

## *Adaptation in Plants*

### I. *New Terms*

#### 1. *Habitat*

The natural surroundings of an organism.

Ex: The icy polar region is the natural habitat of polar bears.

#### 2. *Adaptation*

The features that help an organism to adjust and survive in its natural surroundings.

Ex: The thick furry coat of a polar bear helps it survive the extreme cold.

#### 3. *Terrestrial Plants*

Plants that grow on land.

Ex: Mango, Rubber in *Plains*

Cactus, Date Palm in *Deserts*

Pine, Fir in *Mountains*

Coconut in *Coastal Areas*

#### 4. *Aquatic Plants*

Plants that grow in, on or around water.

Ex: *Floating Plants* like Water Hyacinth and Duckweed

*Fixed Plants* like Lotus and Water Lily

*Underwater Plants* like Tape Grass and Pond Weed

#### 5. *Insectivorous Plants*

Plants that feed on insects.

Ex: Venus Fly Trap, Pitcher Plant

### II. *Question-Answers*

#### Q1. *Differentiate between deciduous and evergreen trees.*

Ans. The difference between deciduous and evergreen trees are:-

##### *Deciduous Trees*

a. Grow in areas with low rainfall.

b. They shed their leaves in the dry season.

Ex: Mango, Gulmohar

##### *Evergreen Trees*

Grow in areas with high rainfall.

They do not shed their leaves in the dry season.

Teak, Rubber

#### Q2. *Why do deciduous trees shed their leaves in the dry season?*

Ans. Deciduous trees shed their leaves in the dry season because they need to conserve water as they grow in areas with low rainfall.

#### Q3. *Why are trees on mountains usually cone-shaped?*

Ans. Trees on mountains are usually cone-shaped so that snow can easily slide off their branches.

Q4. **Why are desert plants thorny?**

Ans. Desert plants like cactus have thorns instead of leaves to save water. More leaves mean more evaporation and loss of water.

Q5. **Why is the stem of a cactus green?**

Ans. The stem of a cactus is green because it has chlorophyll to carry out photosynthesis. The leaves cannot do so because they are modified into thorns.

Q6. **What are the harsh conditions faced by plants in the coastal areas?**

Ans. The harsh conditions faced by plants in the coastal areas are:-

- a. salt-laden strong winds
- b. poor and salty soil
- c. rocky and sandy land.