

## CLASS 5

### SOCIAL STUDIES

#### CHAPTER 4 - THE REGION OF DENSE FORESTS

##### (The Democratic Republic of the Congo – DRC)

#### YOU WILL LEARN

- About the location, climate and vegetation of DRC.
- About the wildlife, agriculture, mineral resources and the water resources of DRC.
- About the life of the people of DRC.

#### LOCATION

The area that lies above and below the Equator is known as **equatorial region**. This region has a wet and hot climate. Let us read about the DRC which is located in the equatorial region. The Democratic Republic of Congo is located in Africa. It is the second largest country in Africa. River **Zaire** passes through the DRC. **KINSHASA** is the capital of the DRC. The DRC is surrounded by the different countries.

- In the east - by **RWANDA, UGANDA, BURUNDI AND TANZANIA**.
- In the west- by the **REPUBLIC OF CONGO**.
- In the north – by the **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND SUDAN**.
- In the south – by **ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA**.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of the DRC remains hot, humid and wet throughout the year. It does not have winter season. This happens because the sunrays fall vertically over the Zaire basin. In the DRC mornings are warm, nights are cool and pleasant but afternoons are very hot and humid. It rains almost every evening. This rainfall is known as **4 O' clock rainfall**.

## **VEGETATION**

Heavy rainfall, hot and humid climate help in the growth of rainforests in the DRC. The forests have very tall trees whose branches form a thick **canopy**. Even sunlight cannot pass through these forests. The ground of the rainforests is covered with shrubs and bushes. These forests remain green throughout the year and are therefore called **evergreen forests**.

## **WILDLIFE**

The Democratic Republic of Congo is called the **Natural Zoo of the World** it is home to many different species of animals and birds. Monkeys, elephants, gorillas, crocodiles and hippos are some animals found here. Birds like parrots, flamingos and cuckoos are also found.

## **AGRICULTURE**

Agriculture and mining are the chief occupations in the DRC. Most of the people in the DRC live in villages. They practice **shifting** agriculture. They clear a patch of forest land to cultivate crops. The main **cash crops** include coffee, palm oil, rubber, cotton, sugar, tea and cocoa. The **food crops** include cassava, maize, groundnuts and rice. Cassava and banana are the staple food of the people here.

## **MINERAL RESOURCES**

The country is rich in mineral resources. It is a leading producer of industrial diamonds in the world. Here gold, silver, copper, manganese, cobalt, coal and uranium are also found. The minerals found in the DRC are exported to other countries because the industries here are not well developed.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

The DRC has abundance of water resources. River Zaire is its main water resource. It is the second largest river after the Nile in Africa. The country's transportation system is not well developed. Roads and railways connect only main cities and industrial centres. To reach the interiors of dense forests of the country river Zaire serves as an important waterway.

## **LIFE OF THE PEOPLE**

The DRC is thinly populated. Most of the people live in rural areas. The people of the DRC speak the **Bantu** language. Bantu is the local language and the official language of DRC is **French**. Most of the people are tall, dark coloured Negroes with curly hair. Short-statured people, called Pygmies, live in the northern- part of the country. The **PYGMIES** are nomads. They depend on hunting and fishing for their live livelihood. They are skilled hunters. They are found of music. Drum music and dance are popular forms of entertainment.

## **LET'S RECALL**

- The region that lies on either sides of the Equator is called the equatorial region.
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is located in the Zaire basin of the equatorial region.
- The DRC is called the 'Natural Zoo of the World' because it is home to a wide variety of wildlife.
- The DRC is rich in mineral and water resources. It is a leading producer of industrial diamonds in the world.
- River Zaire is the second largest river after the Nile in Africa. It is called the 'Highway of Central Africa'.

## BOOK EXERCISES

### A. FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is located in the Zaire basin of the equatorial region.
2. The DRC does not have the winter season.
3. The people of DRC practise shifting agriculture.
4. River Zaire is not navigable throughout its length as many waterfalls rise from it.
5. The DRC is rich in mineral deposits.

### B. WRITE (T) FOR TRUE AND (F) FOR FALSE.

1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is called the 'Natural Zoo of the World'. **T**
2. Heavy rain occurs almost daily in the DRC. **T**
3. The forests of the DRC do not remain green throughout the year. **F**
4. The DRC is a leading producer of industrial diamonds. **T**
5. River Zaire is navigable throughout its length. **F**

### C. TICK THE CORRECT OPTION.

1. Which language do the people of the DRC speak?  
(a) French      (b) Bantu      (c) None of these

**Ans- b**

2. What is the staple food of the people of the DRC?  
(a) Cassava and banana (b) Rice and vegetables (c) None of these

**Ans- a**

3. Which is the second largest river in Africa?  
(a) Nile      (b) Zaire      (c) None of these

**Ans- b**

4. Majority of the people of the DRC are  
(a) Muslims      (b) Christians      (c) None of these

**Ans- b**

#### D. MATCH THE COLUMN

- |                                  |                |   |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 1. The Highway of Central Africa | a. Kinshasa    | 2 |
| 2. Capital of the DRC            | b. Pygmies     | 3 |
| 3. Short-statured people         | c. Equator     | 4 |
| 4. Equatorial region             | d. River Zaire | 1 |

**NOTE: WRITE ALL THE ANSWERS IN YOUR NOTEBOOK**

#### E. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

**Q1. Which river basins fall in the equatorial region?**

**Ans.** Amazon river and Zaire river basins fall in the equatorial region.

**Q2. Name five neighbouring countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

**Ans.** Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Sudan and Angola are the five neighbouring countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Q3. Describe the climate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

**Ans.** The climate of the DRC remains hot and humid throughout the year. The country's annual average temperature is about 32°C. It does not have the winter season. This happens because the sunrays fall vertically or directly over the Zaire basin all the year round. In the DRC, mornings are warm with bright sunshine. Nights are cool and pleasant. But afternoons are very hot and humid. Due to evaporation of water from lakes and rivers, clouds are formed. This results in heavy rain almost daily. The DRC has a high annual rainfall of 150cm.

**Q4. Why is it difficult to keep roads and railways in good condition in the DRC?**

**Ans.** In the DRC, roads and railways are difficult to keep in good condition due to hot and humid climate.

**Q5. Who are Pygmies? Where do they live?**

**Ans.** The PYGMIES are short-statured original inhabitants, who lives in the northern part of the country. The pygmies are nomads.

**Q6. Why water transport is important for the people of the DRC?**

**Ans.** Roads and railways connect only main cities and industrial centres. To reach the interiors of dense forests of the country, river Zaire serves as an important waterway. Due to river Zaire importance in water transport, it is also called the Highway of Central Africa.

**Q7. Why DRC is called the Natural Zoo of the World?**

**Ans.** The DRC is called the Natural ZOO of the World because it is home to a wild variety of wildlife.

## HOLIDAY HOME -WORK

- Learn all the book exercises and answers of chapters 1,2,3 and 4
- Learn to draw, colour and label the following diagrams
  1. Parallels of Latitude
  2. Parallels of Longitude
  3. Heat zones of the Earth
  4. The flow of sea and land breezes
- Solve the crossword with the help of the given clues.



### ACROSS

2. hottest among the three heat zones
3. daily atmospheric conditions
4. climate that is neither too hot nor too cold

### DOWN

1. average weather of a place over a long period of time

Compare the life of the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and India.

- What are the crops grown in these two countries?
- What are the main occupations of the people?
- Which plants and animals are found in these two countries?

**NOTE: KINDLY COMPLETE ALL THE GIVEN WORK IN YOUR  
ROUGH NOTE BOOK**