

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Describe the flora and fauna in the Amazon rainforests.

Ans. (i) Rains help in growing thick forests. However, rainforests are so thick that they do not allow the sunlight to reach the ground. The ground therefore remains dark and damp. Orchids and bromeliads grow as plant parasites.

(ii) The rainforest is rich in fauna. Birds like toucans, humming birds, bird of paradise with coloured plumage are found.

(iii) Animals and insects like monkeys, sloths, ant-eating tapirs, reptiles, snakes, crocodiles, anaconda and boa constrictors are found here.

(iv) Several species of insects and flesh-eating Piranha fish are also found here.

Q.2. How is life in the rainforests changing?

Ans. (i) Life of the people in Amazon basin is changing gradually.

(ii) In 1970, the Trans Amazon highway made all parts of the rainforest accessible.

(iii) Aircrafts and helicopters are also used for reaching various places.

(iv) The indigenous population was pushed out and forced to settle in new areas where they continued to practice their distinctive way of farming.

(v) The developmental activities are leading to the gradual destruction of the biologically diverse rainforests.

Q.3. Describe the crop pattern of Ganga–Brahmaputra delta.

Ans. (i) The main crop is paddy as sufficient water is available in this region.

(ii) Wheat, maize, sorghum, gram and millets are the other crops that are grown.

(iii) Cash crops like sugarcane and jute are also grown.

(iv) Banana plantations are seen in some areas of the plain. In West Bengal and Assam, tea plantation is also done.

(v) Silk is produced through the cultivation of silkworms in parts of Bihar and Assam.

Q.4. Describe the wildlife of Ganga–Brahmaputra delta.

Ans. (i) There is a variety of wildlife in the basin. Elephants, tigers, deer and monkeys are commonly found animals.

(ii) The one-horned rhinoceros is found in the Brahmaputra plain.

(iii) Bengal tiger, crocodiles and alligator are found in the delta region.

(iii) Aquatic life abounds in the fresh river waters, lakes and the Bay of Bengal. Rohu, catla and hilsa are the fish found here.

(iv) Therefore, fish and rice is the staple diet of the people living in the area.

Q.5. What is Susu? Why is it useful?

Ans. (i) Susu is a variety of dolphin found in the fresh water of rivers Ganga and Brahmaputra.

(ii) This variety is also called the 'blind dolphin'.

(iii) Its presence in a river is an indication of the health of the river.

(iv) However, dumping of untreated industrial and urban wastes having high amount of chemicals are killing this species in large numbers.