

Geography Notes

Chapter – 7(b)

Study of continents

(Australia and Antarctica)

Q.1 Define the following

1. Iceberg – A large mass of ice floating in the sea.
2. Glacier – A large mass of moving ice.
3. Dakshin Gangotri - A basecamp set by India.
4. Artesian Well – A natural or manmade hole in the ground through which a steady flow of water rises to the surface by natural pressure.
5. Inland Drainage – A River system in which the water of the river is not able to reach the sea or ocean.
6. Coral – A coloured hard substance formed on the seabed from the skeleton of tiny animals.
7. Southern Ocean – A vast Ocean surrounding Antarctica.
8. Blizzards – Strong cold winds blowing in cold regions.
9. Krill – A small fish.
10. Phytoplankton – Plankton consisting of microscopic plants.
11. Invertebrates – An animal without a backbone.
12. Flora – The plants of a particular region.

Q.2 Fill in the blanks

1. Australians are inhabited by indigenous Australians known as aborigines.
2. Australia is divided into six self governing states.
3. The Macdonnell range incorporates the world famous Ayers rock.
4. Mt. Kosciusko is the highest peak of Australia.
5. Antarctica is the fifth largest continent of the world.

Q.3 Match the following

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Ayers Rock | - | Australia |
| 2. Iceberg | - | Antarctica |
| 3. Inland Drainage | - | Lake Eyre Basin |
| 4. Murray-Darling | - | River Basin |
| 5. Dakshin Gangotri | - | India |

Q.4 Answer in brief

1. Who discovered Australia ?

Answer – Captain James Cook discovered Australia in 1770. Captain Cook was an English seaman.

2. Name any two important plateaus of Australia.

Answer – Western Plateau and Tasmania Plateau.

3. Name the two most important River system of Australia.

Answer – River Murray and River Darling.

4. Name the highest peak of Australia.

Answer - Mt. Kosciusko is the highest peak of Australia.

5. “Antarctica is known as white continent.” Give Reason.

Answer – It is the only continent in the world which remains frozen all through the year. Due to permanent snow cover it is also known as white continent.

6. What is location of Antarctica ?

Answer – Antarctica is located around the South pole. It lies completely in the southern hemisphere.

7. Name the active volcano of Antarctica.

Answer – Mount Erebus is the only active volcano of Antarctica.

8. Define Blizzards.

Answer – Icy winds blow throughout the year. These high velocity winds carry small particles of ice. These winds of the polar areas are called Blizzards.

9. Define Icebergs.

Answer – Antarctica have reported that large blocks of ice keep floating in the surrounding seas. These large ice blocks have broken from the ice sheet on this continent. These floating masses of ice are called icebergs.

10. Define coral reefs.

Answer – When the corals die, their skeletons remain fixed in place and the new corals grow on them. These large accumulation of the skeleton of the corals are called coral reef.

Q.4 Answer in detail

1. Write the major features of Western plateau of Australia.

Answer – The major features are :-

- The western part of Australia is a vast plateau which covers nearly two third of the continent. It includes three states of Western Australia, Northern territory and South Australia.
- The average height is about 350 metres above the sea level. Darling, Macdonnell and Musgrave ranges rise above the plateau.
- The Macdonnell range, which is roughly in the centre of Australia, incorporates the world famous Ayers rock.
- Australian plateau is also rich in a number of metallic minerals such as gold and iron ore.

2. Write major features of Central lowlands of Australia.

Answer – The features of Central lowlands are :

- The Central lowlands lie between the Western plateau and the eastern highlands. It extends from the gulf of Carpentaria in the north, across the continent to the south shores of Australia.
- The great artesian basin is the largest and deepest Artesia basin in the world, covering a total of 1,711,000 sq. km. The region is famous for underground water.

- Lake Eyre Basin lies in the middle of Central lowlands. Most of the rivers which flow through this lowlands are not able to reach the sea and fall into the inland lakes.
- Murray darling basin is Australia's most important agricultural region which produces rice, oil seeds, wool, cotton, dairy products, fruits, vegetables etc. for both domestic and overseas markets.

3. Write major features of the great barrier reef of Australia.

Answer – The features of Great Barrier reef are :

- A special feature of the eastern coast of Australia is the Great barrier reef.
- It is huge reef formed by the deposition of the skeletons of the corals in the shallow sea at home distance from the coast.
- The reef is like a long ridge. It is more than 1900 kilometres long and the distance between the reef and the coast varies between 30 and 240 kilometres.
- When the corals die, their skeletons remain fixed in a place and the new corals grow on them. These large accumulations of the skeleton of the corals are called coral reefs.

4. State any four features of the climate of Antarctica.

Answer – The four features of the climate are :

- Antarctica is the coldest of all the continents. The lowest recorded temperature is -90°C at Vostok station.
- Eastern Antarctica is colder than its western counterpart because of its higher elevation.
- November to December are summer months. The sun never sets during these months.
- Icy winds blow throughout the year. These high velocity winds carry small particles of ice. These winds of the polar areas are called Blizzards.

5. “Plant life is limited to mostly mosses and liverworts in Antarctica.” Analyse the statement.

Answer – The climate of Antarctica does not allow extensive vegetation. A combination of freezing temperatures, poor soil quality, lack of moisture and

lack of sunlight inhibit the flourishing plants. As a result, plant life is limited to mostly mosses and liverworts.

Q.5 Assignment :-

On an outline map of Australia mark the following –

- i. Tropic of Capricorn
- ii. River Murray and Darling
- iii. Mt. Kosciusko
- iv. Capital city of Australia
- v. The Great Barrier reef