

Name: _____ Date: _____

Physical Features of India

Q1. Write short notes on the following.

- (i) The Indian Desert
- (ii) The Central Highlands
- (iii) The Island groups of India

Ans. _____

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(i) The Indian Desert

Characteristics of Indian desert:

- i. The Indian desert lies towards the western margins of the Aravali Hills.
- ii. It is an undulating sandy plain covered with sand dunes.
- iii. This region receives very low rainfall below 150 mm per year.
- iv. It has arid climate with low vegetation cover.
- v. Streams appear during the rainy season.
- vi. Luni is the only large river in this region.
- vii. Barchans (crescent shaped dunes) cover larger areas but longitudinal dunes become more prominent near the Indo-Pakistan boundary.

(ii) The Central Highlands

The part of the Peninsular plateau lying to the north of the Narmada river covering a major area of the Malwa plateau is known as the Central Highlands. The Vindhyan range is bounded by the Central Highlands on the south and the Aravalis on the northwest. The further westward extension gradually merges with the sandy and rocky desert of Rajasthan. The flow of the rivers draining this region, namely the Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and Ken is from southwest to northeast, thus indicating the slope. The Central Highlands are wider in the west but narrower in the east. The eastward extensions of this plateau are locally known as the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand. The Chotanagpur plateau marks the further eastward extension, drained by the Damodar river.

(iii) The Island groups of India

Lakshadweep Islands

Lakshadweep Islands group lying close to the Malabar coast of Kerala. This group of islands is composed of small coral islands. It covers small area of 32 sq km. Kavaratti island is the administrative headquarters of Lakshadweep. This island group has great diversity of flora and fauna. The Pitti island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.

Andaman and Nicobar islands

The elongated chains of islands located in the Bay of Bengal extending from north to south are called Andaman and Nicobar islands. The entire group of islands is divided into two broad categories – The Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south. It is believed that these islands are an elevated portion of submarine mountains. These island groups are of great strategic importance for the country. There is great diversity of flora and fauna in this group of islands too. These islands lie close to equator and experience equatorial climate and has thick forest cover.