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Geography Chapter 6 Major Landforms of the Earth (Based on NCERT)

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Write a few features of mountains.

Answer: 1. Mountains are natural elevations of the earth's surface.

2. They are higher than the surrounding area.

3. Some of them are even higher than the clouds.

4. The climate of mountains is harsh, which makes them less suitable for human habitation.

5. Mountains have steep slopes. Hence, farming is quite difficult here.

2. What are block mountains?

Answer: Block mountains are created when large areas are broken and displaced vertically. The uplifted blocks are known as horsts and the lowered blocks are known as graben. Examples: The Rhine valley and the Vosges mountain in Europe.

3. How are plateaus useful for man?

Answer: Plateaus are very useful for man because they have rich mineral deposits. Many of the mining areas in the world are located in the plateau regions. For example, the African plateau is famous for gold and diamond mining. The Chhotanagpur plateau in India has huge reserves of iron, coal and manganese. In the plateau regions, one can find several waterfalls. Many plateaus have scenic spots which attract tourist on large scale.

4. What are the features of plateaus? [Imp.]

Answer: 1. Plateaus are elevated flat lands. It is a flat topped table land standing above the surrounding area.

2. Plateaus have one or more sides with steep slopes.

3. Their height often varies from few hundred metres to several thousand metres.

4. Plateaus may be young or old. The Deccan plateau in India is one of the oldest plateaus.

5. The Tibet plateau is the highest plateau in the world.

6. Plateaus are storehouse of minerals like gold, diamond, iron, coal, etc.

5. What are the features of plains? [V. Imp.]

Answer: 1. Plains are vast stretches of flat land.

2. Some plains are extremely level. Others may be slightly rolling and undulating.

3. Plains are usually fertile regions. They are suitable for cultivation.

4. They are usually thickly populated regions.

5. It is easy to build houses, roads etc. in plains.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. What are the major landforms? Write about them in brief [V. Imp.]

Answer: The major landforms are mountains, plateaus and plains.

1.Mountains.They are natural elevation of the earth surface. They are higher than the surrounding area. Some mountains are very high. They are even higher than the clouds. Some mountains have permanently frozen rivers of ice known as glaciers. Mountains are generally thinly populated regions because the climate is harsh there. Farming is also not easily possible there. But mountains provide us water. They have a rich variety of flora and fauna.

2.Plateaus.They are usually flat-topped table land and are higher than the surrounding area. Plateaus may be young or old. The Deccan plateau in India is one of the oldest plateaus. Plateaus are very useful for mankind. They have rich deposits of minerals such as diamond, gold, iron, manganese etc. Several water falls can be found in the plateau regions.

3.Plains.They are vast stretches of flat land. They are mostly formed by rivers and their tributaries. Plains are usually fertile lands. Hence, thick population is found there. Construction of transport network is easy. Cultivation is also easy. Plains also provide level land for the construction of houses or buildings. In India, the Indo-Gangetic plains are the regions where one can find great concentration of population.

2. How many types of mountains are there? Write briefly about each of them with help of diagrams.

Answer: Mountains are of three types—1. Fold Mountains, 2. Block Mountains and 3.Volcanic Mountains.

1.Fold Mountains. The Himalayan Mountains and the Alps are young fold 'mountains. They have rugged relief and high conical peaks. The Aravali range in India is one of the oldest fold mountain systems in the world. The Appalachians in the North America and the Ural mountains in Russia are very old fold mountains.

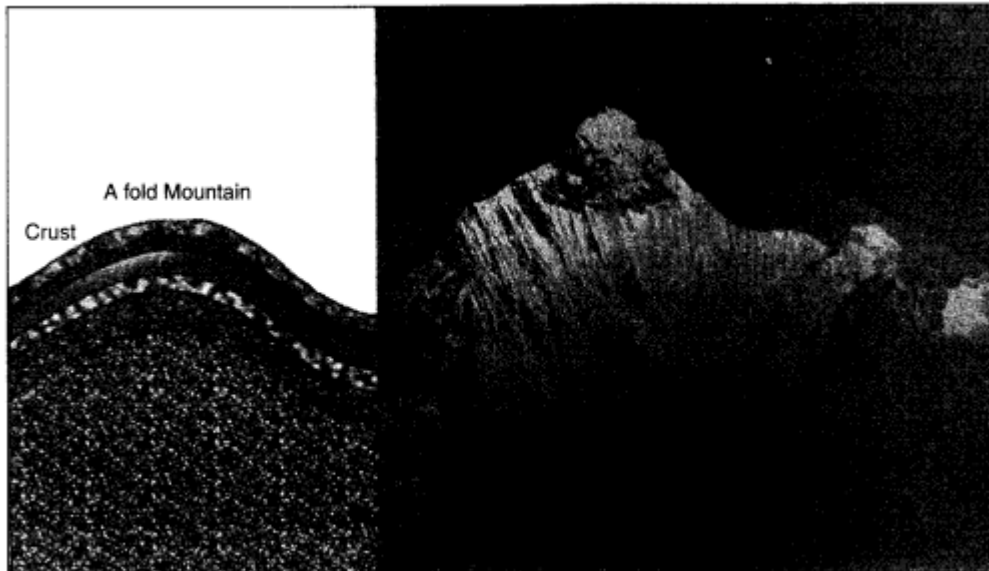


Fig. Fold Mountains (Himalayas).

2. Block Mountains. These are created when large areas are broken and displaced vertically. The Uplifted blocks are known as horsts and the lowered blocks are called graben. The Rhine valley and the Vosges mountains in Europe are examples of such mountain systems.

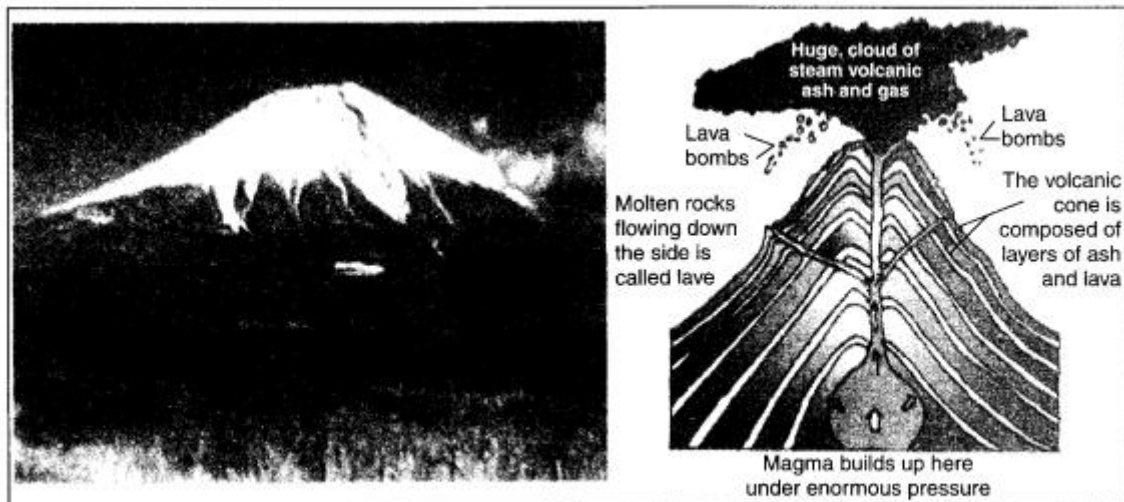


Fig. Block Mountain.

3. Volcanic Mountains. They are formed by volcanic activity. Mt. Kilimanjaro in

Africa and Mt. Fujiyama in Japan are examples of such mountains.

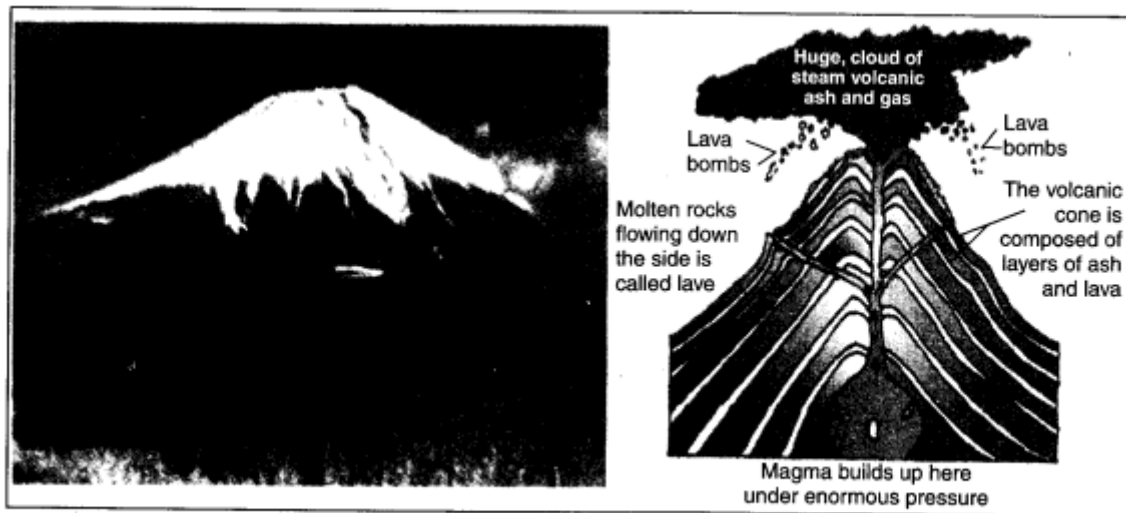


Fig. Volcanic mountains.