

CLASS 8 SOCIAL SCIENCE GEOGRAPHY

LESSON 2 LAND, SOIL, WATER, NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE

RESOURCES

(MODULE:3)

Natural vegetation and wildlife

Natural vegetation and wildlife exist only in a narrow zone of contact between the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere and this narrow zone is called biosphere. Lithosphere is the solid portion of earth; Hydrosphere is the domain of water and atmosphere is the layer of gases. In biosphere living organisms are interrelated and interdependent on each other for their survival. This life supporting system is called eco system.

Uses of natural vegetation and wildlife

Plants provide us with timber, give shelter to animals, produce oxygen, control soil erosion and give us fruits, nuts, latex, paper and medicinal plants.

Wildlife includes animals, birds, insects and aquatic life forms. They provide us milk, meat, hides and wool. Insects provide honey, help in pollination of flowers and have an important role to play as decomposers in the ecosystem.

Distribution of natural vegetation

Vegetation that grows naturally without the interference of human beings is called natural vegetation. Generally, they are grouped under three categories

1 forest

2 grasslands

3 shrubs and tundra.

In the areas of heavy rainfall, we find forests. Short stunted trees and grasses grow in regions of moderate rainfall. Thorny shrubs and scrubs grow in dry region or areas of low rainfall.

Forests are broadly divided into evergreen and deciduous depending on when they shed their leaves. Evergreen forests do not shed their leaves simultaneously. Deciduous forests shed their leaves in a particular season to conserve the loss of moisture.

Conservation of Natural Vegetation and Wildlife

Many species have become vulnerable or endangered and some are on the verge of extinction.

The reasons are

Deforestation, soil erosion, construction activities, forest fire tsunami, landslide and hunting which result in a sharp decline in the number of particular species. So it is very important to conserve the resources.

Methods of conservation

1. Construction of national park, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves

2. Conservation of creeks, lakes and wetland is necessary to save the precious resource from depletion.
3. Awareness programme like social forestry and Van mahotsav should be encouraged at the regional and community level
4. Framing laws against illegal hunting. Many countries have passed laws against trade as well as killing of birds and animals.