

Chapter

Exploring Continents Africa, Australia and Antarctica

I. Choose the correct answer.

1. The southernmost tip of Africa is.

- a) Cape Blanca
- b) Cape Agulhas
- c) Cape of Good Hope
- d) Cape Town

Answer:

- c) Cape of Good Hope

2. The manmade canal through an isthmus between Egypt and Sinai Peninsula is

- a) Panama Canal
- b) Aswan Canal
- c) Suez Canal
- d) Albert Canel

Answer:

- c) Suez Canal

3. In respect of the Mediterranean climate, consider the following statements, and choose the correct answer.

- (1) The average rainfall is 15cm
 - (2) The summers are hot and dry, winters are rainy.
 - (3) Winters are cool and dry, Summers are hot and wet
 - (4) Citrus fruits are grown
- a) 1 is correct
 - b) 2 and 4 are correct
 - c) 3 and 4 are correct
 - d) All are correct

Answer:

- b) 2 and 4 are correct

4. The range which separates the west and east flowing rivers in Australia is

- a) Great Dividing Range
- b) Himalayan Range
- c) Flinders range
- d) Mac Donnell Range

Answer:

- a) Great Dividing Range

5. Kalgoorile is famous for mining.

- a) Diamond

- b) Platinum
- c) Silver
- d) Gold

Answer:

d) Gold

II. Fill in the blanks.

1. Atlas Mountain is located in continent

Answer:

African

2. is the highest peak of Africa.

Answer:

Mt. Kilimanjaro

3. is the most common tree in Australia.

Answer:

Eucalyptus

4. A temperate grass land of Australia is called

Answer:

Downs

5. is the first Indian research station in Antarctica.

Answer:

Dakshi Gangotri

III. Match the following.

1. Pinnacle	a) Equatorial forest.
2. Krill	b) salt lake
3. Ostrich	c) small red fish
4. Lake Eyre	d) flightless bird
5. Jewel of the Earth	e) Pointed limestone pillar

Answer:

1. Pinnacle	e) Pointed limestone pillar
2. Krill	c) small red fish ‘
3. Ostrich	d) flightless bird
4. Lake Eyre	b) salt lake
5. Jewel of the Earth	a) Equatorial forest

IV. Let us learn.

1. Assertion (A) : Aurora is a curtain of colour lights appear in the sky.

Reason (R) : They are caused by magnetic storms in the upper atmosphere.

- a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation for A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) R is true but A is false

Answer:

- a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.

2. Assertion (A) : A geological feature of Africa is the Great Rift Valley.

Reason (R) : A Rift valley is a large crack in the earth's surface formed by tectonic activity.

- a) Both A and R is individually true and R is the correct explanation for A.
- b) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation for A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) R is true but, A is false.

Answer:

- a) Both A and R is individually true and R is the correct explanation for A

V. Answer in brief.

1. Why Africa is called a "Mother Continent"?

Answer:

Africa is nicknamed the 'Mother Continent' as it was the oldest inhabited continent on Earth.

2. What are the important rivers of Africa?

Answer:

The most important rivers in Africa

- River Nile – father of African rivers.
- River Congo or Zaire – the second largest river.
- River Niger – Major river.
- River Zambezi – fourth largest river and River of life.

3. Name the physical division of Australia.

Answer:

The Physical divisions of Australia are –

1. The Great Western Plateau
2. The Central Low lands
3. The Eastern High lands

4. Write about the nature of the Antarctic continent.

Answer:

- Antarctica is the southernmost and fifth-largest continent in the world.
- As it is located in polar regions it is the coldest continent with a permanent cover of ice.
- Its landform consists of mountains, peaks, valleys, glaciers, and plateau.

5. Mention any four economic activities of Australia.

Answer:

Agriculture, forestry, fishing mining, manufacturing, trade, and services are the major economic activities of Australia.

VI. Distinguish between.

1. Sahel and Sahara

Sahel	Sahara
Sahel means border or margin	Largest hot desert in the world.
It is largely a semi – acid belt of barren, sandy and rocky land.	It covers the area of 11 countries.
This region marks the physical and cultural transition.	Mt. Koussi, an extinct volcano in chad is the highest point in Sahara.

2. Western Antarctica and Eastern Antarctica.

Western Antarctica	Eastern Antarctica
Faces the Pacific Ocean.	Faces the Atlantic and Indian Ocean.
Antarctica Peninsula which points towards South America shows that it is the continuation of the Andes mountain range.	Mt. Erebus is an active volcano. Located in Ross Island. Only continent called white continent because of the ice cap in 4,000 meters deep.

3. Great Barrier Reef and the Artesian Basin.

Barrier Reef	Artesian Basin
1. It is located in the northeast of Australia along the east coast of Queensland in the Pacific Ocean.	The Artesian Basin is a region on the earth's surface where water gushes out like a fountain.
2. It is formed by the tiny coral polyps.	Largest and deepest basin in the world.
3. It is about 2300 km long.	Located in the west of the Great Dividing range.
4. One of the natural wonders of the world.	Found in arid and Semi-arid parts of Queensland.

VII. Give reasons.

1. Egypt is called the gift of the Nile.

Answer:

- The Nile is the lifeline of Egypt
- Without the Nile, Egypt would have been a desert
- So Egypt is the gift of the Nile.

2. Deserts are found in the western margins of the continents.

Answer:

- Most deserts are found in the Western margins of the subtropics.
- Because the prevailing winds in the tropics are tropical easterly winds.
- The tropical easterly winds become dry by the time they reach the western margins.

3. Antarctica is called the continent of scientists.

Answer:

- Scientists of any country are free to conduct experiments and collect data from Antarctica.
- Hence it is called the 'continent of Science'.

VIII. Answer in a paragraph each.

1. Give an account of the mineral wealth of Australia.

Answer:

- Minerals are the largest export item in Australia.
- It contributes about 10 % of the country's GDP.
- Australia is the world's leading producer of bauxite, limonite, the second-largest producer of gold, lead, lithium, manganese ore, and zinc.
- The third-largest producer of iron ore and uranium and the fourth-largest producer of black coal.
- The Coal belts of the country stretch from New castle to Sydney.
- Iron ores are found mainly in southern and Western Australia.
- Bauxite is mined around the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- Uranium is mined in northern territory.
- Gold is mined in the Western desert at Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie.

2. Describe the flora and fauna of Antarctica.

Answer:

Flora and Fauna:

1. Since the temperature is below freezing point almost throughout the year, no major vegetation is found in this continent.

2. Simple plants like algae, mosses, liverworts, lichens, and microscopic fungi can survive and grow in Antarctica.
3. Some algae live in the snow, while other plants grow on the coastal rocky land that is ice-free.
4. A few species of plants, such as plankton, algae, and mosses are seen in and around, Antarctica's fresh and saltwater lakes.
5. Small redfish called krill are found in large shoals. It is food for many warm-blooded sea animals.
6. The blue whale is the largest animal that feeds on plankton. All these animals and birds have a thick layer of fat called blubber which helps them to withstand the cold condition.
7. Penguin birds in Antarctica cannot fly. They have webbed feet and flippers instead of wings. Small invertebrates are the only land animals which live in the continent.

3. Name the physical divisions of Africa and explain anyone.

Answer:

The physical divisions of Africa are

1. Sahara
2. Sahel
3. Savanna
4. The Great Rift Valley and the Great Lakes of Africa
5. East Africa Highlands
6. Swahili Coast
7. The Congo Basin or Zaire Basin
8. Southern Africa.

Sahel:

- Sahel means border or margin. Sahel is a semi-arid tropical Savannah region that lies between Sahara.
- Desert in the north and grassland into the south.
- It Stretches east-west for a distance of 4000 km and covers an area of 30 million sq Km.
- It is largely a semi-arid belt of barren, sandy, and rocky land.
- This region marks the physical and cultural transition between the more fertile tropical regions in the south and desert in the north.

X. Activity.

1. Find out the hemisphere and season during December for the following countries

Country	Hemisphere	Season
South Africa	Southern	Summer
Morocco	Northern	Winter

Australia	Southern	Summer
Niger	Northern	Winter
Egypt'	Northern	Winter
Tasmania	Southern	Summer
India	Northern	Winter