

CHAPTER- 28

Punjab

Punjab is the only state of India through which five rivers flow. Punjab means the land of five rivers. The five rivers are- Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Vyas and Sutlej. At the time of partition, a part of Punjab was included in Pakistan whereas the other half became a part of India. Both the new countries have Punjab as a state. The part of Punjab that is with India has three rivers flowing through it. In this lesson we will learn about the state of Punjab which is a part of India.

Why should a farmer not dance if he has had a bumper harvest after months of hard work? In the picture given below you can see the most popular folk dance of the farmers of Punjab i.e. the Bhangra. They are wearing kurtas and lungis with coloured turbans on their heads and dancing to the beats of the 'dhol'.



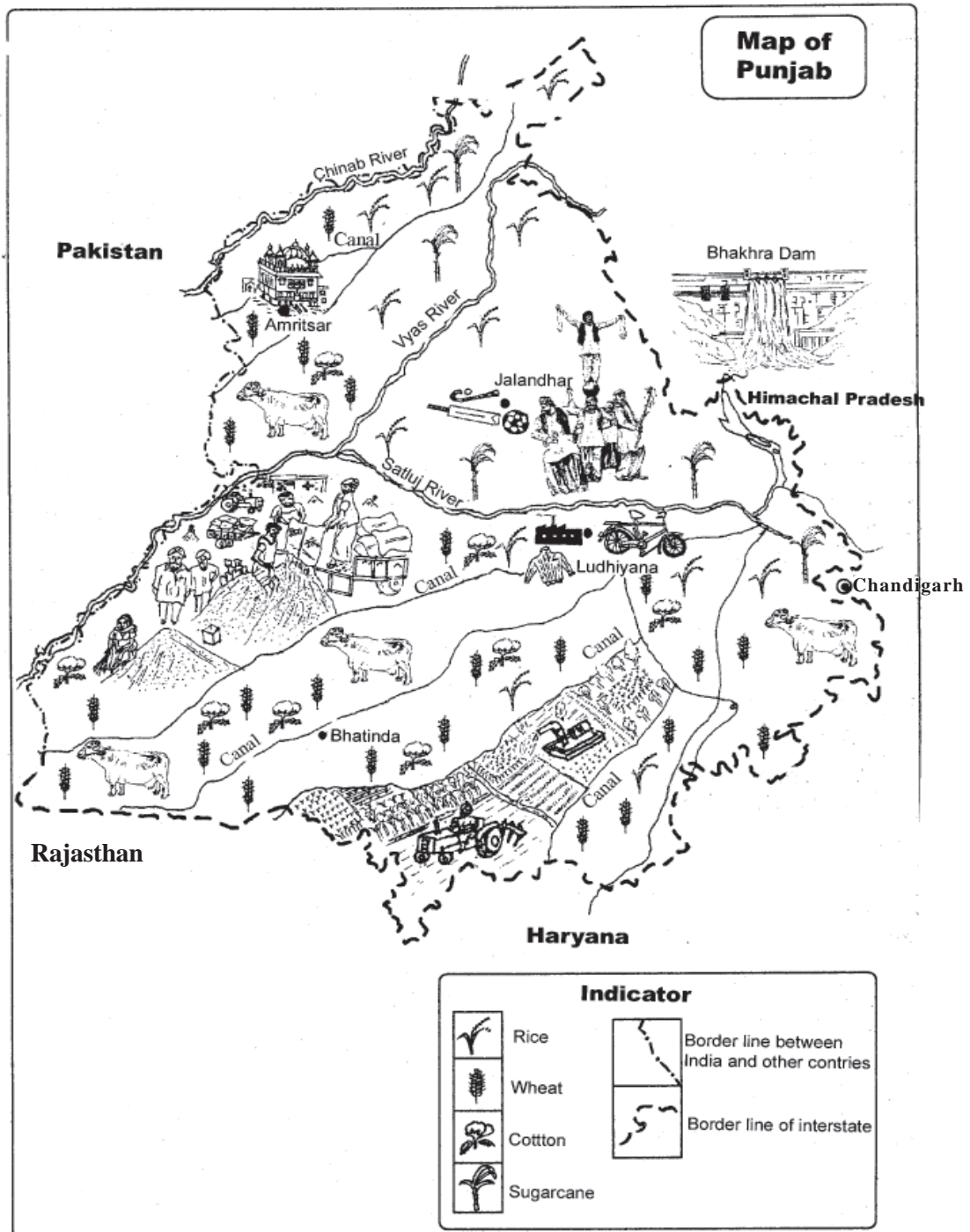
1. Look at the map given below and write the names of the three rivers that flow through Punjab.

1.

2.

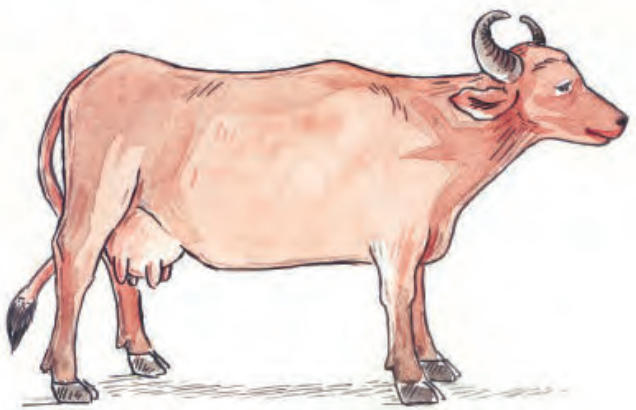
3.

The map of Punjab gives a lot of important information of crops, occupation of its people and its industries.



Land where rivers of milk flow

Punjab and its neighbouring state of Harayana are famous all over India for their superior breed of cows and buffaloes. The cows and buffaloes here are well built and can give nearly 10-12 liters of milk a day. The milk is thick in consistency and hence a lot of cream is taken out. Cream is used to make butter and ghee. As milk is plentiful, a part of it is used in their homes and the rest is sold to the dairies. Here milk is pasteurize and then sold out to far off places. Milk is also used to prepare cheese and ghee. Due to its increasing demand, the farmers have started rearing more and more cows and buffaloes.



What is so special about Punjab that the cows and buffaloes of Punjab give milk in plenty. Firstly, the cows and buffaloes belong to the 'Dudharoo' breed. Secondly, fodder, husks of rice, wheat and cotton seeds are in plenty. The cakes of crushed cotton seeds are very nutritious.

Complete these sentences

1. The cows and buffaloes of Punjab are given cakes of crushed _____ and _____ to eat. Whereas in our state the cows are fed with _____.
2. The cows and buffaloes in Punjab give approximately _____ litres of milk everyday. Whereas the cows and buffaloes in our state give only _____ liters of milk.

Hills of Grain

If you wish to see hills of grain, you must visit Punjab. After the harvest, you can see lines of trucks tractors and trolleys proceeding towards the whole sale market. You'll get to see heaps of grain all around. Each heap is about 10-12 feet high. Merchants from distant places come to buy it.

Irrigation

There are many reasons for a good harvest in Punjab. Firstly as Punjab lies in the northern plains, its land is very fertile. Secondly, it has proper irrigation facilities. India's largest dam is built across the river Sutlej. The water from the Sutlej is collected here and sent to different villages through canals.

Find out the name of this dam in the map given.

~~~~~

**Look at the important canals which flow from this dam.**

~~~~~

The canals here are flooded with water and look like rivers. You can see people swimming and bathing in these canals. Electricity is also generated from these dams and sent to different villages. Electric pumps are used to draw water and machines like threshers are used for harvesting.

Another very important factor for a good harvest is the farmers of Punjab, themselves. They are known for their hard work and foresight. They are keen to adopt new methods and experiments. The farmers of Punjab were fast to adopt hybrid seeds, organic manure, pesticides, tractors etc.

1. Look at the map and name the different crops that are grown more in Punjab.
2. Is cotton grown in the north or south of the river Sutlej?
3. Is sugarcane found in the northern or the southern part of Punjab?

With the help of irrigation facilities, the farmers of Punjab, have 2-3 crops a year. there is so much work in the fields all the year round that labourers from different states come to work here.

Disadvantages of modern farming

This kind of farming has its own disadvantages. Excess water given in the fields is fast changing the fertile land into swamps, making it infertile. The use of pesticides has reduced the rate of production. This has also harmed drinking water, fish, crops, vegetables etc. Its negative effects can be seen on the health of birds, animals and the people. To save their land and water, the farmers of Punjab are finding new ways to cope with this threat.

Cities of Punjab

Amritsar

Find Amritsar on the map of Punjab situated between two rivers.

Amritsar is a well known city of Punjab. Its Golden Temple is very famous. It is called so because it has an outer covering of gold. In the centre of a square pond lies the temple, which shines brightly in sunlight. There is a big holy book kept in the temple called '**Guru Granth Sahib**'. This book contains the teachings of well known saints like Guru Nanak, Baba Farid, Kabir, Rai Das etc. This book is the holy book of the sikhs and the Golden Temple is an important pilgrim centre for the Sikhs. People take a holy dip in this pond. they also go around the holy book and bow before it. Tourists from far off place visit this place.



Ludhiana

The largest city of Punjab is Ludhiana. It has big industries. Look at the map and find out the things manufactured in these industries. Another city of Punjab is famous for its sports goods.

Find out the name of this city and write it below.

~~~~~

**Between which two rivers is Amritsar located?**

~~~~~

Do you know the special kind of wood used for making cricket bats and hockey sticks? To make this, light weight wood is required which is obtained from the pine trees.

1. If you happen to go to Punjab, which of the following would you get. Encircle them.

Mountains, tractor, teak forest, paddy fields, canals, ships, tiger, cycle, coconut trees, buffalo, rocks, pine jungles.

What have We Learnt?

Oral Questions

1. Why has the state of Punjab been named so?
2. Why do the cows and buffaloes of Punjab give more milk?
3. What are the means of irrigation in Chhattisgarh?

Written Questions

1. What are the factors responsible for a good harvest in Punjab?
2. What are the disadvantages of the modern methods of cultivation?
3. Name the things manufactured in Ludhiana.
4. For what is Amritsar famous?

Find around You

1. Apart from the cities mentioned, name some other cities of Punjab and their special features.

