

## **Std. 8 Social Science – World Geography: Some Glimpses**

### **Q1. Important 15 terms**

| <b>Term</b>                | <b>Meaning</b>                                                                     |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Cartographer</b>     | A person who draws or prepares maps.                                               |
| 2. <b>Oblate spheroid</b>  | A nearly round shape that bulges at the Equator and is slightly flat at the poles. |
| 3. <b>Map projection</b>   | A method of showing the Earth on a flat surface.                                   |
| 4. <b>Plankton</b>         | Tiny organisms that float in water and help produce oxygen.                        |
| 5. <b>Ocean currents</b>   | Large streams of water flowing through the oceans.                                 |
| 6. <b>Reef</b>             | A ridge near the ocean surface, formed naturally or artificially.                  |
| 7. <b>Strait</b>           | A narrow waterway joining two seas or oceans.                                      |
| 8. <b>Gulf</b>             | A large inlet of the sea that extends deeply into the land.                        |
| 9. <b>Bay</b>              | A broad inlet of the sea.                                                          |
| 10. <b>Canal</b>           | A man-made waterway connecting water bodies.                                       |
| 11. <b>Tectonic forces</b> | Forces caused by the movement of the Earth's crust.                                |

- |                       |                                                                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>12. Plateau</b>    | A raised area of land with a mostly flat surface.                          |
| <b>13. Steppe</b>     | A large, open grassland with few or no trees.                              |
| <b>14. Tundra</b>     | A cold, treeless plain where the soil remains frozen for much of the year. |
| <b>15. Rainforest</b> | A forest with tall trees that receives heavy rainfall.                     |

## **Q2. Give reasons**

### **1. Why do all map projections have some distortion?**

The Earth is nearly spherical, but maps are flat. Therefore, it is impossible to show the Earth on a flat surface without some distortion of shape, size or distance.

### **2. Why are coral reefs called the ‘rainforests of the sea’?**

Coral reefs provide food and shelter to about one-quarter of all ocean species. They support a wide variety of marine life.

### **3. Why is the Tibetan Plateau called the ‘Third Pole’?**

It contains the largest reserves of freshwater outside the polar regions. It has vast areas of snow, ice and glaciers.

### **4. Why are mountains called ‘water towers’?**

Mountains collect snow and ice at high altitudes. Melting snow and glaciers provide freshwater to rivers and people.

### **5. Why is the Great Barrier Reef under threat?**

Overfishing, pollution and climate change damage coral reefs. Changes in ocean water can cause coral bleaching and death.

### **Q.3. Importance of oceans and ocean currents**

#### **Importance of oceans — 3 points**

1. Oceans cover about 71% of the Earth's surface and contain about 97% of its water.
2. They support marine life and help produce oxygen through tiny organisms such as plankton.
3. They absorb and release heat, add moisture to the air, and help form clouds and rainfall.

#### **Importance of ocean currents — 3 points**

1. Ocean currents move warm or cold water from one region to another.
2. They influence the climate of coastal areas.
3. The warm Gulf Stream makes places such as the United Kingdom warmer than other places at the same latitude.

### **Q4. Smaller water bodies and waterways — Match the columns**

**Column A: Type      Column B: Example**

- |           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 1. Sea    | A. Strait of Malacca |
| 2. Gulf   | B. Suez Canal        |
| 3. Bay    | C. Arabian Sea       |
| 4. Strait | D. Bay of Bengal     |
| 5. Canal  | E. Persian Gulf      |

Answer key: 1–C, 2–E, 3–D, 4–A, 5–B

**Q5. Answer the following questions in two points on each**

**A. Suez Canal**

1. It is a man-made waterway connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
2. It opened in 1869 and provides a shorter sea route between India and Europe.

**B. Tibetan Plateau**

1. It is the highest and largest plateau in the world and lies north of the Himalayas.
2. It is called the 'Third Pole' and is the source of major rivers such as the Indus, Brahmaputra and Yangtze.

**C. Gobi Desert**

1. It lies mainly in Mongolia, with part of it in northern China.
2. It has a harsh climate, very little vegetation and extremely cold winters.

**D. Eurasian Steppes**

1. The Steppes are vast grasslands stretching over 8,000 km from west to east.
2. They absorb and store carbon underground and provide resting places for migratory birds such as the Siberian crane.

### **E. Ural Mountains**

1. They are an ancient mountain range stretching about 2,500 km.
2. They form a natural boundary between Europe and Asia and are rich in minerals.

### **Q6. Three important points about each continent**

#### **A. Asia**

1. Asia has the Tibetan Plateau, the highest and largest plateau in the world.
2. The Gobi Desert is a cold desert found in Mongolia and northern China.
3. The Ural Mountains form a natural boundary between Asia and Europe.

#### **B. Europe**

1. The Great European Plain is one of the largest flatlands in the world.
2. Its fertile soil supports the cultivation of wheat, barley, rye and potatoes.
3. The Alps are a famous mountain range that provides water to important rivers such as the Rhine and the Danube.

## **C. Africa**

1. Africa has the Sahara Desert, the largest hot desert in the world.
2. The African savannah is a grassland with scattered trees and rich wildlife.
3. The River Nile is the longest river in the world and supported the growth of ancient Egyptian civilisation.

## **D. North America**

1. The Colorado Plateau is famous for its red rock formations and the Grand Canyon.
2. The Rocky Mountains are rich in minerals and support tourism, mining and hydropower generation.
3. The Great Lakes are five large freshwater lakes that support transport, industry and wildlife.

## **E. South America**

1. The Andes are the largest mountain range on the continent.
2. The Amazon is the longest river in South America and the world's largest river by volume.
3. The Atacama Desert in Chile is one of the driest places on Earth.

## **F. Australia**

1. A large part of Australia is covered by deserts, known as the Great Australian Desert.

2. The continent has unique wildlife, including wallabies, bilbies, skinks and dingoes.
3. The Spinifex people have lived in the Australian desert for over 25,000 years.

**Q7. State the importance of River Amazon and its rainforest — 3 points**

1. The Amazon River begins in the Andes Mountains of Peru and flows east towards the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The Amazon River and its tributaries support the Amazon Rainforest, which has tall trees, heavy rainfall and rich biodiversity.
3. Nearly 400 Indigenous communities live in the forest. Deforestation and climate change threaten this important ecosystem.

**Q8. Textbook questions and answers**

**Q1. Why do all map projections have some amount of distortion?**

1. The Earth is nearly spherical, but maps are drawn on flat surfaces.
2. Therefore, some distortion of shape, size or distance is unavoidable.

**Q3. Why are coral reefs called the ‘rainforests of the sea’?**

1. Coral reefs provide food and shelter to many marine animals.
2. They support a rich variety of sea life, including fish, crabs and turtles.

**Q4. How do the oceans help to regulate the Earth's climate?**

1. Oceans absorb heat and release it slowly, helping to control temperatures.
2. They add moisture to the air, helping to form clouds and rainfall.

**Q6. Why is the Amazon Rainforest often called the 'Lungs of the Earth'?**

1. It has millions of trees that absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen through photosynthesis.
2. It stores carbon and supports rich biodiversity, making it important for the Earth's environment.

**Q10. Imagine you are a geographer asked to advise a government about protecting one major landscape in your country. Which one would you choose, and why?**

Sample answer: The Himalayas

1. I would choose the Himalayas because they provide freshwater through melting snow and glaciers and support rich biodiversity.
2. The government should protect their forests, reduce pollution and promote sustainable tourism.

**Q11. Imagine that someone is funding a road trip across two continents. Which two would you choose, and why?**

Sample answer: Asia and Europe

1. I would choose Asia and Europe because they have interesting landforms, such as the Tibetan Plateau, the Ural Mountains and the Alps.
2. The trip would help us learn about different landscapes, climates, wildlife and the importance of geographical features in human life.

**Q12. Analyse (3 marks)**

**Analyse how oceans and ocean currents influence the climate, rainfall and living conditions of people in different parts of the world.**

1. Oceans help control the Earth's temperature.
2. Warm and cold currents affect the climate of coastal areas.
3. Oceans provide moisture for clouds and rainfall.

**Q13. Evaluate (3 marks)**

**“The Amazon Rainforest is essential for maintaining the ecological balance of the Earth.” Evaluate this statement with three supporting arguments.**

1. Its trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.
2. It provides a home for many plants and animals.
3. It supports Indigenous communities and helps maintain ecological balance.

**Q14. Assertion (A):** Oceans help regulate the Earth's climate.

**Reason (R):** Oceans absorb heat, release it slowly and add moisture to the air, forming clouds and rainfall.

**Choose the correct option:**

- A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true, but R is false.
- D) A is false, but R is true.

**Answer: A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

Q15. Descriptive phrases – These phrases refer to:

- a. **'blue planet'** - the Earth
- b. **'Third Pole'** -the Tibetan Plateau and its mountains
- c. **'rainforests of the sea'** -coral reefs / the Great Barrier Reef
- d. **'water towers'** – the mountains
- e. **'Lungs of the Earth'** the Amazon Rainforest
- f. **'Roof of the world'** -the Tibetan Plateau
- g. **'Land of the Eternal Blue Sky'** -Mongolia
- h. **'Great European Plain'** - The European Plain
- i. **'a global carbon sink'** – Steppes grassland

| <b>Q16. Continent</b> | <b>Important rivers</b> | <b>Temperate grasslands</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Asia</b>           | Huang He, Ganga,        | Steppes                     |
| <b>Europe</b>         | Danube, Rhine,          | Steppes                     |
| <b>Africa</b>         | Nile, Congo,            | Velds                       |
| <b>North America</b>  | Mississippi–Missouri,   | Prairies                    |
| <b>South America</b>  | Amazon,                 | Pampas                      |
| <b>Australia</b>      | Darling,                | Downs                       |

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