

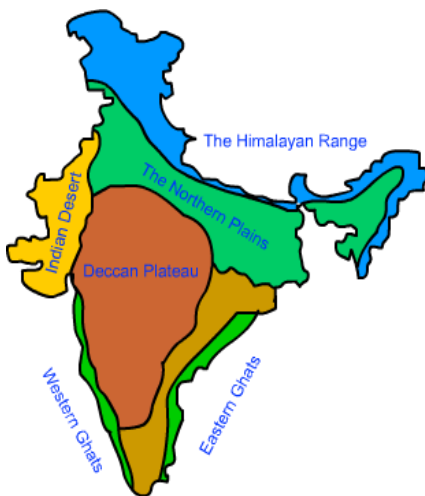
CLASS IV SOCIAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER 3 THE GREAT NORTHERN PLAINS

SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

Children, as we have already studied in the first chapter that there are 6 physical divisions of India. First division i.e. 'The Northern Mountain Ranges' we have discussed in the last chapter. Now, in this chapter, we will study the second division i.e. 'The Great Northern Plains'.

The Great Northern Plains lie to the south of the Himalayan mountains and to the north of the Southern (Deccan) Plateau. These are very fertile plains which stretch from Punjab in the west to Assam in the east. Children, you can see the location of northern plains in the following map:



Many holy rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra etc.. originate from the peaks of the Himalayan mountains which carry water throughout the year, they also carry rocks, gravel, sand and silt in huge amount. The fine silt, deposited by these rivers, is called Alluvium. This process of deposition of silt by the rivers is going on for thousands of years and it played a major role in the formation of the Great Northern Plains.

* **Meaning of gravel – very small, irregular pieces of stone; more rough & rocky than sand**

Silt – sand, soil or mud that collects at the sides or on the bottom of a river.

Basin – an area drained by a river and its tributaries.

Tributary – a small river that flows into a larger river .

* The Great Northern Plains are divided into three main basins:

1. The Satluj Basin
2. The Ganga Basin
3. The Brahmaputra Basin

*** Image of river basin**



Due to floods, these basins receive fresh silt every year which make these basins one of the most fertile lands of the world. The Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers alongwith their tributaries flow into the Bay of Bengal. The Satluj and its tributaries flow into the Arabian Sea.

The Ganga river originates from Gangotri glacier and its main tributary Yamuna originates from Yamunotri glacier which lies in the Himalayan mountains. Both these rivers flow towards the Great Northern Plains and meet at the Sangam near Allahabad. Initially, the Ganga rushes towards the plains with great speed and enters the plains at Haridwar, thereafter slows down in the plains and flows throughout the Great Northern Plains. There are many tributaries of the Ganga like the Gomati, Ghagra, Kosi, Chambal, etc.....

The Ganga flows through the plains of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. In West Bengal, it gets divided into many streams many of which enter Bangladesh and join the Brahmaputra. Kolkata developed on the banks of river Hooghly, which is the branch of the Ganga in West Bengal. The Ganga and Brahmaputra together form the 'Sunderbans Delta' - the largest delta of the world, in West Bengal and Bangladesh.

*** Meaning of Delta – a triangular area where a major river divides into several smaller parts that usually flow into a larger body of water.**

Children, you can see the image of location of Sunderbans Delta and also the image of Sunderbans Delta.



The Brahmaputra originates near the Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet, where it is known Tsang – Po and it enters India from Arunachal Pradesh. It enters Bangladesh and flows southward and meets the Ganga. In Assam, it has formed the largest river island in the world, which is known by the name of ‘Majuli Island’.

*** Image Of Majuli Island**



Besides the Brahmaputra, the Satluj river also originates near the Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet. It enters into Pakistan and drains its water into the Indus which in turn drains its water into the Arabian Sea. The Satluj river is famous for its Bhakra Dam, which not only control floods but also produces large amount of electricity.

These rivers are source of life in the Great Northern Plains. Many cities, towns and industries have developed on the banks of these rivers but the wastes from these cities, towns and factories are polluting the river waters making it unfit for animals and mankind also. We must stop polluting our rivers as they are the source of life on the earth.

***EXERCISES**

A. Answer the following questions:

Ans 1. The Great Northern Plains in India lie to the south of the Himalayan mountains and to the north of the Southern (Deccan) plateau. These are stretched from Punjab in the west to Assam in the east.

Ans 2. The Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Gandak, Kosi, Ghaghra, etc flows through the Great Northern Plains.

Ans 3. Melting of ice and snow on the mountain peaks of the Himalayas give water to the rivers flowing in the plains round the year.

Ans 4. The Himalayan rivers while flowing downwards from the mountains carry rocks, gravel, sand and silt in huge amount.

Ans 5. The Gomati, Ghaghra, Gandak and Kosi are the tributaries of the Ganga.

Ans 6. The sediment deposited by flowing river water is known as alluvium.

Ans 7. The Great Northern Plains has been divided into three main basins:

i) The Satluj Basin ii) The Ganga Basin iii) The Brahmaputra Basin

Ans 8. The Satluj and Brahmaputra originate near the Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet.

Ans 9. The mighty Brahmaputra enters India from Arunachal Pradesh.

B. Fill in the blanks :

1. fertile 2. Kailash Mansarovar 3. Sundarbans 4. basin 5. Satluj
6. Yamunotri 7. Ganga 8. Tsang-Po

C. Write True or False :

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. True
6. False 7. True 8. True 9. True 10. True

D. Choose the correct option :

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (d)

E. Match the column :

1. (d) 2. (e) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (b)

NOTE:

- * Read the summary of the chapter thoroughly.
- * Write only Q/Ans in a practical copy.
- * If practical copy is not at home then write in rough copy or in loose pages.
- * Exercises to be done in book.
- * If students are not having the book then do exercises afterwards.
- * Pdf of lesson -3 pages along with exercises are also enclosed.
- * Stay Home....Stay Safe.