

The Mountains of the North

I. New Terms

1. Foothills

The low-lying areas at the bottom of the mountain or hill.

2. Glacier

A river of ice that melts during summers and flows slowly down the mountain slope.

3. Leeward Side

The side of a mountain that does not receive rainfall.

4. Windward Side

The side of a mountain that receives sufficient rainfall.

5. Valley

A low lying region between two hills or mountains.

II. Question- Answers

Q1. Why are the Himalayas so named?

Ans. 'Himalaya' in Sanskrit means 'abode of snow'. The Himalayas are named so because several of its peaks remain covered in snow throughout the year.

Q2. What is the range of the Mountains of the North?

Ans. The Mountains of the North range from Jammu and Kashmir in the North to Arunachal Pradesh in the East.

Q3. What are the 3 ranges of the Himalayas?

Ans. The 3 ranges of the Himalayas are:-

- a. The Greater Himalayas or the Himadri Range
- b. The Lesser Himalayas or the Himachal Range
- c. The Outer Himalayas or the Shivaliks.

Q4. How does the climate vary in the Mountains of the North?

Ans. The climate varies according to the height of the mountains.

- a. The Greater Himalayas are cold and dry throughout the year. They get heavy snowfall during the winter season.
- b. The Lesser Himalayas have very cold winters with snowfall whereas summers are cool.
- c. The Shivaliks are warm yet pleasant.

Q5. What about the vegetation in the mountains of the north?

Ans. the vegetation in the Mountains of the North also depend on the height of the mountains.

- a. The Greater Himalayas have very scarce vegetation since they are covered in snow throughout the year.
- b. The Lesser Himalayas have flourishing vegetation.
- c. The slopes of the Shivaliks are covered in terraced farms and thick forests.

Q6. Why are the Himalayas important?

Ans. The Himalayas are important because:-

- a. They form a natural boundary on the North.
- b. They block the harsh cold winds coming from the North.
- c. They stop the monsoon winds from flying away.
- d. The glaciers melt during summers to form the great rivers of the Northern Plains.
- e. The forests in the lower slopes provide a lot of valuable materials.

Q7. Why are the Mountains of the North in danger?

Ans. The Mountains of the North are in danger because of:-

- a. Increase in human population and overcrowding.
- b. Deforestation and soil erosion.
- c. Littering garbage and pollution.

Q8. Why is life in the mountains difficult?

Ans. The life in the mountains is difficult because:-

- a. It is very cold
- b. It is difficult to build roads, railways and towns here.

O9. How do the people living in the Mountains of the North earn their living?

Ans. The people living in the Mountains of the North earn their living by:-

- a. Growing fruits like apples, pears and walnuts.
- b. Herding animals like yaks, goats and sheep
- c. Making handicrafts like carpets and woolen clothes
- d. Tourism.

III. Give Reasons

1. The peaks of the greater Himalayas are covered in snow throughout the year **because they are the highest range of the Himalayas and the temperature there is very cold.**
2. Hill stations are crowded with tourists in summer **because the temperature here is very cool and pleasant.**
3. The slopes of the Shivaliks are covered with thick forests **because of pleasant temperature and monsoon rains.**
4. Freezing cold winds cannot enter India from the North in winter **because the Himalayas act as a natural boundary on the North.**
5. Rivers originating in the Himalayas do not dry up in the summers **because as the temperature increases the glaciers melt to form these great rivers. These rivers are also fed by the monsoon rains.**