

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What are grasslands? Give example.

Ans. (i) Grasslands can be defined as a region where grasses form the dominant type of plant life.

(ii) They make up almost a quarter of the total land surface. The world's grasslands can be divided into two broad categories: temperate grasslands and tropical grasslands.

Q.2. What are prairies?

Ans. (i) The temperate grasslands of North America are known as the Prairies.

(ii) It is a region of flat, gently sloping or hilly land.

(iii) They are mostly tree-less.

(iv) Tall grass, up to two metres high, dominates the landscape. It is actually a sea of grass.

Q.3. Where are prairies located? How are they drained?

Ans. (i) The prairies are bound by the Rocky Mountains in the west and the Great Lakes in the East.

(ii) In USA, the area is drained by the tributaries of Mississippi and in Canada, the area is drained by the tributaries of Saskatchewan rivers.

Q.4. How has industrialisation taken place in the prairies region?

Ans. (i) Dairy farming is a major industry of the region.

(ii) The dairy belt extends from Great Lakes to the Atlantic Coast in the East.

(iii) Large mineral deposits of coal and iron and a good network of roads, railways and canals make this region an industrialised region.

Q.5. Describe the topography of velds.

Ans. (i) Velds are rolling plateaus with varying heights ranging from 600 m to 1100 m.

(ii) It is bound by Drakensburg Mountains on the east.

(iii) To its west lies the Kalahari desert.

(iv) On the northeastern part, 'high velds' are located that attain a height of more than 1600 m in some places.

Q.6. Describe the climate of velds.

Ans. (i) The velds have a mild climate. The winters are cold and dry.

(ii) Temperature varies between 5°C and 10°C and July is the coldest month.

(iii) Summers are short and warm. Johannesburg records about 20°C temperature in the summer.

(iv) The velds receive rainfall mainly in the summer months from November to February.