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India–The Climatic Conditions

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ An overview – How climate affects lifestyle
- ▶ Main features of India’s climate
- ▶ Seasons: Winter, summer, rainy & autumn

Objectives

- ▶ Understanding how climate affects different aspects of our lifestyle
- ▶ The main features of India’s Climate and how the location affects it
- ▶ Understanding what the seasons in India are.
- ▶ Winter, Summer, Rainy and Autumn

Teacher’s Aids

- ▶ Maps of India – Political and Physical
- ▶ A map showing climatic conditions like temperature, rains, etc.
- ▶ Atlases
- ▶ Blank maps of India for the students
- ▶ Blackboard, internet, pictures, magazines, etc.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Link the climate with the location, physical features, etc., that the students have learnt about so far.
- ▶ For instance: The Tropic of Cancer; the sea/ocean effect; Himalayas causing rainfall; the perennial and seasonal rivers, the crops, the vegetation, etc.

Gear Up, Background and Reading

- ▶ Up shows the four seasons: Spring, Autumn, Winter and Rainy seasons respectively.

- ▶ Ask students whether they know that in ancient India 6 seasons were followed of roughly 2 months each: Vasant [spring], Greeshma [summer], Varsha [rainy], Hemant, Sharad [both together – Autumn] and Shishir [winter].
- ▶ Read the lesson aloud, including points to remember, and explain.
- ▶ The main elements of climate: temperature, rainfall & winds.
- ▶ Climate affects: food [because of crops, animals, fish, etc.], clothes [heat/cold/desert etc.], houses [dry/windy/rainy/building material available, etc.]
- ▶ Tropic of Cancer passes through India – tropical climate and vegetation; varied because of mountains, peninsula, plateaus, etc.
- ▶ Heavy rainfall – desert – Monsoon type climate.

/// The Winter Season

- ▶ Mid November- Mid March – December & January coldest – Dras in J&K coldest place.
- ▶ Nights long, days short; days warm, nights cold – explain using blackboard about slanting rays on Tropic of Cancer.
- ▶ Most of the country dry except Tamil Nadu which gets rain from retreating monsoon – explain regarding southwest monsoons and northeast retreat.
- ▶ Strong west winds – Western Disturbances – rainfall and heavy snow in northern India – pleasant with clear skies in north. South India and coastal regions no cold season – influence of sea and blocked by the highlands.

/// The Summer Season

- ▶ Mid-March to June end – Hot & dry everywhere except mountains – hottest near Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- ▶ Days long, nights short. Hot, dry, dusty winds, called *loo*, over Northern Plains. Deccan Plateau cooler due to sea influence.
- ▶ Rainfall in some areas at end of summer – called Kalbaisakhi in Assam and Bengal and mango showers in Karnataka & Kerala, because helps in ripening of mangoes.

/// The Rainy Season

- ▶ End June to end September – summer monsoon – winds from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal – carry moisture – reach Kerala by June end and rest of India by July.
- ▶ Southwest Monsoon – winds hit hills & mountains – cause of heavy rainfall in India. Mawnsynram, Meghalaya: wettest place on Earth.
- ▶ Average rainfall – about 125 cm – distribution uneven – decreases from North to South and from east to west. Western Desert – less than 25 cm rain annually.
- ▶ Monsoon winds irregular – cause floods somewhere and drought elsewhere. Tamil Nadu dry – gets rainfall in November & January.

/// The Autumn Season

- ▶ End of rainy season to mid November – retreating monsoon from Northern Plains.
- ▶ Change from hot, wet to cool, dry weather. Days warm, nights cool. Eastern coast – cyclones.
- ▶ Cycle of seasons in India based on monsoon winds.