

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Describe the flora and fauna of prairies.

Ans. (i) Prairies are practically tree-less. Some trees found here are willows, alders and poplars.

(ii) Areas with 50 cm rainfall with fertile soil grow maize, potatoes, soyabeans, cotton and alfa-alfa.

(iii) Areas with little or unreliable rainfall, have short grasses. These are suitable for cattle rearing.

(iv) Large cattle farmers called ranches are looked after by the sturdy men called 'cowboys'.

(v) Bison or the American buffalo is the most important animal of this region.

Q.2. Explain the climate of prairies grasslands.

Ans. (i) The prairies region has a continental type of climate with extreme temperatures.

(ii) The summers are warm with temperatures of around 20°C, while in winter –20°C has been recorded in Winnipeg, Canada.

(iii) In winters, a thick blanket of snow covers this region.

(iv) The annual rainfall is moderate and is ideal for the growth of grass.

(v) Due to the absence of north-south barrier, a local wind "Chinook" blows here.

Q.3. Why are Prairies called the 'Granaries of the world'?

Ans. (i) People of this region are hardworking and have successfully harnessed technology to utilise their rich natural resources.

(ii) USA and Canada—the two major countries of this region—use scientific methods of cultivation, use tractors and harvesters which have made North America a surplus food producer of wheat.

(iii) Due to this, Prairies are called "Granaries of the world".

Q.4. Describe the flora and fauna of velds.

Ans. (i) The vegetation cover in this region is sparse.

(ii) Grasses dominate the landscape.

(iii) Red grass grows in bush velds.

(iv) In the high velds, acacia and maroola are seen to be growing.

(v) The animals found in the velds are primarily lions, leopards, cheetah and kudu.