

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How was the word Amazon discovered?

Ans. (i) When the Spanish explorers discovered the Amazon river. They were attacked by a group of local tribes wearing headgear and grass skirts.

(ii) These people reminded them of the fierce tribes of women warriors known in the ancient Roman empire as the Amazons. Hence, the name Amazon.

Q.2. Examine topography of the Amazon basin.

Ans. (i) The Amazon basin lies very close to the equator between 10°N and 10°S. Thus, it is called equatorial region.

(ii) The river Amazon flows through this region.

(iii) Numerous tributaries join the Amazon river to form the Amazon basin.

(iv) The river basin drains portions of Brazil, parts of Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and a small part of Venezuela.

Q.3. Examine climate of the Amazon basin.

Ans. (i) The Amazon basin stretches directly on the equator and is characterised by hot and wet climate throughout the year.

(ii) Both days and nights are almost equally hot and humid.

(iii) The skin feels sticky. It rains almost everyday, that too without much warning.

(iv) The day temperatures are high with very high humidity.

(v) At night, the temperature goes down but the humidity remains high.

Q.4. What is slash and burn agriculture?

Ans. Slash and burn is a way of cultivating land where farmers clear a piece of land by slashing or cutting down trees and bushes. These trees and bushes are then burnt, which release the nutrients into the soil. New crops are grown in this cleared patch of land for a few years. Then, it is abandoned. Another patch is cleared. In the mean time, young trees grow in the old field. It restores the fertility of soil.

Q.5. Describe the housing style of Amazon people.

Ans. (i) The Amazon rainforests provide a lot of wood for the houses.

(ii) Some families live in thatched houses, shaped like beehives.

(iii) There are other large apartment like houses called “Maloca” with a steeply slanting roof.

Q.6. Describe the climate of Ganga–Brahmaputra delta.

Ans. (i) The area is dominated by monsoon climate.

(ii) The monsoon brings rains from mid-June to mid-September.

(iii) The summers are hot and the winters are cool.

Q.7. Describe the vegetation of Ganga–Brahmaputra delta.

Ans. (i) The vegetation cover of the area varies according to the type of landforms.

(ii) Tropical deciduous trees grow in the Ganga and Brahmaputra plains along with trees like teak, sal and peepal.

(iii) Apart from these, thick bamboo groves are commonly found in the Brahmaputra plain.

(iv) The delta area is covered with the mangrove forests.

Q.8. How is transport important in this region?

Ans. (i) All the four means of transport are well-developed in the Ganga– Brahmaputra basin.

(ii) In plains, the roadways and railways transport the people from one place to another.

(iii) Waterways is an effective means of transport.

(iv) Kolkata is an important port on river Hooghly.

(v) The plain area has a large number of airports.