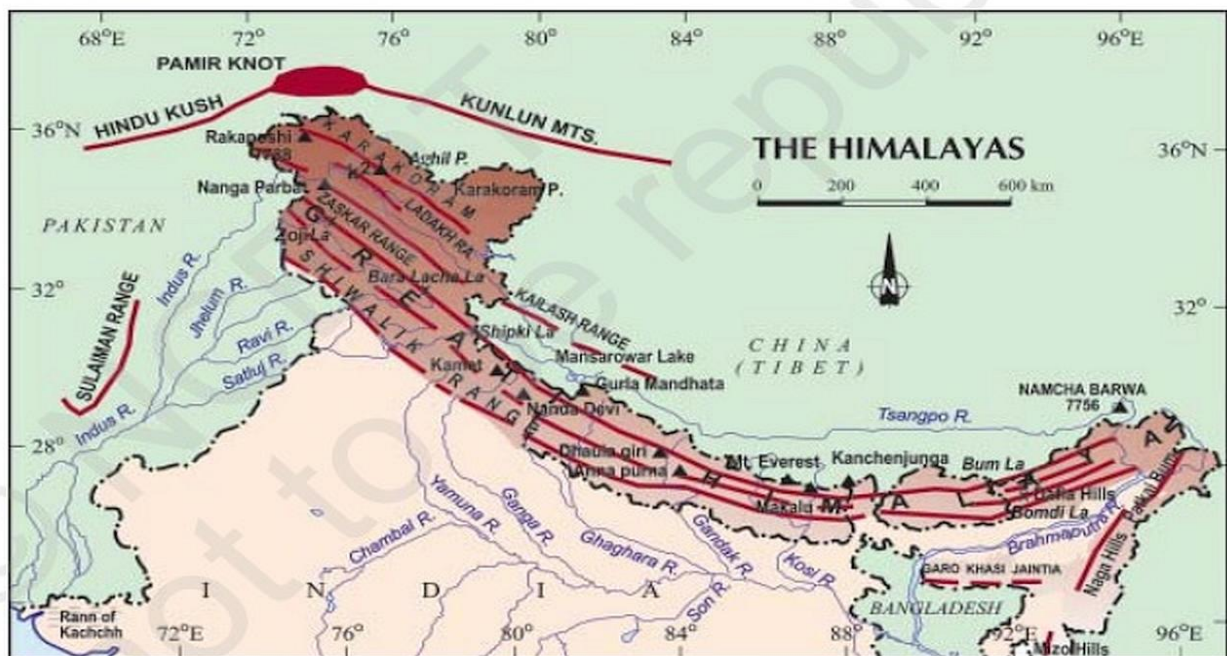


SOCIAL STUDIES
CLASS-IV
LESSON 2- THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:-

- **LOCATION AND IMPORTANT PEAKS OF NORTHERN MOUNTAINS**
- **CLIMATE WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION**
- **IMPORTANCE OF HIMALAYAS**



SUMMARY:-

The northern mountains in the north of India extend from northwest to northeast of India. **The Himalayas, the karakoram mountains and the the northeastern mountain ranges are together called the Northern Mountains**

Karakoram Range:

The Karakoram Ranges lie to the northwest of Himalayas . **Mount Godwin Austin** (k2) is the second highest peak in the world

The Himalayas:

The Himalayas extend in a long curve from Jammu and Kashmir in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. It is about 2500 kms in length. Its width varies from 150 to 400 kms. The Himalayas are the highest mountain range in the world. It

contains many high peaks. **Mount Everest** in the Himalayas is the highest mountain peak in the world, with a height of 8,848 metres.



Some of the highest peaks of the Himalayas are:-

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Everest | 8848 metres |
| 2. K2 | 8611 metres |
| 3. Kanchenjunga | 8586 metres |
| 4. Makalu | 8462 metres |
| 5. Dhaulagiri | 8167 metres |
| 6. Nangaparbat | 8126 metres |

The Himalayas consist of three parallel ranges.

1. **The Greater Himalayas or Himadri** – It is the highest Himalayan range. Kanchenjunga is the highest peak in India. Many glaciers originate from this region. Rivers such as Indus, Ganga, Yamuna and Brahmaputra originate from such glaciers. River Ganga originates from Gangotri glacier and river Yamuna originates from the Yamunotri glacier.
2. **The Lesser Himalayas or Himachal** – This range lies to the south of Himadri. It has dense forests of pine and deodar on the mountain slopes. Beautiful hill stations like Darjeeling, Shimla, Mussoorie, Nainital and Kullu are situated in this range.
3. **The Outer Himalayas or Shiwalik** – The southernmost range of the Himalayas is called the Shiwaliks. This range is covered with thick forests which are a home to many wild animals. **Terrace farming** is done on the slopes of the Shiwaliks.

Purvanchal ranges- The Purvanchal ranges are the eastern extension of Himalayas. They cover the states of **Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram. The Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Naga, Mizo and**

Lushai are the main hills in this range. Mawsynram in khasi hills, Meghalaya is the wettest place on earth

Passes in the Northern Mountains - A pass is a route or path through two mountains. It is used for crossing the mountains.

Some important passes:

- **Rohtang pass**
- **Zozi La**
- **Baralacha La**
- **Chang La**
- **Nathu La**
- **Shipki La**
- **Kharadung La**

The word 'la' means a pass.

Climate: Greater Himalayas are extremely cold. Lesser Himalayas are pleasant during summer. The Shiwaliks get heavy rainfall.

Vegetation: The vegetation of Himalayas varies with the altitude.

Greater Himalayas: The vegetation here is sparse. The only vegetation found here are shrubs, mosses, lichen and wild flowers like edelweiss and blue poppies.

Lesser Himalayas: Thick forests of pine, oak, fir, spruce, walnut, poplar, cypress and birch are the natural vegetation of this region.

Terai Region: The vegetation includes trees like sal, keekar and babool. Forests in the terai region are being cleared to grow crops like wheat, rice and sugarcane.



Wildlife: Wildlife in the greater Himalayas includes yak, snow leopard, musk deer, wild sheep and goats.

Tigers, rhinoceros, leopards and many types of deer are found in the forests of lesser Himalayas.

The wildlife in the forests of Terai includes jackals, hyenas, elephants and tigers

This region has some national parks and wildlife sanctuaries like **Jim Corbett National Park and Rajaji National Park.**

Importance of Himalayas:

- They form a natural wall along the northern borders.
- They protect us from cold winds.
- The rivers originating from the Himalayas carry fertile soil from the mountains to the plains.
- These rivers help in generating hydroelectricity .
- These mountains stop the rain bearing monsoon winds from going further north .
- The forests provide valuable wood and herbs .They are also a natural home to many kinds of birds and animals.

DO YOU KNOW?

The first people to climb the snow covered peak of Mount Everest were Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953. In 1984, Bachendri Pal became the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest.

DO YOU KNOW?

A glacier is a huge mass of ice that moves slowly along the mountain slope. Ganga originates from the Gangotri glacier and is known as Bhagirathi.

DO YOU KNOW?

Terrace farming is a type of farming on hill slopes. In hilly areas steps are built on the slopes of hills for growing crops. Terrace fields prevent soil erosion.



TERRACE FARMING

DO YOU KNOW?

A wildlife sanctuary is a protected zone reserved for wild animals. The animals live in natural surroundings without the fear of being hunted.

A. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. Name the mountain ranges that form the Northern mountains.

Ans- **The Himalayas, the Karakoram Mountains** and the **North eastern mountain ranges** together form the Northern mountains .

2. Name the first woman to climb Mount Everest.

Ans- The first woman to climb Mount Everest is Bachendri Pal.

3. Name the glaciers from which River Ganga and Yamuna originate.

Ans- River Ganga originates from the **Gangotri glacier** and the river Yamuna originates from the **Yamunotri glacier**.

4. What is a Pass? Name any three passes in India.

Ans- A Pass is a route or path through two mountains.
The three passes in India are Rohtang pass, Zozi La and Baralacha La.

5. List the states that are covered by Purvanchal ranges.

Ans-**Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram** are the states that are covered by purvanchal ranges.

6. What is terrace farming?

Ans- Terrace farming is a type of farming on hill slopes. Steps are built on the slopes of hills for growing crops. It prevents soil erosion.

7. Name two wildlife sanctuaries in Terai region.

Ans-**Jim Corbett National Park and Rajaji National Park** are the two wildlife sanctuaries in Terai region.

8. How are the Himalayas important to India?

Ans- The Himalayas play a very important role in India:

- They form a natural wall along the northern borders.
- They protect us from cold winds.
- The rivers originating from Himalayas carry fertile soil from the mountains to the plains.
- These rivers also help in generating hydroelectricity.
- These mountains stop the rainbearing monsoon winds from going further north. This causes heavy rainfall in many parts of India.

B. FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. The Himalayas extend from Jammu and Kashmir in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

2. A glacier is a huge mass of ice that moves slowly along the mountain slope.

3. Terrace farming is done on hill slopes of Shiwalik.

4. The vegetation of Himalayas varies with altitude.

5. Mawsynram in Meghalaya is the wettest place on earth.

C. Choose the correct answer:

1. The southernmost range of Himalayas is called

a) Himachal b) Himadri c) Shiwalik

ans – C

2. Country in which Mount Everest is located

a) India b) Nepal c) China

ans- B

3. The eastern extension of Himalayas

a) Karakoram b) Purvanchal c) Lesser Himalayas

ans- B

4. The word 'la' means a

a) hill b) valley c) pass

ans- C

5. The easternmost boundary of Himalayas

a) Ganga b) Brahmaputra c) Yamuna

ans- B

Home Assignment

Write a paragraph on your visit to a hill station in your rough copy.



Map Activity

On the political map of India label the following:

1. a) Greater Himalayas b) Shiwalik Range

2. a) Mount Everest b) Kanchenjunga

3. a) Shimla b) Darjeeling