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DRC – The Land of Dense Forests

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ Location and extent of DRC
- ▶ Physical features
- ▶ Climatic conditions
- ▶ Vegetation and wildlife
- ▶ Economic activities
- ▶ Life of the people

Objectives

- ▶ Learning to link what has been learnt in the previous lesson with the zone represented by DRC.
- ▶ Learning how it has influenced the climate, the vegetation, wildlife, economic activities and the life of the people.
- ▶ Learning the geography of DRC

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Maps of physical features and political boundaries, etc., of DRC
- ▶ Maps about rainfall distribution, industrial and economic activities, demographic distribution, flora and fauna
- ▶ Globe and atlases

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ *Geography needs to have a universal framework. So when teaching it, make it interesting for the students so that they are not merely memorising data but understanding the relevance and topicality of the subject.*
- ▶ Introduce students to the concept of a comprehensive geography of a country covering its various aspects, by the use of maps:
- ▶ Location & extent; physical and political features; climate; flora and fauna; economic activities and life of the people.
- ▶ Explain terms like demography; the concepts of primitive or native tribes, and correlate them to the Jarawas in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Red Indians of the USA and the aborigines of Australia, etc.

- ▶ Speak about the threat of vanishing rainforests; correlate to the Silent Valley in Kerala and the Sunderbans of Bengal.
- ▶ Some countries can go beyond the limits set by climate and carry out other economic activities too. One example is Japan with a flourishing electronic and automobile industry.

/// Gear Up and Background

- ▶ Do this exercise in class. Let the students name the two animals and indicate which one is found in the evergreen forests. They can find out if this animal is found in India.
- ▶ Discuss tropical forests in India: the Silent Valley in Kerala is an example.

/// Location and Extent

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain its details.
- ▶ Use the maps to show the location, boundaries, etc., of DRC. Show them the surrounding countries.
- ▶ Focus on how the country is located entirely in the Tropical Zone.

/// Physical Features

Explain the physical features of DRC using the map: the river basin, the mountains and plateaus, the lakes, rapids and waterfalls. Show pictures on internet, National Geographic, etc. The source of the river, etc., can be discussed.

/// Climatic Conditions

Explain the climatic conditions using the map of Africa to explain how the winds flow and the areas over which they flow. The rainfall distribution map, temperature map, etc., can be used so the students become familiar with them.

/// Vegetation and Wildlife

- ▶ This section can be made interesting with pictures and craft-work. Ask students to draw a tropical forest, and add pictures of various animals found in the region.
- ▶ Explain the layers of the forest. Why does the forest have several layers? Ask students.
- ▶ What is Savanna? Compare with other places: prairies, velds, pampas, etc.
- ▶ Discuss the wildlife. Why are animals coloured as they are? Clue-camouflage.
- ▶ What is habitat? What should we humans do to preserve the habitat?
- ▶ What are wildlife sanctuaries? Ask students to name some in India.

/// Economic Activities

- ▶ Discuss the major economic activities of DRC.
- ▶ What are cash crops? What are plantations? How are they different from farms?

- ▶ What does 'clearing the forests' mean? Is it necessary? How useful is it for development? Does it damage the habitat or create risks for the human population too? Refer to Uttarakhand floods that were aggravated by the clearing of trees and forests.
- ▶ What is the meaning of export and import?
- ▶ What are minerals and their uses?
- ▶ What are the main industries and the transport systems?
- ▶ What all does one need to improve economic activity? Clue – knowledge, skills, space, raw material, transport and communication.

/// **Life of the People**

- ▶ What is the population and its distribution in DRC?
- ▶ See how it follows the physical features, the boundaries, the vegetation, etc.
- ▶ The people of DRC, their physical features. Very often they make extraordinary sportspersons and have been successful in the world of music, etc.
- ▶ The original inhabitants: Pygmies. Compare with other displaced tribes in India and the rest of the world.