

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF TAMILNADU

1. Distinguish between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.

Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats
i) It is a Continuous range of hills ii) Its height ranges from 2,000 to 3,000 metres iii) Nilgiris, Anaimalai Palani Hills, Cardamom Hills, Varusanadu Andi Patti and Agasthiyar Hills are the major hills of Western Ghats.	i) It is a discontinuous range of hills. ii) Its height ranges from 1100 to 1600 metres iii) Javadhu, Servarayan the Kalrayan, Kollimalai are the major hills of the Eastern Ghats.

2. Distinguish between Southwest Monsoon and Northeast Monsoon.

Southwest Monsoon	Northeast Monsoon
i) Southwest Monsoon starts from June to September. ii) Tropical cyclones are not common. iii) Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Nilgiris record 50-100cm rainfall during this period. iv) Tamilnadu receives a meagre rainfall from this period.	i) Northeast Monsoon starts from October to December. ii) Tropical cyclones are common during this season. iii) Coastal districts receive 60% of their annual rainfall during this season. iv) This is the main rainy season for Tamilnadu.

3. Distinguish between Tropical Evergreen forests and Tropical Deciduous forests.

Tropical Evergreen Forests	Tropical Deciduous forests
i) This forest is found in the regions that receive heavy rainfall. ii) These forests are evergreen and they do not shed their leaves. iii) The major trees are Cinnamon, Malabar Ironwood, Java plum etc.,	i) This type of forest lies in the margin of semi-evergreen and evergreen forests. ii) The trees in this forest shed their leaves. iii) Some trees of this forest are Silk, Cotton, Kapok, Kadamba dog teak etc.,

4. What is desertification?

Desertification is a process/type of land degradation in which a relatively dry area of land becomes a desert losing its bodies of water as well as vegetation and wild life. It is caused by climate change particularly through global warming and through over exploitation through human activity.

Refer Pgs. 96 & 102

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