

Chapter 8: The Grasslands : The Prairies

Assessment Zone :

I. Tick the correct option:

1. a

2. a

3. c

4. d

5. d

II. Fill in the blanks :

1. Mississippi, Missouri

2. trees and bushes

3. sparsely

4. lignite, mineral

5. bison

III. Mark the statements as True (T) or False (F).

1. F, 2. T, 3. T, 4. F, 5. T

IV. Answer in brief :

1. Grasslands are large plains of grass which have only a few trees and bushes due to little or no rainfall.

2. Soil in the grasslands is called Chernozem and is very fertile.
3. The average rainfall in the prairies is 50-70 cm.
4. The western part of the prairies, which is hilly, is used for cattle grazing.
5. The Mississippi and the Missouri are the two rivers which flow through the prairies.

V. Answer the following questions :

1. In the prairies, winters are cold and summers are hot. A moderate rainfall of about 50 to 70 cm with a variation from year to year occurs, mostly in the summer season.

This type of climate is called Continental Climate.

2. Agriculture and cattle rearing are the main economic activities in the prairies. The main activities include cultivation of corn (maize) in the eastern part, wheat in central part and cattle rearing in the western part. Other important crops grown are barley, rye, oats and nutritious grasses. Another major occupation of the people in this area is rearing of animals. People in these areas rear animals in estates or farms called ranches.

3. The temperate zone lies in both the hemispheres. In the

northern hemisphere, it lies between the Tropic of Cancer (23°N) and the Arctic Circle (66°N). In the southern hemisphere, it lies between the Tropic of Capricorn (23°S) and the Antarctic Circle (66°S), Prairies in North America and Pampas in South America are two examples of temperate grasslands.

4. Today, fertile prairie areas are intensively cultivated, Cultivation of corn (maize) is done in the eastern part and wheat is grown in the central part of the prairies, Farmers produce enough wheat for the whole country and also for export. That is why the prairies are called the Wheat Basket of the World

5. A wide variety of wildlife is found in the prairies. Common animals found here are deer, antelopes, black-tailed prairie dogs, golden eagles, hawks and owls. American buffaloes, known as the bison, were very common in these regions earlier. They were killed in large numbers by the people for their meat.