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India–The Northern Plains

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ Location, extent and features of the Northern Plains
- ▶ The Satluj River Basin
- ▶ The Ganga River Basin
- ▶ The Brahmaputra River Basin
- ▶ Life in the States of the Northern Plains

Objectives

- ▶ Learning about the features of the Northern Plains of India.
- ▶ The three major River Basins: Satluj, Ganga and Brahmaputra.
- ▶ The States of the Northern Plains and Life in the States: Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal, Assam, Tripura

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Maps of India – Political and Physical
- ▶ Atlases
- ▶ Blank maps of India for the students
- ▶ Blackboard, internet, pictures, magazines, etc.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Notice that there is an overlap between the states mentioned in the Northeastern Mountain regions and in the Northern Plains. This is because the rivers pass through the highlands in the two states of Assam and Tripura.
- ▶ This river belt has been the main attraction for the invaders from across the mountains.

Gear Up, Background and Reading

- ▶ The cities located on the rivers are as follows in Gear Up: Varanasi is on the Ganga; Lucknow on the Gomti; Delhi on the Yamuna and Kolkata on the Hugli.
- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and also the points to remember and explain.

- ▶ Explain the location and extent of the Plains, and the rivers with tributaries flowing through it. Fed by the melting snows: perennial.
- ▶ The rich soil of the plains: alluvium. Very fertile. Thickly populated area. Many cities.

/// The River Basins

- (a) **The Satluj River Basin:** Western part of Plains; Tributary – Beas; Bhakra Dam – hydroelectricity & irrigation; States of Punjab, Haryana.
- (b) **The Ganga River Basin:** Delhi in the east to Kolkata in the west; originates from Gangotri glacier; enters Plains at Haridwar; tributaries – Ghaghra, Gandak, Gomti & Kosi and Yamuna, Chambal, Betwa & Son; Sangam at Prayagraj (Allahabad); fertile alluvium; distributaries in Bengal – Hugli. One branch enters Bangladesh – Padma; joins Brahmaputra.
- (c) **The Brahmaputra River Basin:** Eastern part of Plains; Originates in Tibet, called Tsangpo; flows into India through Arunachal Pradesh; through Assam; joins Padma in Bangladesh; largest delta in the world called Sundarbans.

/// The States in the Northern Plains

- (i) **Punjab:** Satluj with Beas and Ravi; rich farmers – mechanised; Chandigarh [UT-Capital], Shri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) of Amritsar; Ludhiana- hosiery; Jalandhar – sports goods; languages, festivals, dances, food, dress.
- (ii) **Haryana:** Satluj and Yamuna; farming, cattle breeding and dairying; Chandigarh [UT-Capital], Gurgaon – largest Maruti car-making plant; language; clothes.
- (iii) **Delhi:** Capital of India; Yamuna; people of all states; languages; rich in monuments.
- (iv) **Uttar Pradesh:** Ganga and tributaries; Large, thickly populated, farmers, factories; Lucknow [capital], languages, dress, festivals, Taj Mahal at Agra – tourism.
- (v) **Bihar:** Ganga and tributaries; land of Buddha & Mahavira; thickly populated; farmers; Patna [capital], Nalanda, Bodh Gaya, Vaishali, etc., languages, festivals.
- (vi) **Bengal:** Ganga and Hugli; Kolkata [capital]; jute and jute mills; textiles; farming, fishing, fish farming; food, art, sport, theatre, festivals.
- (vii) **Assam:** Brahmaputra; rice, jute, tea plantations; Dispur [capital], Guwahati largest city; language, dance.
- (viii) **Tripura:** Surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides; Agartala [capital], farmers, bamboo and cane handicrafts and furniture.