**GREENWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL, ADITYAPURAM**

**OUR MOTTO-DEVELOPMENT WITH DELIGHT**

**CLASS-VIII SUBJECT- SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**TERM-1 SYLLABUS**

**GEOGRAPHY**

**CHAPTER- 2**

**LAND AND SOIL RESOURCES**

**NEW WORDS :**

1. Infrastructure

2.Profitable

3.Domestication

4.Commercial

5.Manufacturing

6.Ecological

7.Optimum

8. Utilisation

9.Accumulated

10. Accelerating

11.Determines

12.Leaching

**GLOSSARY :**

1. **SOil :** The thin layer of grainy substances covering the surface of the earth.

2.**Weathering** : The breaking up and decay of exposed rocks by temperature changes, frost action ,plants,

animals and human activity.

**3**. **Soil Erosion :** The removal of top layer of soil on a large scale by rainwater, wind or humans.

**4. Landslides :** It is the mass movement of rock , debris or earth down a slope.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**Q1. Define the term land use.**

Ans. Land use describes the various ways in which human beings make use of land and manage the land and its resources.

**Q2. What is soil made up of ?**

Ans. Soil is a complex mixture of weathered, rocks, minerals, water, air and organic matter.

**Q3. Which factors affect the formation of soil ?**

Ans. The major factors that determine the formation of soil are nature of the bedrock, climatic conditions, topography, humus, time and agents of erosion.

**Q4.What are shelterbelts ?**

Ans. A shelterbelt is a barrier of trees and shrubs that provides protection from wind and storm and decreases erosion.

**Q5.What is required to make soil fertile?**

Ans. The right mixture of minerals and organic matter is needed to make soil fertile.

**SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**Q1. How does land fulfil our needs ?**

**Ans.** • We get our food from plants and trees that grow on land.

• We build houses on land that gives us shelter.

• We construct roads and railway lines on land that helps us to travel from one place

to another.

• We get minerals from land that is very essential for our development.

• We build factories and other buildings on land.

**Q2. What are the methods that can be adapted to contain landslides?**

Ans. Construction of a retention wall to stop land from slipping and increase in the vegetation cover can be adapted to contain landslides. Effective surface drainage system is a major way to control landslides during rainy season and spring flows.Hazard mapping can locate areas prone to landslides. These areas can be avoided for building settlement and avoid loss of life and property in the event of a landslides.

**LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**Q1. What are various types of soil found in different regions of India ?**

**Ans.** Six major types of soil found in India.

**1.Alluvial Soil:** It is found in Northern Plains and the Coastal Plain of India. This soil is renewed every year by the deposition of sediments by rivers . It contains sand , silt and clay. It is very fertile.

**2. Black Soil:** It is derived from the weathering of rocks. It is rich in minerals. It is found in the Deccan Plateau Region,Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

**3. Red Soil:** It is found in the Southern and Eastern parts of Peninsular India . Red Soil covers into whole of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha .

**4. Laterite Soil :** It is commonly found in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Assam.

**5. Mountain Soil :** It is found in the Himalayan region . It is rich in humus and is fertile.

**6. Desert Soil :** It is found mainly in Rajasthan.

**Q2. What do you understand by soil degradation and soil conservation.**

**Ans.** Soil degradation is the decline in soil quality due to human and natural factors some factors which leads to soil degradation are Deforestation, overgrazing, overuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, rainwash landslides and floods.

Soil conservation is the protection of soil from erosion by adopting suitable measures is known as soil conservation .

**Some methods of soil conservation are:**

**1. Mulching -** The bare ground between plants is covered with a layer of organic matter like straw. It helps to retain soil moisture and stop soil erosion.

**2. Contour Barriers -** Stones, grass, soil are used build barriers along Contours. Trenches are made in front of the barriers to collect water.

**3. Rock Dam -** Rocks are piled up to slow down the flow of water. This prevents gullies and further soil loss.

**4. Shelter Belts -** In the coastal and dry regions, rows of trees are planted to check the wind movement to protect soil cover.

**5. Terrace Farming -** Broad flat steps or terraces are made on the steep slopes so that flat surfaces are available to grow crops. They reduce surface run off and soil erosion.

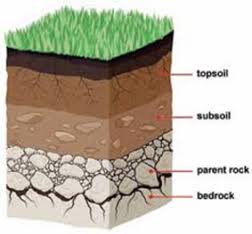
**6. Intercropping -** Different crops are grown in alternate rows and are sown at different times to protect the soil from rain wash.

**H•O•T•S**

**Q1. Why is land considered an important resource?**

**Ans.** Land is considered as an important resource as it provides habitation to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Also used by Human beings for various purposes such as agriculture, forestry, mining, building houses and roads.

**Diagram of soil profile.**



**CHAPTER 3**

**WATER RESOURCES**

**NEW WORDS :**

**1.** Recreational

**2.** Hydroelectricity

**3.** Precipitation

**4.** Availability

**5.** Consumption

**6.** Industrialisation

**7.** Urbanisation

**8.** Contamination

**9.** Disinfected

**10.** Chlorination

**11.** Salinisation

**12.** Harvesting

**Glossary :**

**1. Rain water Harvesting :** It is the process of collecting rain water from roof tops and directing it to an appropriate location where it is stored for future use.

**2. Evaporation :** The process of change of water into water vapour due to heat.

**3. Precipitation :** It is any liquid or frozen water that forms in the atmosphere and falls back to the Earth.

**4.Scarcity Of Water :** Paucity of water for drinking and other daily uses.

**5. Ground Water:** Water stored beneath the bedrock of the soil.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**Q1. Why does the total volume of water available on the earth always remain constant ?**

**Ans.** The total volume of water available on the earth always remains constant because it keeps circulating in different forms, through the water cycle.

**Q2. What is the distribution (in percent ) of ocean water and fresh water on the earth?**

**Ans.** Nearly 97% water is found in the ocean. Fresh water availability on the earth is just about 3% to2% .

**Q3. What are the main pollutants of water ?**

**Ans.** Main pollutants of water are domestic wastes , industrial wastes, chemicals, pesticides and fertilisers.

**Short Answer Type Questions :**

**Q1. What are the multipurpose river valley projects ?**

**Ans.** Multipurpose River projects are planned for various purposes such as irrigation, hydropower generation , water supply for drinking, industrial purposes, flood control , navigation, fish breeding, riverside resorts and tourism. Projects which serve more than one purpose are called multipurpose projects. In these projects, huge dams are built across river to store water in reservoirs . This water is then utilised for different purposes.

**Q2. List the methods used for conserving water.**

**Ans.** The important methods of conserving water are :

**1.** Afforestation.

**2.** Efficient Irrigation Method .

**3.** Sprinklers .

**4.** Drip of Trickle Irrigation Method .

**5.** Controlling Wastage of Water in Domestic .

**6.** Rainwater Harvesting .

**7.** Water Treatment .

**8.** Recycling Industrial water .

**LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**Q1. Why do we face water scarcity in different parts of the world?**

**Ans.** The factors which are responsible for water scarcity are :

**1.** Increasing population has increased the demand and consumption of water .

**2.** Rising demand for foodgrains and cash crops has increased the pressure on agriculture production and consequently water for agricultural supply .

**3.** Increasing urbanisation and rising standards of living are leading to more consumption of water .

**4.** Growing industrialisation is leading to increased demand for water for industrial supply .

**5.** Some waterbodies are becoming dry and many are getting polluted .

**Q2. What are the benefits of multipurpose river valley projects? Name any three projects in India .**

**Ans.** The benefits of multipurpose river valley projects are :

**1.** These projects help in controlling floods in rivers .

**2.** They generate hydroelectricity.

**3.** They help to develop inland navigation system .

**4.** They help in afforestation which in turn helps in the conservation of soil .

**5.** Fish breeding is done in the water reservoirs .

**6.** Resorts developed on the riversides provide recreational facilities .

**Some important multipurpose river projects in India :**

**•** Damodar Valley Projects on River Damodar.

• Bhakra Nangal Project on River Satluj.

• Nagarjuna Sagar Project on River Krishna.

• Hirakud Project on the River Mahanadi.

**H•O•T•S**

**Q1. Why is water a valuable resource?**

**ANS.** Water is a valuable resource because

**1.** All forms of life on the earth depend on it .

**2.** It is used for irrigation from various sources such as rivers, lakes, dams and tanks.

**3.** Hydroelectricity is generated from waterfalls and dams.

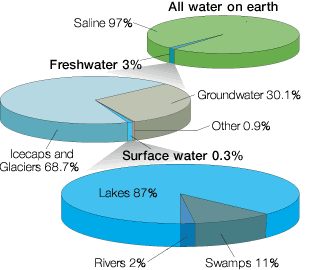
**4.** Water is required by industries for various purposes cooling, running and cleaning machines.

**5.**Ocean water provides habital to marine life.

**6.** Inland and international waterways are important for trade and commerce.

**7.**Water forms an important constituent in plant, human and animal bodies.

**Draw A Diagaram Of Distribution Of Water On The Earth**



**CHAPTER 4**

**NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

**NEW WORDS :**

**1.** Ecosystem

**2.** Decomposers

**3.** Microorganisms

**4.** Pollination

**5.** Mediterranean

**6.** Coniferous

**7.** Lumbering

**8.** Transpiration

**9.** Eucalyptus

**10.** Therapeutic

**11.** Sanctuaries

**12.** Observatories

**Glossary :**

**1. Flora :** Natural Vegetation comprising mainly forests .

**2. Fauna :** Wildlife comprising animals, birds and insects, etc .

**3. Deciduous Forests :** Forests whose trees shed their leaves annually .

**4. Coniferous Forests :** Forests where trees remain evergreen .

**5. Wildlife Sanctuary :** A reserved area for preserving natural beauty , vegetation and wildlife.

**6. Ecology :** Science which deals with interrelation between various organisms and physical environment.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**Q1. Where are the coniferous forests located ? What is the importance of these forests?**

**Ans.** Coniferous forests are found between 50° and 70° Latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere.

These are softwood trees which have great commercial value for making furniture, matchsticks , paper , sportgoods , toys , plywood etc .

**Q2. What is the special feature of the animals found in Australia? What is the name given to these animals?**

**Ans.** In Australia most of the native animals are Marsupials. Marsupials are mammals that gives birth to their young ones .Adult Marsupial females have a pouch near their stomach in which they carry their young ones.eg- Kangaroo, Wallaby and Kola.

**Q3. What is lumbering?**

**Ans.** Lumbering is an economic activity which involves felling, hauling and logging of timber.

**Q4.Why lumbering is an important occupation in the coniferous forests?**

**Ans.** Lumbering is an important occupation in the coniferous forests because they have trees with softwood so these trees are easy to fell.

**SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**Q1. What do you understand by natural vegetation? What factors affect natural vegetation?**

**Ans.** Natural vegetation means the plants that grow naturally in an area . It provides timber , shelter to animals and many forest products such as fruits, nuts , latex , turpentine oil , gum and medicinal plants.

Trees and plants produce oxygen which support life. They act as shelterbelt, protects soil erosion and help in replenishing the groundwater .

**Main Factors That Affect Natural Vegetation are -**

1. Climatic Conditions.

2.Type Of Soil.

3.Relief And Altitude.

4. Sunlight And Rainfall .

**Q2. How are forests and wildlife useful for us ? Give three reasons for each of these resources?**

**Ans.** Forests are useful to us in many ways.

**1.** The wood that we get from the forests is important for building and construction purpose , for domestic furniture and for fuel

**2.** Grass grown in forests is used for grazing the cattle , sheep and camel etc .

**3.** They help in controlling soil erosion.

**Wildlife Is Useful To Us In Many Ways :**

**1.** Wildlife helps to keep a balance in the biosphere.

**2.** Wild animals and birds add to the beauty of nature and make our Earth worth living.

**3.** They provide us milk, meat , wool , silk and hides etc .

Insects like bees provide us honey .

**LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

**Q1. Why is the conservation of forests important? What measures can be taken to conserve trees and forests ?**

**Ans.** Forests are an important natural resource . They help in maintaining the ecological balance by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen . They help in causing rainfall and prevent floods and soil erosion. They provide timber , Lac , resins , gums , medicinal herbs , honey etc . They provide natural habitat to a large variety of wildlife .

**Steps taken by the Government to conserve trees and forests are :**

**1.** Government has created the Forest Department for the conservation of trees and forest wealth .

**2.** People have started movements like the 'Chipko Movement ' to check the careless felling of trees in the forests .

**3.** If trees are to be cut for wood or for building purposes or for industrial raw - material , this work should be done in a planned manner.

**4.** Functions like 'Vanmahotsav' should be celebrated everywhere and at every time so that new trees are planted in large numbers. R

**5.** We should bring more and more areas under forests (at least up to 33%) for the balance development of our country and to have a healthy environment.

**Q2. How is wildlife in danger across the world? What measures have been taken to protect wildlife?**

**Ans.** Wildlife is in danger across the world in many ways :

**1.** Depletion of forests is one of the most important factors effecting wildlife.

**2.** Reckless hunting of animals for commercial purpose .

**3.** Animals are poached for illegal trade for their hides , fur , nails , teeth , horns , tusks , bones and feather.

**4.** Human activities have disturbed the natural habitats of many species in several parts of the world.

**Different Measures have been taken by the Government for the conservation of wildlife are as follows :**

1. Government has banned the killing of lion tigers ,deer,great Indian bustards and peacocks. It has also

prohibited the trade of the species of animals and plants protected under the international agreement CITES.

2.Various biosphere reserves have been set up in various parts of India where wild animals and birds are kept in their natural habitat.

3. Periodic censuses are being taken to find out the latest position of some rare species so that they can be preserved for our future generations.

4. It is also our duty to preserve the wild life. We should avoid reckless hunting of wild animals and birds.

**H.O.T.S**

**Q1. In what type of climatic region do we find nocturnal animals and why?**

**Ans.** In hot desert we find nocturnal animals because they remain underground during daytime. They are usually awake and active during the night to avoid the extreme daytime temperature and hunt the animals.

**Map Skill**

**On an Outline map of India, label the following.**

* **Wildlife Sanctuary.**
* **Bird Sanctuary.**
* **National Park.**

