainfall is caused by the monsoon winds that blow from the sea to land. Heavier rainfall is received in the coastal regions and on the windward slopes. It is experienced in Indian Subcontinent.

10. Equatorial Climate:- This is experienced in countries located close to the equator - Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. They have high temp. of 28° - 30° C and rainfall all year round. Convectional rainfall occurs almost daily around 4'o'clock in this region.