

## Very Short Answer Questions

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**Q.1. Who all inhabited the prairies region?**

**Ans.** The grasslands of prairies were the homes of the American Indians popularly called "Blackfoot Indians". The prairies were home of other tribes like the Apache, the Crow, The Cree and the Pawnee.

**Q.2. What is a Chinook?**

**Ans.** Chinook is a hot wind that blows in winter and therefore raises the temperature in a short time. This increase in temperature results in the melting of snow, making pasture land available for grazing of animals.

**Q.3. What is a combine?**

**Ans.** It is a machine which can sow, plough and work as a thresher all by itself.

**Q.4. What are velds?**

**Ans.** The temperate grasslands of South Africa are called the velds.

**Q.5. How was the name veld kept?**

**Ans.** The name veld was given by a Dutch settler before South Africa was colonised by the British.

## Short Answer Questions

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### **Q.1. What are grasslands? Give example.**

**Ans. (i)** Grasslands can be defined as a region where grasses form the dominant type of plant life.

**(ii)** They make up almost a quarter of the total land surface. The world's grasslands can be divided into two broad categories: temperate grasslands and tropical grasslands.

### **Q.2. What are prairies?**

**Ans. (i)** The temperate grasslands of North America are known as the Prairies.

**(ii)** It is a region of flat, gently sloping or hilly land.

**(iii)** They are mostly tree-less.

**(iv)** Tall grass, up to two metres high, dominates the landscape. It is actually a sea of grass.

### **Q.3. Where are prairies located? How are they drained?**

**Ans. (i)** The prairies are bound by the Rocky Mountains in the west and the Great Lakes in the East.

**(ii)** In USA, the area is drained by the tributaries of Mississippi and in Canada, the area is drained by the tributaries of Saskatchewan rivers.

### **Q.4. How has industrialisation taken place in the prairies region?**

**Ans. (i)** Dairy farming is a major industry of the region.

**(ii)** The dairy belt extends from Great Lakes to the Atlantic Coast in the East.

**(iii)** Large mineral deposits of coal and iron and a good network of roads, railways and canals make this region an industrialised region.

### **Q.5. Describe the topography of velds.**

**Ans. (i)** Velds are rolling plateaus with varying heights ranging from 600 m to 1100 m.

**(ii)** It is bound by Drakensburg Mountains on the east.

**(iii)** To its west lies the Kalahari desert.

**(iv)** On the northeastern part, 'high velds' are located that attain a height of more than 1600 m in some places.

### **Q.6. Describe the climate of velds.**

**Ans. (i)** The velds have a mild climate. The winters are cold and dry.

**(ii)** Temperature varies between 5°C and 10°C and July is the coldest month.

**(iii)** Summers are short and warm. Johannesburg records about 20°C temperature in the summer.

**(iv)** The velds receive rainfall mainly in the summer months from November to February.

## Long Answer Questions

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### Q.1. Describe the flora and fauna of prairies.

**Ans. (i)** Prairies are practically tree-less. Some trees found here are willows, alders and poplars.

**(ii)** Areas with 50 cm rainfall with fertile soil grow maize, potatoes, soyabeans, cotton and alfa-alfa.

**(iii)** Areas with little or unreliable rainfall, have short grasses. These are suitable for cattle rearing.

**(iv)** Large cattle farmers called ranches are looked after by the sturdy men called 'cowboys'.

**(v)** Bison or the American buffalo is the most important animal of this region.

### Q.2. Explain the climate of prairies grasslands.

**Ans. (i)** The prairies region has a continental type of climate with extreme temperatures.

**(ii)** The summers are warm with temperatures of around 20°C, while in winter –20°C has been recorded in Winnipeg, Canada.

**(iii)** In winters, a thick blanket of snow covers this region.

**(iv)** The annual rainfall is moderate and is ideal for the growth of grass.

**(v)** Due to the absence of north-south barrier, a local wind "Chinook" blows here.

### Q.3. Why are Prairies called the 'Granaries of the world'?

**Ans. (i)** People of this region are hardworking and have successfully harnessed technology to utilise their rich natural resources.

**(ii)** USA and Canada—the two major countries of this region—use scientific methods of cultivation, use tractors and harvesters which have made North America a surplus food producer of wheat.

**(iii)** Due to this, Prairies are called "Granaries of the world".

### Q.4. Describe the flora and fauna of velds.

**Ans. (i)** The vegetation cover in this region is sparse.

**(ii)** Grasses dominate the landscape.

**(iii)** Red grass grows in bush velds.

**(iv)** In the high velds, acacia and maroola are seen to be growing.

**(v)** The animals found in the velds are primarily lions, leopards, cheetah and kudu.

## Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

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**Q.1. What are the various occupations found in velds?**

**Ans. (i)** Sheep rearing is the most important occupation of the people.

**(ii)** Sheep is bred mainly for wool and has given rise to the wool industry in the velds.

**(iii)** Merino sheep is a popular species.

**(iv)** The next important occupation is dairy farming.

**(v)** Cattle are reared in the warmer and wetter region.

**(vi)** Dairy products like butter and cheese are produced for both domestic supply and also for export.

**Q.2. How are velds a mineral rich region?**

**Ans. (i)** The velds have rich reserve of minerals.

**(ii)** Iron and steel industry has developed where coal and iron are present.

**(iii)** Gold and diamond mining are major occupations of people of this region.

**(vi)** Johannesburg is known as the gold capital of the world.

**(v)** Kimberley is famous for its diamond mines.

**(vi)** Mining of diamond and gold in South Africa (earlier a British colony) with well-developed transport system has led to the development of this region.