

Physical Features of India

Q1. Describe how the Himalayas were formed.

Ans. Formation of Himalayas

- i. The Gondwana land included India, Australia, South Africa, South America and Antarctica as one single land mass.
- ii. The convectional currents split the crust into a number of pieces, thus leading to the drifting of the Indo-Australian plate after being separated from the Gondwana land, towards north.
- iii. The northward drift resulted in the collision of the plate with the much larger Eurasian Plate.
- iv. Due to this collision, the sedimentary rocks which were accumulated in the geosyncline known as the Tethys were folded to form the mountain system of western Asia and Himalaya.

Q2. What are Shiwaliks? Mention any two characteristics of it.

Ans. The outer most range of the Himalayas is called the Shiwaliks.

Features

- i. They extend over a width of 10-50 Km and have an altitude varying between 900 and 1100 metres.
- ii. These ranges are composed of unconsolidated sediments brought down by rivers from the main Himalayan ranges located farther north.
- iii. These valleys are covered with thick gravel and alluvium.
- iv. The longitudinal valley lying between lesser Himalaya and the Shiwaliks are known as Duns. Dehra Dun, Kotli Dun and Patli Dun are some of the well-known Duns.