

## Environmental Studies

### (Chapter – 20) (Whose Forests?)

(Class – 5)

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#### **Discuss:**

##### **Question 1:**

What do you think is a forest?

##### **Answer 1:**

Forest is a large area thickly covered with different varieties of trees and plants. It also includes different animals, insects and birds living there.

##### **Question 2:**

If someone grew lots of trees close to each other, would this become a forest?

##### **Answer 2:**

No, if someone grows lots of trees close to each other, this would not necessarily become a forest because this can be in a park or garden.

#### **Find out and write:**

##### **Question 3:**

Other than trees what all is there in a forest?

##### **Answer 3:**

Apart from trees, a forest consists of animals, birds, insects etc.

##### **Question 4:**

Do all forests have similar types of trees? How many trees can you identify?

##### **Answer 4:**

No, all forests do not have the similar types of trees. I can identify about 4-5 trees such as those of mango, neem, coconut, guava, peepal etc.



**Question 5:**

Suryamani says, "If the forests are not there, we too will not remain." Why so?

**Answer 5:**

The forests are an essential part of our life. They keep our environment neat and clean by absorbing most of the harmful gases and releasing oxygen. We also get many fruits, vegetables, medicines from these forest. Besides, many people living in the forest obtain their livelihood from it. Therefore, Suryamani says if the forest would disappear, we will be destroyed.

**Think and write:****Question 6:**

Do you know anyone who loves the forest?

**Answer 6:**

Yes, myself and my friends are very fond of forest.

**Question 7:**

The contractor did not allow Suryamani's people to go into the forest. Why?

**Answer 7:**

The contractor would have been cutting the trees and selling the wood for his own profit. He thought if the forest people will use the forest for their needs, it would be a loss to him. Therefore, he did not allow Suryamani's people to go into the forest.

**Question 8:**

Is there any place around your area which you feel should be open to everyone, but where people are not allowed to go?

**Answer 8:**

Yes, there is a lake in our town. But, people are not allowed to go there and enjoy its natural beauty, until they pay for the entry ticket. I think this is wrong.



## **Discuss:**

### **Question 9:**

Who do you think the forest belongs to?

#### **Answer 9:**

I think that the forest belongs to everyone and not a single person.

### **Question 10:**

Bhudhiyamai said –“Forest is our ‘collective bank’ – not yours or mine alone.” Are there other things which are our collective wealth? So if someone uses more, everyone would suffer?

#### **Answer 10:**

Yes, there are few other things which I believe that this is our collective wealth, if someone uses them more, everyone would be at a loss, such as:

- (i) The ground water
- (ii) The fishes in the seas, rivers etc.
- (iii) The minerals found under the earth
- (iv) The fossil fuel such as coal, petroleum etc.

## **Think and write:**

### **Question 11:**

Do you have a friend with whom you can share everything?

#### **Answer 11:**

Yes, I have a close friend of mine with whom I can share everything.



**Question 12:**

Some people have moved so far away from the forest, that they can't understand the lives of forest people. Some even call them 'jungli'. Why is it not correct to say this?

**Answer 12:**

The word 'Jungli' is a hindi word which is commonly used in abusive sense to refer to someone who is uncivilized. But the forest dwellers are not uncivilized. Though they are living in forest since a very long time but still they are using the forest a balanced and civilized manner. Thus, if we call them 'jungli' it would hurt them.

**Question 13:**

What do you know about how adivasis live? Write and draw a picture.

**Answer 13:**

Adivasis live a very simple life. They wear the most ordinary clothes, sometimes made up of leaves and flowers, they survive on fruits, vegetables, prepare medicine from various forest products. They take woods from the forests and prepare their food, prepare ornaments and decorative articles from leaves and flowers, baskets out of bamboo, plates from leaves etc. and sell these in the market to earn their living.

**Question 14:**

Do you have an adivasi friend? What have you learnt about the forest from her.

**Answer 14:**

Yes, I do have an adivasi friend. I have learnt many things from her about forest such as -

(i) To prepare ornaments and decorative articles out flowers and leaves.



(ii) To prepare medicines out of the herbs found there

(iii) To prepare plates out of the dead and fallen leaves

(iv) To prepare baskets out of bamboo

(v) Climbing trees

**Think:**

**Question 15:**

Do you know of any one who works to save forests?

**Answer 15:**

Yes, I know about a person in my neighbourhood who runs her own NGO and works for protecting the forest.

**Question 16:**

What is your dream? What will you do to make your dream come true?

**Answer 16:**

I wish to become an engineer. I will work hard and study to make my dream come true.

**Question 17:**

Collect reports about forests from newspapers. Did you find any news about how the cutting down of forests affects the weather? How?

**Answer 17:**

Yes, these days, there is a lot of news on the effects of forest cutting on the weather. Cutting trees reduces the occurrence of rainfall which affects our crops. It also contributes in increasing the global warming (that is increasing the temperature of the earth).



## **Read and tell:**

### **Question 18:**

Is there any factory or some construction work going on in and around your area? What type of work?

### **Answer 18:**

Yes, recently a factory for making rubber is being constructed recently in an area a little away from our locality.

### **Question 19:**

Due to the factory is there any effect on the trees and land? Have the people in that area raised this issue?

### **Answer 19:**

Yes, due to this factory a very big park has been destroyed. About 100 trees have been cut. As a result the people living in the nearby areas got annoyed and they raised this issue in front of the president of that area. They complained about the increasing pollution due to the cutting of trees.

### **Question 20:**

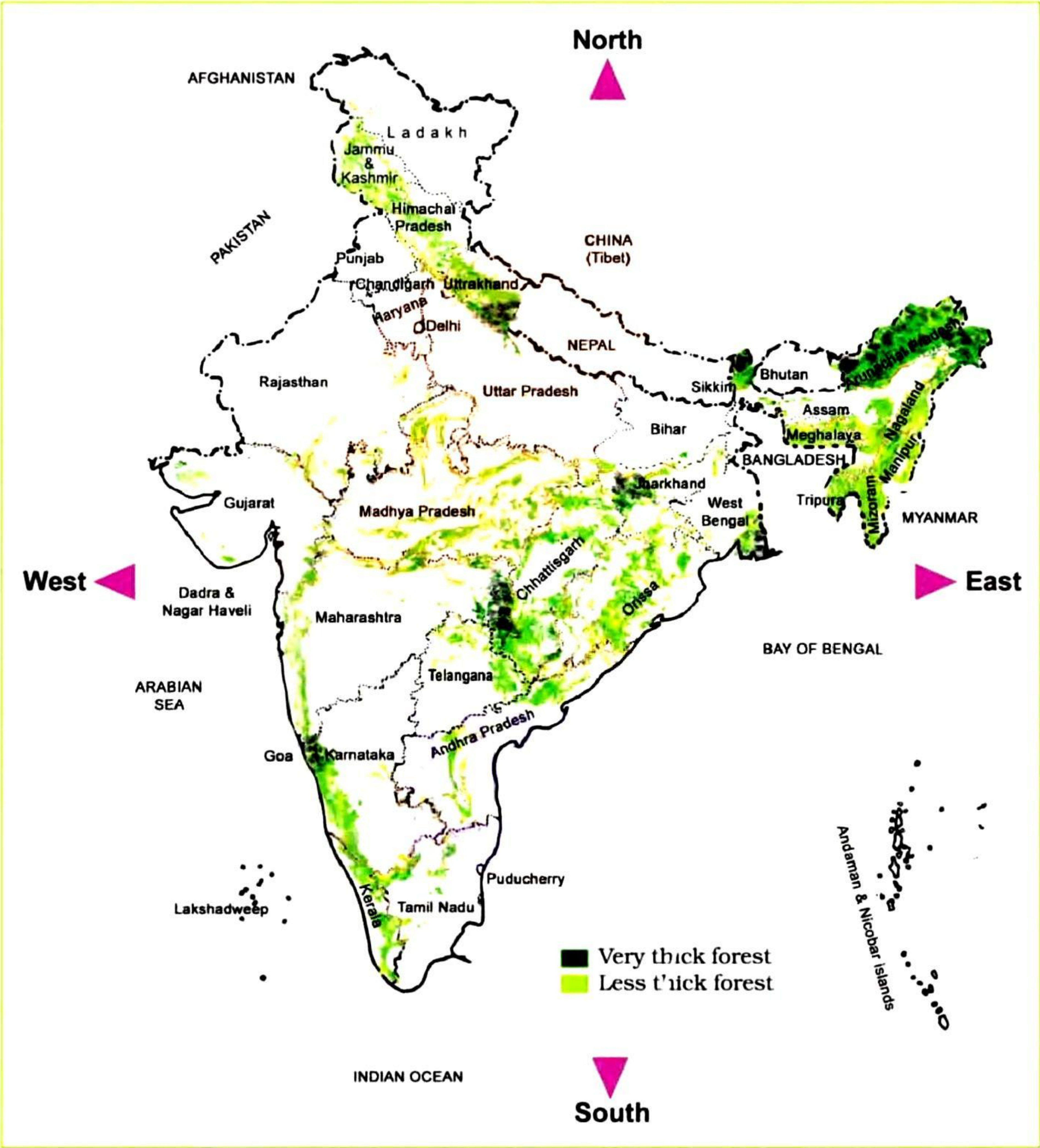
What all is shown in the map?

### **Answer 20:**

This is the map of our country, India. The places having very thick forest and those with less thick forest are being shown in this map.



Look at the map and write:





**Question 21:**

What all is shown in the map?

**Answer 21:**

This is the map of our country, India. The places having very thick forest and those with less thick forest are being shown in the map.

**Question 22:**

You have read Sikhya's letter. Look for Orissa in the map.

**Answer 22:**

Orissa is located towards the east of Chhattisgarh, south of West Bengal and north east Andhra Pradesh.

**Question 23:**

Is there a sea close to Orissa? How did you find out?

**Answer 23:**

Yes, there is an ocean (Bay of Bengal) close to Orissa. An ocean is identified in a map by blue colour. Its name is also given in the map.

**Question 24:**

Which are the states which have the sea on one side?

**Answer 24:**

The following states have sea on one side: West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Puduchery, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa Maharashtra, Gujarat.

**Question 25:**

Where is Suryamani's state Jharkhand on the map?



**Answer 25:**

Suryamani's state Jharkhand is situated towards the south of Bihar, north east of Orissa and towards the east of Madhya Pradesh.

**Question 26:**

Where are forests on the map? How will you find these?

**Answer 26:**

The places having forest are marked with green colour shades on the map. By this colour we can easily identify them. The places having forest are-Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu etc.

**Question 27:**

How can you find out which states have very thick forests and which have less thick forests?

**Answer 27:**

The places with very thick forest and less thick cover of forest are marked with separate colour shades. The areas with very thick forest are marked with dark green and those with less thick forest are marked with light green colour. Thus, these can be identified easily.

**Question 28:**

For someone in Madhya Pradesh, in which direction would the country's thickest forests be? Name those states.



**Answer 28:**

If someone is in Madhya Pradesh, then the thickest forest of the country would be on his North eastern side. These states are Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

**Find Out:****Question 29:**

Which are the states around Mizoram?

**Answer 29:**

The states around Mizoram are – Tripura, Assam and Manipur.

**Question 30:**

Chamui said they measure land using tin. Which are the other ways of measuring land?

**Answer 30:**

The other ways of measuring land are - by meter, acres, gaj, miles etc.

**Question 31:**

Returning from school, children drank water in a bamboo cup. Who do you think would have made this cup and kept it in the forest? Why?

**Answer 31:**

The bamboo cup would have been made by the adivasis living in the forest in order to help the other people passing from the forest.

**Question 32:**

What could be done to save forests?



### **Answer 32:**

There are following things can be done to save the jungel:

- (a) Stop cutting trees
- (b) making laws to stop trespassers and smugglers
- (c) Advertising in media for raise awareness are some of the things to save forest.

### **Question 33:**

Find out more about the 'cheraw' dance. Do it in your class. But be careful and don't hurt yourself.

### **Answer 33:**

Cheraw is one of the traditional and oldest dance of Mizoram since the time when Mizos used to live on the hills of China. This dance is performed by an individual or family in most of their festivals and big occasions such as when there is a bumper harvest of a crop. It is also performed in marriage occasions. In this dance, men sit face to face on the ground and beat long pairs of horizontal and cross bamboo sticks in rhythmic beat. Girls in colourful Mizo costumes dance in and between the bamboo sticks. Gongs and drums are used to company the dance. This is the most popular and colourful face of the Mizos.

### **What we have learnt**

### **Question 34:**

What is similar and what is different between jhoom farming and Bhaskerbhai's way of farming?

### **Answer 34:**

Similarities between Bhaskar Bhai's farms and jhoom farming -

In both these methods of farming, the manures prepared in the factories are not used. Rather, the natural manures formed automatically in the farms itself is used.

The differences between the two farmings is Bhaskar Bhai used plant waste like dead and rotten leaves, stem, roots, etc. to make manure.



He dumped them in a pit and allowed to decompose. This automatically got converted into manure. Further the earthworms also formed small pits in the soil and make it soft and ready for farming.

Whereas in Jhoom farming, the weeds are burnt in the field and the ashes are mixed with the soil which acts like a manure. Moreover, the land is not ploughed but shallow trenches are made in the soil in which the seeds are sown. Mixed seeds of various crops like maize, paddy, chillies, vegetables etc are sown.

### **Question 35:**

Explain in your own words why forests are important for the people living in forests?

#### **Answer 35:**

Forest are very important for the people living in forest. They are living there since their childhood and thus have many sentiments attached with the forest. They play, sing, dance and study in the forest. They obtain their livelihood from the forest. They collect leaves and herbs from the forest and sell these in the bazaar, weave baskets from bamboo and leaf plates from fallen leaves, prepare medicines from the herbs etc. Thus, their life is entirely dependent on the forest and they can't imagine to live without the forest.

### **Question 36:**

Did you find something interesting in jhoom farming? What is it?

#### **Answer 36:**

Yes, there are few things that are very interesting in Jhoom farming, such as-

- (i) The weeds are not removed, but these are burnt and the ashes are mixed with the soil to make it ready for sowing.
- (ii) The land is not ploughed, but shallow trenches are made in the soil, in which the seeds are sown.
- (iii) Mixed seeds of various crops are sown-paddy, maize, chillies, vegetables, sesame etc.