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Major Landforms

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ Types of landforms: Relief features
- ▶ Mountains
- ▶ Plateaus
- ▶ Plains
- ▶ River valleys

Objectives

- ▶ Learning to identify different physical features of land.
- ▶ What are the common landforms?
- ▶ Mountains – how formed, old and young; advantages of mountains.
- ▶ Plateaus – how formed; advantages of plateaus.
- ▶ Plains – how formed; advantages of plains.
- ▶ River valleys – different parts of a river valleys
- ▶ Learning about other landforms: Canyons, Valleys, Islands, Deserts, Waterfalls, Hills.

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Use maps, atlases, photographs, internet, and floor/sand models in trays.
- ▶ Get magazines like National Geographic from the library and show landforms.
- ▶ Suggest the students watch National Geographic, Animal Planet, etc., on TV.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Read and discuss the lesson.
- ▶ Go beyond the lesson to arouse curiosity about landforms: for example, river sources, waterfalls, mouths of rivers, rapids, etc.
- ▶ A discussion of trekking and adventure sports will encourage understanding of landforms.
- ▶ Paper cut-outs can be made in class, as also tray models for which the students can bring materials to make different landforms: for example, sand, blue tissue, brown paper, paints, etc.

/// Gear Up and Background

- ▶ This section provokes curiosity about landforms.
- ▶ Discuss the three blanks and encourage students to find out and give replies. [Examples are 1. Nanda Devi 2. The Deccan 3. Lakshadweep]
- ▶ Discuss various other landforms and ask students to name examples in India. For instance: Desert [Thar], plain [Northern Plains], Waterfall [Athirapally], Mountains [Himalayas, Vindhyas], Delta [Ganga-Brahmaputra], etc.

/// Mountains

- ▶ Read aloud and explain the lesson.
- ▶ What mountains are how to identify them.
- ▶ What young and old mountains are; compare Himalayas, Vindhyas, Aravallis and the Ghats.
- ▶ Peaks, Heights, Ranges and Valleys
- ▶ Advantages of mountains: wind breakers; rainfall barriers; glaciers and rivers; forests and grasslands; mineral deposits; health and tourism; quarrying rocks/stones.
- ▶ Discuss how uncontrolled cutting of trees and quarrying can lead to natural disasters: example of Uttarakhand.

/// Plateaus

- ▶ Explain how mountains get eroded and levelled into plateaus.
- ▶ Use a sandpaper to show the work of erosion.
- ▶ Explain about plateaus: the Deccan and Tibet and the Grand Canyon of Colorado
- ▶ Advantages of plateaus: minerals; crops; waterfalls

/// Plains

- ▶ What plains are: with and without rivers
- ▶ Discuss: Why do more people live in plains than in other areas?
- ▶ Easier movement, agriculture, irrigation, transport, growth of industries, etc.
- ▶ Explain these as advantages of plains.
- ▶ Compare with plains in other countries if time permits: prairies of the USA or the veldt of Africa

/// River Valleys

- ▶ Explain the profile of a river: origin at a height generally and flowing downwards to the sea.
- ▶ Some rivers are seasonal: due to rains, change of season, etc. Some are perennial.
- ▶ How the look of a river alters as it progresses from origin to the mouth – Use maps, photographs, internet, blackboard etc.

- ▶ Three Parts of a river: Upper or young part – rapid flow of water, deeply cut valleys, quantity of water may be less.
- ▶ Middle or mature part – enters plains, wide valleys, less speed, more water, forms loops called meanders. [Word 'Meander' means to wander around]. Make this interesting by showing them pictures of meanders and oxbows, helping them to understand that rivers can change course also.
- ▶ Lower or old part – slow flow, distributaries formed, delta at the river mouth.