

## Lesson-11

# Natural Resources of Assam



*Our world is full of air, water, soil, minerals, forests and wildlife. Each of these is an asset. These are needed for our various tasks. Since they all are derived from nature. Therefore, these are called **natural resources**.*

➤ **Read the words below. They are all found in nature. Now choose the words and write them below in the table given as per they are obtained on derived from nature.**

Paddy      Coconut      Fish      Rhino      Elephant      Green leafy vegetable  
 Teak      Nahor      Tita chapa      Mustard      Papaya      Coal  
 Bear      River dolphin      Python      Monkey      Spinach      Tortoise  
 Tea      Cane      Crude oil      Betel-Nut      Whale      Limestone  
 Sugarcane      Pine-apple      Natural-gas      Crocodile      Betel leaf      Lotus

Obtained by farming	Obtained from forest	Derived from underground	Derived from water

The items listed above are our natural resources. Assam is a state rich in natural resources. These resources can be divided into four categories.

- (a) Agricultural Resources      (b) Forest Resources      (c) Mineral Resources  
 (d) Aquatic Resources.

**Let us know about some of the natural resources of Assam-**

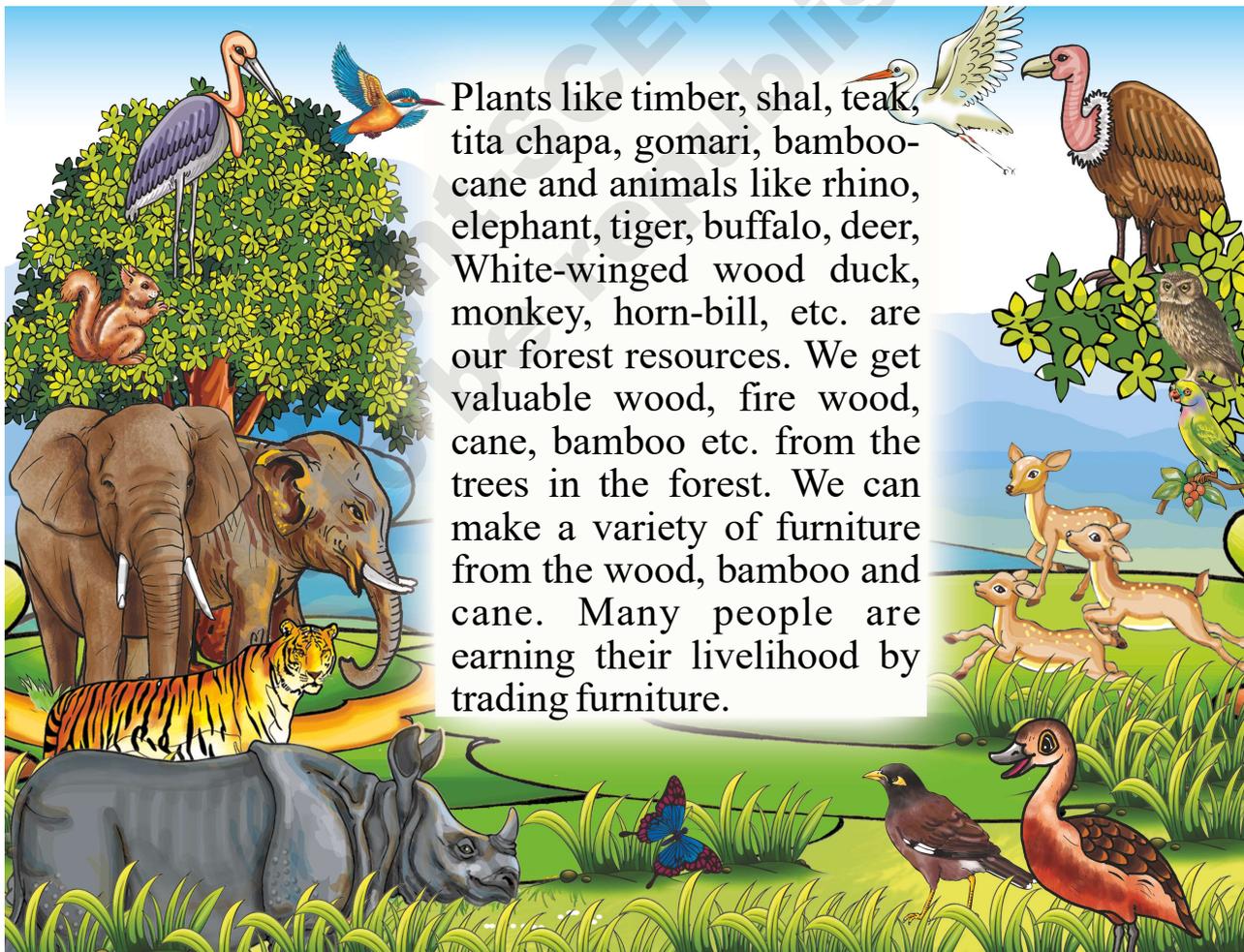
**(a) Agricultural Resources:** We get various crops paddy, pulses, mustard etc. and fruits from agriculture. We call these resources as **agricultural resources**.

Paddy is the main agricultural crop of Assam. The fertile soil with abundant rainfall is suitable for paddy cultivation. In addition to paddy other crops like jute, betel nut and leaf, mustard, coconut, mango, jackfruit, pineapple, banana etc. grows abundantly in Assam.



Vegetables like gourd, brinjal, radish, ginger, chilly, taro etc. are also produced in large quantities.

**(b) Forest Resources:** In the forests of Assam, a wide variety of valuable plants and trees, animals and birds can be found. These are our **forest resources**. We get a lot of benefit from these plants and animals. In the absence of vegetation, animals cannot survive, Plants also remove air pollution. Our forest resources can be divided into two parts- Plants and Animals.



Plants like timber, shal, teak, tita chapa, gomari, bamboo-cane and animals like rhino, elephant, tiger, buffalo, deer, White-winged wood duck, monkey, horn-bill, etc. are our forest resources. We get valuable wood, fire wood, cane, bamboo etc. from the trees in the forest. We can make a variety of furniture from the wood, bamboo and cane. Many people are earning their livelihood by trading furniture.

- Let us divide and write the forest resources as seen in the picture at the previous page as shown in the table given below-

	Plants		Animals
1.	Timber	1.	White-winged wood duck

### Discuss in group and write-

- How do forest resources help us?

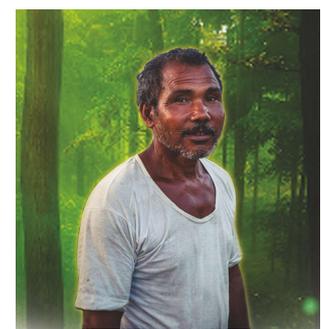
We must preserve these forest resources for ourselves as well as for our future generations. Only about one-fifth of the land area of our country is covered by forests. However the forest areas of Assam, account for about 30 percent of the total forest area. We need to plant more trees to keep the environment healthy. The cutting of trees should be stopped immediately.

Apart from conserving the forest resources, it is also important to provide protection to the wildlife. There are many national parks and wild life sanctuaries in India and Assam for the protection of these wildlife. Besides protecting the wildlife, they also protect the plants.

**Kaziranga National Park in Assam is world famous for its one-horned rhinoceros. There are tiger conservation projects in Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri National Parks.\***

### Let us know-

One of the most famous nature lover is the 'Aranya-Manav' or forestman Jadav Payeng. In the sand area of the Brahmaputra near Kokilamukh in Jorhat. he has planted and nurtured trees for many years and created a forest. The forest is home to many species of animals like leopards, rhinos, elephants, many deers, wild boar and varieties of birds species including vultures etc. This forest is full of valuable trees like Arjuna, Ezar, Karai, Shimalu etc. The Government of India has honoured him with the prestigious Padma Shree award in 2015 for his great work. On Earth Day, April 22, 2012, Jawaharlal Nehru University Conferred on him the title of 'Forest Man of India'



Jadav Payeng

**References-** National Parks/Assam State Portal Source:<https://assam.gov.in/as/about-us/402>  
**Source:** <https://forest.assam.gov.in/information>

## Group work (Take help from your teacher)

- Prepare a list of the valuable trees in your area.

### (c) Mineral Resources:

Assam is one of the richest state in India in crude oil. This is why Assam is called the '**State of Liquid Gold**'. Crude oil, natural gas, coal, limestone etc. are found underground. These underground resources are the **mineral resources**.



Use of mineral resources

- Look at the picture at the previous page and write where we use these mineral resources-

Mineral resources	Its uses



The crude oil in the underground is not suitable for direct use. This oil is refined to produce kerosene, petrol, diesel etc. We use these as fuel for various purposes such as running of motor cars, trains, etc. Natural gas obtained with crude oil is used as fuel. The items we use such as candles, vaseline, tar, naphthalene etc. are prepared from crude oil.

Coal is used to run trains, factories, industries, etc. Limestone is one of our other mineral resources. Portland cement, cement etc. are produced from limestone.

**Limestone is found in large quantities in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam**

**Think and write-**

- What are the fuels that we need to drive vehicles?
- Which fuel do we need to burn gas stove?
- What are the fuels that are required to run factories and industries?
- What problems will we face in the absence of crude oil?

#### (d) Water Resources-



What do you see in the above picture-

We use the water of rivers, canals, ponds etc. for various purposes. Various animals, such as fish, tortoise, crocodile, river dolphin etc. live in water. These are very useful for us. The aquatic plants and animals are our **water resources**.

**Gather information from your teachers and parents and write down-**

- The names of the rivers or tributaries in your area. (If any)
- What are the benefits that we derive from the rivers?

**Let us know-**

There is a system of allowing water from the rivers to flow through canals to irrigate the fields. Moreover, trades can be carried out by plying boat, ships etc. on the river. Energy is generated from the fast flowing water with the help of turbines. This electric



energy is called **hydroelectric energy**. It helps to run various factories and industries and supply electricity to the houses.

**All natural resources are very valuable. We have to save these resources so that they do not become extinct from the heart of the nature.**

### Exercise

1. Answer the following-
  - a) What are natural resources?
  - b) What are mineral resources.
  - c) What are the chief mineral resources of Assam?
  - d) Why is Assam called the 'state of liquid gold'?
  - e) What are water resources?
  - f) Name three agricultural resources of Assam.
  - g) Name three forest resources.
2. Why should we make proper use of our natural resources?
3. Put ✓ (tick) mark in the correct answer-
  - a) Tar is found in coal mines.
  - b) Limestone is a forest resource.
  - c) We should make proper use of our natural resources.
  - d) Crude oil is available in large quantities in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.
  - e) Crude oil obtained from underground is suitable for direct use.
4. Match column A with column B

A	B
Coal	Forest resources
Crude oil	Water resources
Rhino, elephant	Mineral resources
Aquatic animals	Liquid gold

