



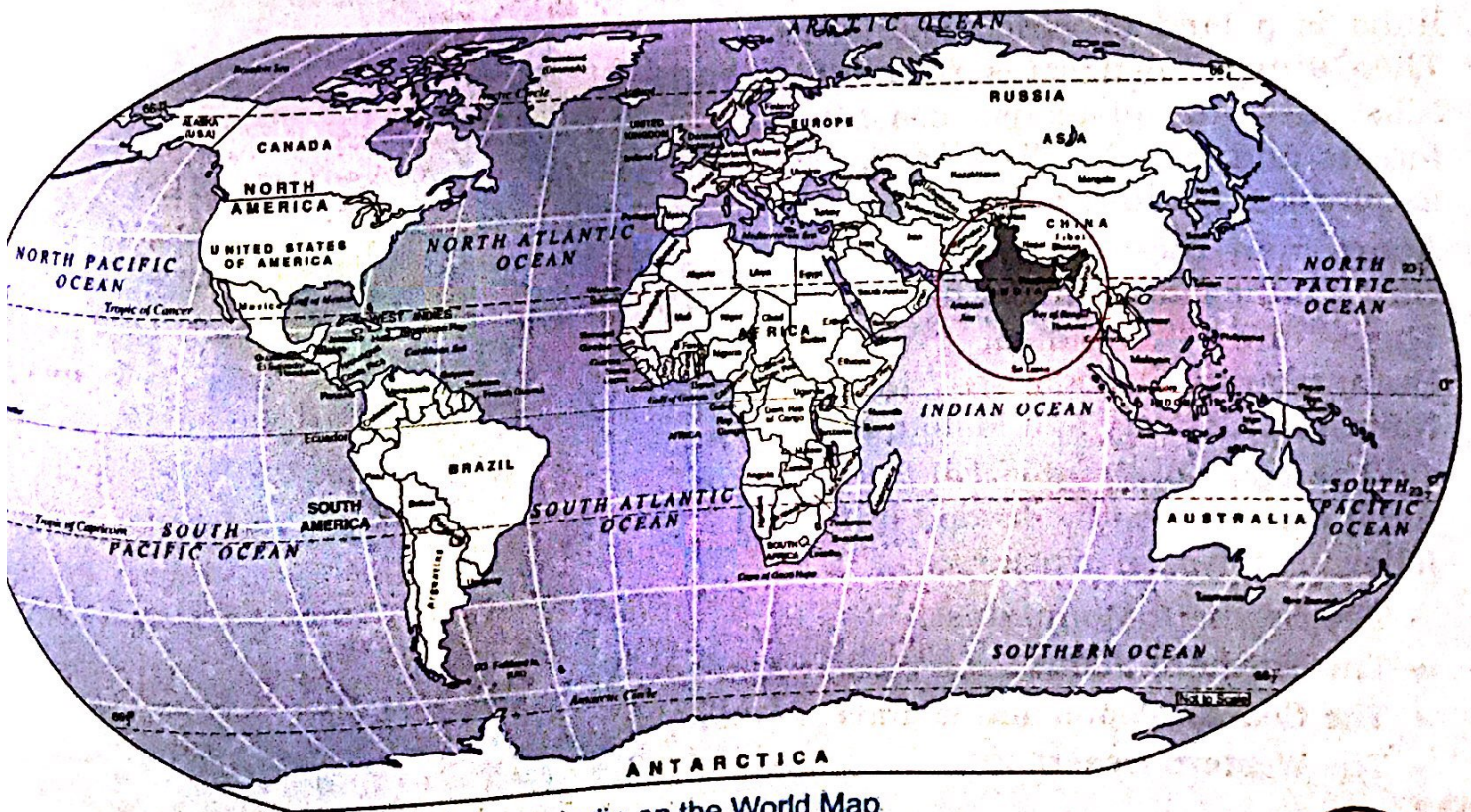
About India

Let's Begin

Do you live in India? Are you proud to belong to this nation? What does the country look like on a physical map? Does this country have diverse landforms and cultures?

India is a vast country. It is the seventh largest and also the second most populated country in the world. People in India belong to different religions, tribes and races. They speak different languages, wear different dresses and eat different foods.

India has diverse landforms and culture. India has vast plains, beautiful hills, valleys, fertile plains, rugged plateaus, thick forests, hot deserts, islands and long sandy beaches. It also has a large number of rivers flowing through the country.



India on the World Map

Fact!

The population of India ranks second in the world after China.

Location

India lies in the southern part of the continent of Asia, which is the largest of the seven continents. India extends to about 3,214 kilometers from north to south and for about 2,933 kilometers from east to west. The northern part of India is surrounded by land and snow-capped Northern Mountains, that is, the Himalayas. The Northern plains are watered and more fertile. To the west, there is the Great Indian Desert, the Thar Desert. It has hot and dry climate. India is surrounded by water on three sides. India has the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal in the east. The southern part of India is a Peninsula.

India and its Neighbours

India shares land boundaries with Pakistan to the north-west, to the north are China and Nepal, Bhutan lies to the north-east and to the east are Myanmar and Bangladesh. Across the oceans lies, Maldives to the south-west, Sri Lanka to the south and Indonesia to the south-east.

Physical Features

India is a land of varied landforms. There are extended plains, mountains, hills, deserts, plateaus, coastlines, forests and islands. They are known as physical features of India.

Apart from these, many rivers flow through the land from the mountains. They are Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Godavari Krishna, Narmada, Cauvery and Mahanadi.

On the basis of its physical features, India can be broadly divided into the following physical divisions:

- The Northern Mountains
- The Northern Plains
- The Coastal Plains and Islands
- The Western Desert



Political Division of India (States and Union Territories)

India became an independent country on 15th August, 1947. The whole country is governed by the Central Government in New Delhi. Since India is a big country, it has been divided into 29 States and 7 Union Territories including the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Each state has a government called the State Government.

The Union Territories are directly administered by the Central Government.

Now We Know

- India is a vast country located in Asia. The southern part of India is surrounded by water on the three sides.
- India has neighbours like Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- India is divided into 29 States and 7 Union Territories.
- Each state is governed by the State Government and the Union Territories are governed by the Central Government.

KEYWORDS

Diverse Rugged Physical features Vast Snow-Capped

EXERCISES

I. Tick (✓) against the correct option. (Multiple Choice Questions).

- India lies in _____
 (a) Africa (b) Europe (c) Asia
- According to the physical map, which of the following river is westward flowing?
 (a) Narmada (b) Mahanadi (c) Ganga
- The country which lies to the north-east of India is _____
 (a) Bhutan (b) Myanmar (c) Bangladesh
- India is _____ largest among the countries of the world.
 (a) second (b) third (c) seventh
- The Bay of Bengal lies to the _____ of India.
 (a) east (b) west (c) south

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II. Fill in the blanks.

1. India is located in the continent of _____.
2. Sri Lanka and Maldives lie to the _____ of India.
3. Arabian Sea lies to the _____ of India.
4. India has _____ States and _____ Union Territories.
5. India became an independent country on _____.

III. Answer the following questions.

1. Write the Physical Division of India.
2. Which part of India is a Peninsula?
3. Name the neighbouring countries of India.
4. How many States and Union Territories does India have?
5. What is a State Government?

LET'S DO MORE

Map Work

- I. Take the outline map of the world. Draw all the Oceans and islands, colour them to look attractive.
- II. Take a political map of India. Identify four states that neither share border with a bordering country nor have a coastline. These states are surrounded by the border of the other states in India. Colour all the four states.

Survey

Prepare a report on the population and language spoken by people residing in all the Indian Union Territories. (Excluding Delhi)

Union Territories	Capital	Population	Language Spoken



LIFE SKILLS

Design a Diversity Board in your classroom. On bulletin board your classmates can take turn to stick the pictures and write about the different regions, dresses, foods, festivals and tourist spots. This will help to understand the value and culture.

2

Types of Landforms

Let's Begin

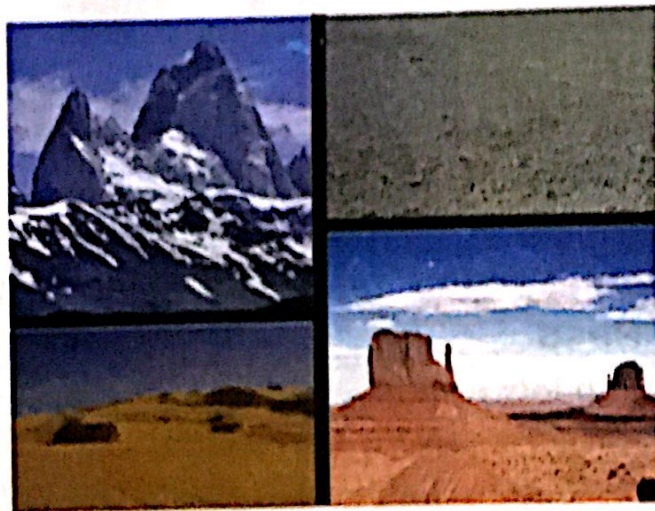
You must have observed while travelling by train or bus, that Earth's surface is not uniform. At some places it rises high, while on other places it is flat and slope. What kind of land is available at your place? Is it flat? Is it raised? Are there any water bodies like lakes, rivers and seas? Share your views with your classmates.

The land covering the Earth's surface is different at different places. At some places it is high while at other places it is low or slope.

Landforms are formed by the natural forces like water, winds and ice that act on the surface of the Earth. Some forces act on the surface of the Earth some other processes act inside the Earth. The different features that develop on the surface of the Earth are called **Landforms**. There are four main types of **Landforms**. These are **Mountains, Plains, Plateaus** and **Deserts**. Let's read about them.

Mountains and Valleys

Mountains and hills are rocky masses of the land. These are raised than the plain land. The mountains have high peaks and very steep slopes. Hills are smaller in height than mountains. Mountains are formed in long rows called **Mountain Ranges**. There are three types of mountains:



Different types of Landforms

Fact!

Mt. Everest in the Himalayas is the highest mountain peak in the world.

Fold Mountains

Fold Mountains are formed when two land masses push against each other. The **Himalayas** in India and the **Alps** in Europe are the fold mountains.

Volcanic Mountains

Volcanic Mountains are formed when molten rock from deep inside the Earth rises to the surface, forming volcano. **Mount Fuji** in Japan and **Mount Vesuvius** in Italy are volcanic mountains.



Volcanic Mountain



Block Mountain

Block Mountains

Block Mountains are formed by splitting and sliding of large blocks of land. The **Black Forest Mountain** in Germany is a black mountain.

Valley

A valley is formed by flowing of water and is usually V-shaped. The famous valleys in India are **Kashmir Valley** and **Brahmaputra Valley**.



Valley

Pass

The low and narrow natural gaps of mountains are called **Passes**. People cross the mountains through these Passes. The **Khyber Pass** in the Himalayas connects Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Plateaus

A big land which is higher than the surrounding and flat at the top, is known as **Plateau**. Deccan plateau of India covers almost the entire Peninsula. Plateau in the Himalayas is the highest plateau in the world. It is called 'roof of the world'.

Fact!
Plateaus cover about 45 per cent of the Earth's land surface.

Plains

They are the flat lands with minor slopes. Rivers flowing from the mountains bring fertile soils to plains. Crops grow well in plains. The **Northern Indian plains** and **Prairies** of the USA produce large amount of grains.



Prairies (U.S.A)

Deserts

Deserts are large extended flat land. There is very little rainfall and very few plants grow in deserts.

Deserts have extreme climate. In summers the days are very hot and nights are cool. Some important deserts are **Thar Desert** in India, **Sahara Desert** in Africa, **Kalahari Desert** in South America, **Atacama Desert** in South America.

Peninsula, Coasts, Bay and Islands

Peninsula

A land mass surrounded by water on three sides is known as **Peninsula**. The southern part of India is a Peninsula.

Cape

The southernmost tip of Indian peninsula is called **Cape Comorin**. The tip of peninsula is called **cape**.

Coast

A place where land meets the sea is known as **Coast**. Gujarat has the longest coastal line.

Bay

A water body running into land and surrounded on three sides by land is called **Bay**. The Bay of Bengal is connected to the eastern coast of India.

Island

A land mass surrounded on all sides by water is known as **Island**. Andaman and Nicobar islands are located in the Bay of Bengal.

Fact!

Australia is the only Island continent in the world.

Rivers

The natural streams of water are known as rivers. Rivers originate from mountains from melting snow in glaciers. The mountain rivers have water round the year. These are called **Perennial Rivers**. All the rivers in North India are Perennial rivers. The rivers in South India are rainwater rivers. All the rivers empty into the sea.

Fact!

The river Nile is the longest river in the world.

There are several small rivers that join the big rivers. They are called **tributaries**. The rivers end into the sea forming a **delta**. The Brahmaputra and Ganga rivers form Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta or Sunder

bans Delta, the largest delta in the world.

Our civilizations grew and developed on the banks of rivers. Rivers helped them to grow crops and use water for domestic purposes.

Now We Know

- Different types of landforms are mountains, plains, plateaus and deserts.
- Mountains and hills are rocky masses of land that rise higher than the surrounding.
- A plain is the flat land with minor slopes.
- A Plateau is a big land area higher than the surroundings and flat at the top.
- Deserts are dry lands with extreme climate.
- Peninsulas, coasts, bays and islands are other landforms.
- Rivers are natural stream of water that flow into the seas.

KEYWORDS

Landforms

Peninsula

Delta

Bay

Tributaries

EXERCISES

I. Tick (✓) against the correct option. (Multiple Choice Questions).

1. Which of the following are the rocky masses?
(a) plains and rivers (b) valleys and slopes
(c) mountains and hills
2. Small rivers that flow into the main river are called
(a) distributaries (b) tributaries (c) peninsular
3. The low and narrow natural gaps of mountains are called
(a) passes (b) tips (c) plateaus
4. The land mass surrounded by water on three sides is called
(a) valley (b) island (c) peninsula

II. Fill in the blanks.

1. The Southernmost tip of Indian peninsula is called _____.
2. The place where land meets the sea is called _____.
3. The Bay of Bengal is connected to the _____ coast of India.
4. Natural streams of water are known as _____.
5. All the rivers of North India are _____ rivers.

- III. Name the following.
1. The largest delta in the world
 2. The longest river in the world
 3. The highest peak in the world
 4. Name the fold mountains in the world

- IV. Answer the following questions.
1. Name the four main landforms. How are they formed?
 2. Write about the three types of mountains.
 3. What is desert? Name the Indian desert.
 4. What is a peninsula? Give example.
 5. How is a delta formed? Name the largest delta in the world.

V. Think and Answer.
 Why all the civilizations of the world developed on the banks of rivers?

LET'S DO MORE

Activity

On a chart paper, draw out the landforms you read about in this chapter. Colour it to look beautifully.

Survey

Collect the pictures of plains and make a report on where the following human activities are done.

- Farming activity
- Industrial work
- Market place

Project

Make models of Volcanoes, Mountains and Plain.

Materials required

- modelling clay, colours, glue sticks
- sand
- soils and grass
- pictures of different landforms.
- a big tray

Method: Do it at your own.



LIFE SKILLS

If you plan to go for picnic in the hills or forests. Keep all safety precautions and guidelines.

- Go in groups and decision making should be done together.
- There should be strong coordination among all the members.



The Northern Mountains

Let's Begin

Have you ever been to a hill station? How does the climate prevail there? Are the lives of people on hills tougher than the people living on plains?

The Northern Mountains include the two mountain ranges: the Himalayas and the Karakoram mountain ranges.

The Himalayan Range

The Himalayas is the highest mountain range in the world. It stretches from Jammu and Kashmir in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. Mt. Everest in the Himalayas consist of three ranges running parallel to each other. They are:

- The Himadri Range
- The Himachal Range
- The Shivalik Range.

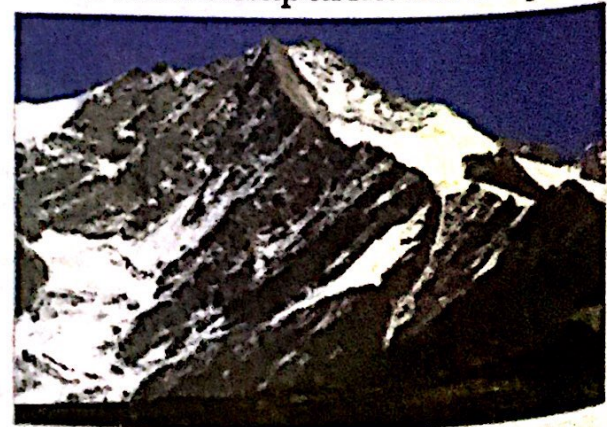
The Himalayas is the highest peak in the world. Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of India were the first people to climb Mt. Everest in 1953. Bachendri Pal was the first woman to climb Mt. Everest in 1984.

The Himadri Range

The Himadri Range is also called the **Great Himalayas**. It is located in the extreme north. The Kanchenjunga, Nanda Devi and the Annapurna are the peaks located in this range. They are covered with snow throughout the year.

The Himalayas act as barriers against the cold winds from the north. They also prevent rain-bearing clouds from being blown away.

The glaciers originate from these mountains. Many rivers such as the Ganga, Yamuna and Brahmaputra originate from these glaciers.



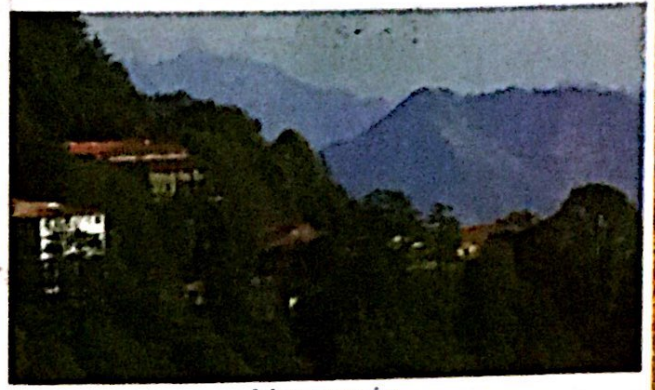
Himadri Range

The Himachal Range

Below the Himadri lie the middle Himalayas or the Himachal range of mountains. This range is not as high as the Himadri range. It consists of many beautiful river valleys.

The mountain slopes in the Himachal range are covered with thick forests of oak, pine and deodar. Many hill stations like Shimla, Dalhousie, Mussoorie, Nainital and Dharamshala are located in these

ranges. Himachal has earned the name of '**Apple State of India**'.



Mussoorie



The Shivalik Range

The Shivalik Range

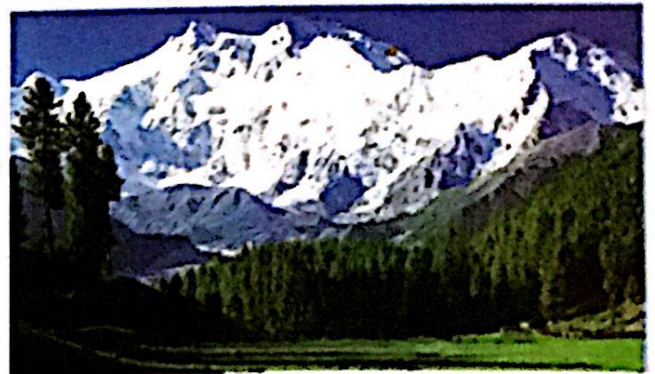
Below the Himachal ranges lie the lowest part of the Himalayas. They are called the Shivalik ranges. They are the southernmost range of the Himalayas. Shivaliks have many hills rather than mountains. These hills are covered with thick forests, which are home to many wild animals such as leopards, cheetahs, chital, sambhars and bears. The Shivaliks have terraced fields.

People also rear sheep and goats on these hills. At the foothills of the Shivaliks lies the Terai region. Here the forests have been cleared and the land is used for cultivation. Farmers grow crops like rice, wheat and sugarcane. Wild animals such as bears, sambhars, leopard, panthers and tigers are found in the jungles of Terai region. The **Jim Corbett National Park** is located in the Terai region of Uttarakhand.

In the north-east lie the Purvanchal ranges. They include hills like the Garo, Jaintia, Khasi, Naga, Lushai and Mizo.

The Karakoram Range

The Karakoram Mountain Range lies to the north-west of the Himalayas. The second highest peak of the world is located in the Karakoram Range. This peak is called **Mount Godwin Austin** or (**K2**). It is 8,611 m high.



Karakoram Mountain Range

Fact!

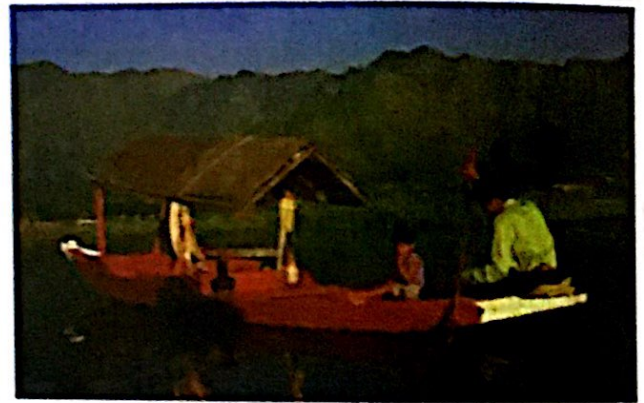
The word 'Himalayas' means the 'abode of snow', because they are covered with snow throughout the year.

Life in the Northern Mountains

The northern mountain regions include the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim. The northern part of West Bengal and the north-eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura.

Jammu and Kashmir

The Mughal emperor, Jahangir called Kashmir a 'Paradise on Earth'. Jammu and Kashmir has two capitals— **Srinagar** during summer and **Jammu** during winters. Srinagar is famous for its Dal Lake. We can find a large number of shikaras and houseboats here. Houseboats are used for lodging, while shikaras are used for selling flowers and vegetables.



Dal Lake

The main occupation of the people is agriculture. During summers they grow rice, maize, rajma, fruits and vegetables. In some areas, people grow saffron.

In winters they make beautiful articles from wood, brass and silver. They weave carpets and pashmina shawls to earn money.

People speak Kashmiri, Ladakhi, Dogri and Urdu in Kashmir. The main festivals celebrated in Kashmir is Eid and Shivaratri. A lot of tourists visit the state. Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Amarnath caves are some places of tourist attraction. Thousands of people visit Vaishno Devi temple near Jammu.

The people of Kashmir wear a loose woollen kurta called **phiran**. They keep kangri pots with burning coal to keep themselves warm. They also drink **Kahwa**— a special type of tea.

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is cool in summers and very cold in winters. The capital of Himachal Pradesh is **Shimla**. The main crops grown here are rice, barley and maize.

Most of the people are farmers. Some people rear sheep and goats on the slopes of the hills. They speak Pahari, Punjabi and Kinnauri. The women of Himachal wear a kurta, long shirt and a tight pyjama. They cover their head with a scarf called **dhazu**. Men wear similar clothes except that they cover their head with a cap. Dussehra is the main festival in the Kullu valley. The hill stations of Himachal Pradesh are Kullu, Manali and Shimla. These places are visited by thousands of tourists every year.

Quick Quiz

Name two hill stations that you would like to visit.



Dussehra festival in Kullu

Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand is located in the foothills of the Himalayas. The capital of Uttarakhand is **Dehradun**. The region is full of oak and rhododendron trees.

Hindi and Garhwali are the main languages spoken here. Nainital, Mussoorie and Ranikhet are popular hill stations. Badrinath, Kedarnath, Rishikesh and Haridwar are popular pilgrim spots.



Haridwar

Sikkim

Sikkim is small but beautiful. It is situated in the eastern Himalayas. **Gangtok** is the



Sikkim women in their traditional dress

Fact!

Raghav Janeja became the youngest Indian to climb Mt. Everest in May, 2013.

capital of Sikkim. Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world lies on Sikkim's border with Nepal. Sikkim's second largest religion is Buddhism. They grow cardamom, oranges, apples, tea and rice. The traditional dress of women is called **baku**. Sikkim is famous for the beautiful orchids that grow there.

West Bengal

West Bengal is located in eastern India. Its capital is **Kolkata**. The beautiful hill station Darjeeling is located here. Its high quality tea is popular all over the world.



Tea Gardens in Darjeeling

The North-Eastern States

The seven states of north-east India are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram. They are known as 'The Seven Sisters'. We shall be taking Assam and Tripura in the next chapter, as a large part of these two states are located in the plains.

Arunachal Pradesh

It is the largest state in the north-east. **Itanagar** is the capital of Arunachal Pradesh.

The people here grow rice, maize, millets, oil seeds and tobacco. They speak their own dialects. They live in **Stilt** houses.



Stilt houses

Meghalaya

The word 'Meghalaya' means 'abode of the clouds'. **Shillong** is the capital of Meghalaya. Garos, Khasis and Jaintia are the main tribes of Meghalaya. People here are mostly farmers. They grow rice, jute, potatoes, sugarcane, pineapples and oranges. They eat rice, pork and dried fish. **Bedinkhalan** is an important festival of Meghalaya. Mawsynram in Meghalaya receives the heaviest rainfall in the world.



Mawsynram in Meghalaya

Nagaland

The capital of Nagaland is **Kohima**. Nagas are mainly farmers and hunters. Rice is the main food of Nagas. They make many articles out of bamboo, cane and wood.



People of Nagaland

Quick Quiz

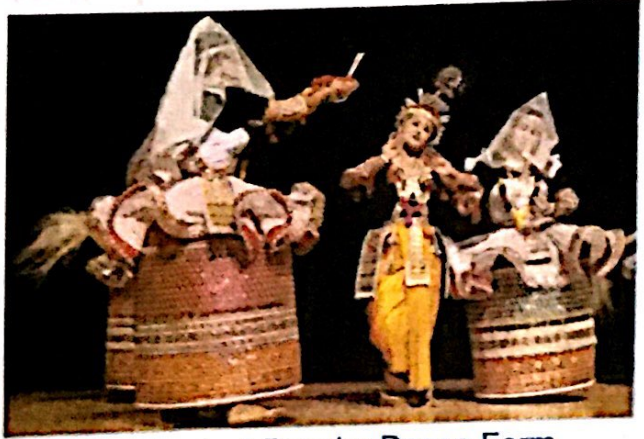
Which state receives the heaviest rainfall?

Mizoram

Mizoram means the 'Land of the Hilly People'. **Aizawl** is the capital of Mizoram. The people of Mizoram are called **Mizo**. They speak Mizo language.

Manipur

The capital of Manipur is **Imphal**. Most of the people in Manipur are farmers and weavers. They grow rice, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables. Manipuris also make beautiful things with bamboo, cane and leather. They eat rice, dal, fish and vegetables. Women wear skirts made of coloured striped clothes. The Manipuri dance form is very popular.



Manipuri— A Popular Dance Form.

NOW WE KNOW

- The Northern Mountains include the Himalayas and the Karakoram mountain ranges.
- The Himalayas have three ranges— Himadri, Himachal and Shivalik.
- The Northern Mountains cover the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal and North-Eastern States.

KEYWORDS

Stilts

Glacier

Millets

Nagas

EXERCISES

I. Tick (✓) against the correct option. (Multiple Choice Questions).

1. _____ is the highest peak in the world.

(a) Mt. Everest

(b) K2

(c) Kanchenjunga

2. The capital of Himachal Pradesh is _____.

(a) Shimla

(b) Srinagar

(c) Dehradun

3. The women in Himachal wear a colourful scarf called _____.

(a) dupatta

(b) rumaal

(c) dhazu

4. The north-eastern states are called the _____ sisters.

(a) six

(b) seven

(c) eight

II. Fill in the blanks.

1. The _____ is covered with snow throughout the year.

2. At the foothills of the _____ lie the Terai region.

3. Himalayas protect us from the extremely _____ winds.

4. _____ is the capital of Jammu and Kashmir during winters.

5. The capital of Manipur is _____.

6. The people of Arunachal Pradesh live in _____ houses.

III. Name the following.

1. A hill station in Uttarakhand.

2. The main festival of Kullu.

3. Abode of the clouds.

4. Boats on water used for lodging.

5. An important festival of Meghalaya

6. Land of hilly people.

IV. Answer the following questions.

1. What does the word 'Himalaya' mean?
2. Name some important peaks of the Himalayas.
3. How are Himalayas important to us?
4. Describe the life of the people in Jammu and Kashmir.
5. What are the occupations of the people of Manipur?

V. Think and Answer.

What would happen if the course of a river changes?

LET'S DO MORE

Activity

In Sikkim more than 6000 varieties of orchids are found. Cut and paste pictures of a few orchids in your scrapbook.

Map Work

On an outline map of India mark the following :

- Darjeeling • Shimla • Srinagar • Nainital • Manipur

Explore

When you watch the sunrise early in the morning, how do you react? Write a paragraph on it.

Project

Prepare a project on any state in India, through which the Northern Mountains pass. Collect the information about the physical features of that region.



LIFE SKILLS

- Try to reduce the wastage of paper.
- Use recycled paper instead of usual paper.
- Join the movement of 'Plantation of Tree'.