

SOCIAL STUDIES: GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER – 12 SOILS OF INDIA

1. Which crop can be grown better in the black soils?

Ans:- Cotton can be grown better in the black soils.

2. What are the types of soils found in India?

Ans:- The types of soil found in India are –

- 1) Alluvial soil, 2) Black soil, 3) Red soil
- 4) Laterite soil, 5) Desert soil and
- 6) Mountain soil.

3. What kind of soil is found in the Northern plains?

Ans:- Alluvial soil is found in the Northern plains.

4. What is meant by soil conservation? List out its methods.

Ans:- Prevention of soil erosion and protecting the fertility of the soil is called conservation of soil.

The methods of preventing the soil conservation are

- 1) Counter ploughing
- 2) Construction of bunds.
- 3) Terraced agriculture.
- 4) Encouragement of afforestation
- 5) Control of live stock grazing.
- 6) Using sprinkler and drip irrigation.
- 7) Construction of check dams
- 8) Prevention of deforestation.

5. What is soil erosion? Collect the information of its effects.

Ans:- Transportation of top layer of the soil transported due to flood, winds and sea waves are called soil erosion.

Effects of soil erosion are:

- 1) It leads to accumulation of silt which may cause floods.
- 2) Accumulation of silt in river leads to change in course of rivers.
- 3) The storage capacity of the reservoirs get reduced due to silt accumulation.
- 4) The volume of water percolating gets reduced.
- 5) Natural springs dry up.

6. Which type of soils are found in the Himalayan Mountains?

Ans:- Decayed organic matter of mountain soil is found in the Himalayan Mountain.

III. Match the following

	Type of soil	Useful
1	Alluvial soil	To grow ragi and oil seeds
2	Black soil	Soil of the Western Ghats
3	Red soil	The Gangetic plain
4	Laterite soil	To grow cotton
		To grow coffee and tea

Answers:- 1 Alluvial soil - The Gangetic Plain.

2. Black soil - To grow cotton

3. Red soil -To grow ragi and oil seeds

4. Laterite soil- To grow coffee and tea

Some more questions:-

1. How is soil formed?

Ans:- Soil is formed by the weathering of rocks under different types of climate. Some soils are deposited by the agents of denudation. Soil also includes decayed material of plants and animals organic matter.

2. Write a short note on Alluvial soil.

Ans:- The soils in the lower areas is called the alluvial soils. This type of soil is seen in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Punjab, Haryana & Brahmaputra valley of Assam.

Besides, Narmada and Tapi valley and the coastal plains on both sides of the peninsular plateau also

have this kind of soils

The main crops grown on this type of soil are wheat, paddy, sugarcane, cotton and jute.

3. Write a short note on Black soil.

Ans:- Black soil – It is also called ‘Regur soil’. It is best suited for cotton cultivation. Therefore is also called ‘Black Cotton Soil’ The area of black cotton soil is also called Deccan Trap.

The soil is formed from the weathering of igneous rock. It contains more of clay particles. It is fertile and capable of retaining water.

This type of soil is seen in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Western areas of Andhra Pradesh and North Karnataka. This soil contains more of lime and magnesium carbonates. It is highly suitable for dry farming.

Cotton, jowar, wheat, onion, chilli, tobacco, oil seeds, lemon and grapes are major crops growing in this soil.

4. Write a short note on Red soil.

Ans:- Red soil – Largest area of peninsular plateau is covered with red soil. It can be seen from Kanyakumari in the South to Jhansi in Madhya Pradesh in the north.

It spreads from Gujarat’s Kutch area to Raj Mahal hills in the Jharkhand area.

The major crops growing in this type of soil are ragi, tobacco and oil seeds. Areas having irrigation facility grow paddy, sugarcane, cotton etc.

5. Write a short note on Laterite soil.

Ans:- Laterite soil – is found normally in the areas receiving more than 200 cms of rainfall. Because of the heavy rainfall the minerals of the soil get washed off leaving behind ferric oxides and aluminium in the surface soil. Hence the soil also looks red in colour

The minerals dissolved in the rain water percolate to deeper layer of the soil and insoluble oxides of iron and aluminium are found in the top layers.

Laterite soil is less fertile and lack nitrogen and minerals. It is extending over the Western Ghats, the Vindhyas, the Satpuras, the Rajmahal hills and Poorvachal region. It is suitable for the cultivation of coffee and tea and other plantation crops.

6. Write a short note on Desert soil.

Ans:- Desert Soil - are formed in the regions of less rainfall and high temperature. It is red and brown colour. Water percolates easily without retention and moisture gets reduced in the soil.

Jowar, Sajje and dates grow in this soil. It is distributed in the areas of north-west Rajasthan and adjoining areas of Punjab, Haryana, Kutch area of Western Gujarat and the western parts of the Aravalli mountains.

7. Write a short note on Mountain Soil.

Ans:- Mountain Soil - It contain plenty of decayed organic matter. This soil is found on the lower slopes of the mountains.

It is very rich in nitrogen and organic residues. It is suitable for the growth of coffee, tea, spices and fruits. Foot hills of the Himalayas, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and other mountainous regions have this type of soil.

8. Write a note on Soil erosion.

Ans:- Soil Erosion - Transportation of surface soil by various natural forces is called soil erosion. Running water, winds and sea waves are the main causes of soil erosion.

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