

CLASS : 5

SUBJECT : GEOGRAPHY

TOPIC : SAUDI ARABIA – THE LAND OF HOT SAND

I. Fill in the blanks:

- a) North.
- b) Sahara.
- c) Tropic of Cancer.
- d) Mineral oil.
- e) Jeddah.
- f) Liquid gold.
- g) Aba.
- h) Caravans.
- i) Date palm.
- j) Sand dunes.

II. State whether the following statements are True or False:

- a) True.
- b) False.
- c) True.
- d) True.
- e) True.
- f) True.
- g) False.
- h) True.
- i) True.
- j) True.

III. Complete the following exercises at the end of the chapter:

EXERCISE A : TICK THE CORRECT ANSWER:

- 1. (a) Harsh climate.
- 2. (b) Mineral oil.
- 3. (a) Riyadh.
- 4. (a) Mecca.
- 5. (a) Oman.

EXERCISE E : ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Saudi Arabia has a harsh climate. In summers, the temperature shoots up very high, making it terribly hot. The sand is so hot that it becomes too difficult to walk even a few metres. The nights are however, cool and pleasant. In winters too, the days are warm and the nights become cold. There is a sharp difference between the day and night temperatures.
2. Plants in deserts have long roots which go deep into the ground to draw water. This helps them to survive in such harsh climatic conditions.
3. An oasis is a place in the desert where water rises to the surface. It is a green island surrounded by vast ocean of sand. Crops such as wheat, barley, dates, melons and vegetables like tomatoes are grown around an oasis.
4. The most important tree of an oasis is date-palm. Dates are widely eaten by the desert people, as they are sweet and nutritious. They are also exported to other countries. The leaves and wood of the trees are used to make mats, baskets, building materials and other products.
5. People who live in the deserts of Saudi Arabia lead a very hard life. They are mainly nomads who wander from place to place in search of pasture lands for their animals. These people are called the Bedouins. The Bedouins mostly move in groups forming long rows of camels called the caravans. They also make clothes, carpets, mats, ropes and tents out of the camel's hair and hides. They trade in these things for the things they need such as dates, tea, coffee, bread, food grains, salt and medicines. The main occupation of the Bedouins is keeping herds of camels, sheep, goats and other animals. They move in small groups. They live in tents made of cloth or animal hides.
6. Being the most important means of transport, the camel is called the 'ship of the desert'.
7. Mineral oil discovered in Saudi Arabia is exported to many countries all over the world. It has brought immense wealth to these desert lands. That is why mineral oil is also called the 'Liquid Gold'.
8. Science and technology is being used to make the life of the people of Saudi Arabia more comfortable. Huge farms are being cultivated. Salty water of the sea is being changed into the drinking water in the huge desalination plants. Due to the efforts of the government of Saudi Arabia a hot and barren desert has become a land of prosperity.
