Appendices
Our earth is a unique planet. Its surface is made up of land and water. Two thirds of its surface is covered with water and one third with land. The large water bodies are called oceans while large landmasses are called continents.

Continents There are seven continents in the world which in order of their sizes are:
1) Asia
2) Africa
3) North America
4) South America
5) Antarctica
6) Europe
7) Australia

Oceans – Oceans are large water bodies separated by continents. There are four oceans on the earth. They are all inter connected. In order of size they are:
1) The Pacific Ocean
2) The Atlantic Ocean
3) The Indian Ocean
4) The Arctic Ocean

The water body which surrounds the continent of Antarctica is only an extension of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

India : Our Country

India is one of the largest countries of the World. It lies in the South of Asia at the head of the Indian Ocean between 8°4’ and 37°6’ North latitudes and 68°7’ and 97°25’ East longitudes. It lies in the Eastern and No Hemisphere. The tropic of Cancer passes nearly midway across India and divides it into two parts – the Northern India and the Deccan and Peninsular India. India is a vast country and is often called a subcontinent. It is the seventh largest country of the world. The Republic of India is a Union of States. It consists of 28 states and 7 Union Territories for administrative convenience.
Delhi is our national capital. The states are formed on the basis of languages.

Our closest neighbours are seven countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Mayanmar with which we share common borders. Srilanka and Maldives are our close island neighbours.

**Physiographic Divisions of India**

The Indian sub-continent can be divided into three main physical divisions i.e., the Great Mountains of the North, The Great Plains of Northern India and the Great Plateau of the Peninsular India. The great Southern Plateau is bound by narrow coastal strips in the east and the west known as the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats respectively.

The Ganga and the Brahmaputra rivers drain into the Bay of Bengal. They form a delta when they join the sea. A delta is a triangular area of land which is formed at the mouth of the river when it falls into the sea. The Ganga–Brahmaputra rivers form the Sundarbans Delta.

**India – Climate**

India is a vast country having varied relief. That is why the climatic conditions vary greatly from place to place. The interior and central parts of India experience a continental type of climate. In these areas the summers are very hot and the winters very cold because they are far from the influence of the sea. The coastal regions, e.g. Mumbai and Chennai, have equable climate all the year round. They have very little variation in the summer and winter temperatures. This is due to the influence of the sea. The southern part of India lies near the equator and so it remains hot throughout the year. Some places like Mawsynram in Meghalaya receive heavy rainfall while others remain dry. It snows heavily in certain areas, e.g., Kargil while others like Rajasthan are hot and dry.

Inspite of this India possesses a climatic unity. It possesses the tropical monsoon type of climate. The tropic of Cancer passes through the centre of the country and divides it into two halves, the southern half lies in the Tropical Zone while the northern half lies in the Temperate Zone. But the monsoon give a climatic unity to our country. The climate that India generally has known as the monsoon climate. Monsoon is taken from the Arabic word Mausim which means seasons. Rain is brought by monsoon wind.

The climate of a place is affected by 5 factors – Location, altitude, distance from the sea, mountains and relief.

**Cycle of Seasons in India**

On the basis of temperature and monsoon variations, there are four seasons in India :–

1) The cold weather season.
2) The hot weather season.
3) South–West monsoon season or advancing monsoon season.
4) The retreating monsoon season.

**India—Natural Vegetation and Wildlife**

**Natural Vegetation** :- India possesses a great variety of natural vegetation. We have about 47,000 plant species. According to an estimate India is tenth in the World and fourth in Asia in plant diversity. Flowering plants alone number 15,000 in India. This is due to the difference in climate, soil, physical features and relief of the country. India can be divided into the following vegetation regions :-

1) Tropical evergreen rain forests.
2) The tropical deciduous forests or the monsoon forests.
3) The thorn forests.
4) The tidal forests.
5) Vegetation of the Himalayan Region.

**Wildlife** : The wildlife in our country is our national heritage and asset. India has a rich and varied wildlife. Various kinds of wild animals and birds are found in the Indian forests. There are elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, lions etc. India is the only country in the world that has both lions and tigers. Lions of the Gir forests in Gujarat are well-known all over the world. Tigers are found in the Himalayan region, the forests of Madhya Pradesh and Sundarbans of West Bengal. A large variety of deer and antelope, monkeys and langurs, wolves, jackals and hyaenas are found in the hills. We have more than 80,000 species of animals. We have also a large variety of birds (about 1200 species). Among such birds is the peacock which has been declared as our national bird. Other common birds are mynah, bulbul and parrot. Camels, wild asses are found in Thar region and in Gujarat. Elephants and rhinoceroses roam in Assam, Kerala and Karnataka.

A large number of rare birds and animals have become extinct due to the reckless destruction of forests and guns of the greedy hunters. As a result some beautiful species like Cheetah, rhinoceroses, musk deer, Indian bustard are in danger of total extinction.

The government has set up 86 national parks to preserve wildlife, natural vegetation and natural beauty. Tigers are preserved in the Corbett Park. There is a park for rhinoceroses in Assam. Many Zoological Parks have also been set up by the Government in different parts of India to preserve wild life. There are also wildlife and bird sanctuaries (about 480) where both rare birds and animals live and roam about without any fear of being hunted. There is a large bird sanctuary at Bharatpur.