

# 7

## Saudi Arabia – The Land of Hot Sand

### Lesson Plan

#### Contents

- ▶ Location and extent of Saudi Arabia
- ▶ Physical features
- ▶ Climatic conditions
- ▶ Vegetation and wildlife
- ▶ Economic activities
- ▶ The life of the people

#### Objectives

- ▶ Learning about the hot desert land of Saudi Arabia.
- ▶ How does the location of the country affect its climate and flora and fauna?
- ▶ What are the economic activities and the lifestyle of the people?
- ▶ Learning how and why other areas in the same latitude have hot deserts too on both sides of the Equator.
- ▶ Comparing with other countries and climates that we have learnt about.

#### Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Globe, map and atlases.
- ▶ Political and physical map of the Arabian Peninsula. Also, maps showing the distribution of deserts across the world.

#### Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain what a peninsula is. Compare with India, Italy, etc.
- ▶ Compare landlocked DRC with Greenland which is an island and Saudi Arabia which is a peninsula.
- ▶ Explain that there is more to climate: the currents of the sea also have an impact and so do the winds.
- ▶ How human activities result in deserts, etc.

## /// Gear Up and Background

- ▶ Explain how every country has some primary resources which create its worth. In DRC it was agriculture, in Greenland it was hunting and fishing. Saudi Arabia depends on oil and its products.
- ▶ This exercise can then be done by students: Petrol is the right answer.
- ▶ Also explain about the significance of the places of pilgrimage: how they can sustain the tourism and travel industry.

## /// Location and Extent

- ▶ First show the students the globe and the world map to explain the deserts located along the two Tropics.
- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain the location of Saudi Arabia: it is a peninsula. Explain with reference to other peninsulas – subcontinent of India, Iberian Peninsula, Italy, etc. It can be one state, one country or a cluster of countries, like the Arabian peninsula.
- ▶ Draw attention to the Tropic of Cancer, the neighbouring countries and seas.

## /// Physical Features

- ▶ What is a desert? Hot and cold deserts.
- ▶ Explain the three main features of Saudi Arabia: deserts, plateau and mountains.
- ▶ Explain terms like sand dunes, wadis, etc. Show pictures, draw on the blackboard. A wadi model can be made in the class. Explain the mirages that can be seen in deserts and how they can misguide travellers.
- ▶ Make learning fun: Share Tintin's travel comics, National Geographic, internet, films like Lawrence of Arabia, etc.

## /// Climatic Conditions

- ▶ Explain how the Tropic of Cancer passes through Saudi Arabia.
- ▶ How location and physical features affect the climate.
- ▶ The hot and dry climate. The seasons. Lack of rainfall.

## /// Vegetation and Wildlife

- ▶ The vegetation in deserts is usually cacti: cacti is fleshy – conserves moisture.
- ▶ Compare with other deserts: gravel and sand; shrubs and thorny trees like keekar and khejri grow in Thar.
- ▶ Very hot and very little to eat, so animal life sparse – insects, reptiles, a few birds and mammals. See if the students can find names of some of the creatures: like some of the lizards and snakes.
- ▶ Camel – the ship of the desert. Why is it able to survive and walk on the hot sand?
- ▶ Arabian horses – used in wars earlier and for racing etc.

## /// Economic Activities

- ▶ Agriculture is sparse – shortage of water, rainfall etc.
- ▶ Crops grown – how is irrigation done – use of salt water, oases, etc.
- ▶ Availability of mineral oil or petroleum – uses. Industry and development.
- ▶ What is the transport and communication system in Saudi Arabia?

## /// Life of the People

- ▶ Improving standards of living.
- ▶ Earlier tribal life and nomadic. Bedouins – caravans.
- ▶ Lifestyle in cities and in villages.
- ▶ The two pilgrim centres of Mecca and Medina. A brief story of the two places can be shared.
- ▶ Explain how dress, customs and traditions grow around a particular location and lifestyle.