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STUDY NOTES

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CLASS- VII (All Section)

DATE: 25-06-2020

SCIENCE

LESSON-07

CHAPTER: Weather, Climate and Animal Adaptation

Today's Topic: Tropical rainforests

Tropical rainforests:

Tropical rainforests are very dense, warm, wet forests that are mostly found in the earth's tropical regions. They are located in a band around the equator, mostly in the area between the Tropic of Cancer (23.5° N latitude) and the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S latitude). The tropical regions generally have a hot climate and even in the coldest month, the temperature is generally higher than 15°C. During hot summers, the temperature often rises above 40°C. These regions generate plenty of rainfall and the humidity level always remains high.

Tropical rainforests are found in South America, West Africa, Australia, Southern India and Southeast Asia. These are home to millions of plants and animals. Rainforests are extremely important to the ecology of the earth as they generate much of the earth's oxygen.

The plants found in the rainforests are also very important to people in other ways; many are used to make drugs that fight disease and illness.

They are also home to a wide variety of animals. Some of the prominent animals living in the rainforests are monkeys, apes, gorillas, lions, tigers, elephants, leopards, lizards, snakes and a wide variety of birds and insects.

Rainforests are tremendously rich in animal life. They include microscopic animals, invertebrates (insects and worms), fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. The different rainforests of the world support different populations of animals.

Different animals live in different layers of the rainforest to avoid competition for food. For example, birds live in the upper reaches of trees. Large animals, such as jaguars generally live on the forest floor, but others, such as howler monkeys and sloths, live in tree branches. Insects are found almost everywhere.

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