

Resource 6

Characteristics of Land forms as observed from pictures

- a. Main Characteristics of **Mountains**: snow covered peaks, both steep and gentle slopes, features like blocks hence called Block Mountains; rounded or sharp peaks, waterfalls, cone-shaped trees, rocky rugged surfaces, cool/cold climates etc. Land forms with heights above 2135m are called mountains, and those between 305m and 2135m are called hills.
- b. Main Characteristics of **Plateaus**: table land, undulating rocky surfaces, presence of black soil (as in Deccan plateau), mixed vegetation (coniferous, deciduous, and evergreen forests depending on the height), presence of hills and not very high mountains at the periphery sometimes (for example, the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats of the Deccan Plateau), presence of minerals (as found in Chotanagpur plateau). Plateaus have an average height ranging from 305m to 915m. The only exception is the Tibetan plateau.
- c. Main Characteristics of **Great River Plains**: Extensive flat terrain, long deep navigable rivers, almost no natural vegetation as the land is entirely given to agriculture. Found between sea level and 305m.
- d. Main Characteristics of **Coastal Plains**: Always has a sea front, presence of sandy beaches, natural harbours, deltas, coconut trees and Casuarinas in tropical countries like India, moderate climate.
- e. Main Characteristics of **Deserts**: Sand dunes, scrubs, sparse vegetation (mainly xerophytes), camels, date palms, blue sky, hot days and cold nights.

Resource 7

Map Reading: Continent- wise

1. Asia: Himalayas, Deccan/Arabian/Tibetan Plateau, Indo-Gangetic plain, Hwang-ho plains, Thar or Arabian desert.
2. Australia: Great Dividing Range, the great Australian Desert, The Murray-Darling basin (plain).
3. Europe: Alps, Plain of France, North and East European low lands, Po-Valley, Meseta central in Spain is a plateau.
4. Africa: Sahara, the Nile Plain, South African plateau, the Atlas mountains.
5. North America: The Rockies, the Appalachian, the Labrador plateau, the Californian desert (also called Mojave desert), and the Mississippi plain.
6. South America: The Andes, Patagonian desert, the Atacama desert, the Brazilian plateau, and the plains of Orinoco, La Plata.

