

## Unit 7 - Exploring Continents Africa, Australia and Antarctica

Class: VIII

Subject: Social- geography

### I. Choose the correct answer

- The southernmost tip of Africa is .  
a) Cape Blanca  
b) **Cape Agulhas**  
c ) Cape of Good Hope  
d) Cape Town
- The manmade canal through an isthmus between Egypt and Sinai Peninsula is  
a) Panama Canal      b) Aswan Canal      c) **Suez Canal**      d) Albert Canal
- In respect of the Mediterranean climate, consider the following statements and choose the correct answer.
  - The average rainfall is 15cm
  - The summers are hot and dry; winters are rainy.
  - Winters are cool and dry; Summers are hot and wet
  - Citrus fruits are growna) 1 is correct  
b) **2 and 4 are correct**  
c) 3 and 4 are correct  
d) All are correct
- The range which separates the west and east flowing rivers in Australia is  
a) **Great Dividing Range**      b) Himalayan range  
c) Flinders range      d) Mac Donnell range
- Kalgoorile is famous for mining.  
a) Diamond      b) Platinum      c) Silver      d) **Gold**

### II. Fill in the blanks

- Atlas Mountain is located in **African** continent.
- Mt. Kilimanjaro** is the highest peak of Africa.
- Eucalyptus** is the most common tree in Australia.
- A temperate grass land of Australia is called **Downs**
- Dakshin Gangotri** is the first Indian research station in Antarctica.

### III Match the following

- |                       |   |                           |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Pinnacle           | - | Pointed limestone pillars |
| 2. Krill              |   | small red fish            |
| 3. Ostrich            | - | flightless bird           |
| 4. Lake Eyre          | - | salt lake                 |
| 5. Jewel of the earth | - | Equatorial forest         |

#### IV Let us learn

1. **Assertion (A):** Aurora is a curtain of colour lights appear in the sky.

**Reason (R):** They are caused by magnetic storms in the upper atmosphere.

a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation for A.

b) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation for A

c) A is true but R is false.

d) R is true but A is false

2. **Assertion (A):** A geological feature of Africa is the Great Rift Valley.

**Reason (R):** A Rift valley is a large crack in the earth's surface formed by tectonic activity.

a) Both A and R is individually true and R is the correct explanation for A.

b) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation for A

c) A is true but R is false.

d) R is true but, A is false

#### V. Answer briefly

1. **Why Africa is called a "Mother Continent"?**

Africa is nicknamed as the 'Mother Continent' as it was the oldest inhabited continent on Earth.

2. **What are the important rivers of Africa?**

The important rivers of Africa are R. Nile, R. Congo or Zaire, R. Niger, R. Zambezi, R. Orange and R. Limpopo.

3. **Name the physical division of Australia.**

The Physical divisions of Australia are -

- The Great Western Plateau
- The Central Low lands
- The Eastern High lands

4. **Write about the nature of Antarctic continent.**

- Antarctica is a unique continent. It does not have a native population.
- There is no country in Antarctica.
- It is the coldest continent with a permanent cover of ice.
- It is the only continent called white continent.

5. **Mention any four economic activities of Australia.**

Agriculture, forestry, fishing mining, manufacturing, trade and services are the major economic activities of Australia.

## VI Distinguish between.

### 1. Sahel and Sahara

| Sahel   | Sahara  |
|---|---|
| Sahel is a semi-arid tropical Savanna region.                             | The world-famous Sahara desert is located in the northern part of Africa.   |
| It covers an area of 3.0 million sq km.                                   | It has an area of .9.2 million sq kms.  |
| The world It is largely a semi-arid belt of barren, sandy and rocky land. | It consists of many topographical features such as Mountain, plateaus, ergs, oases, sand and gravel covered plains, salt flats, basins and depressions. |

### 2. Western Antarctica and Eastern Antarctica

| Western Antarctica  | Eastern Antarctica   |
|---|--|
| The West Antarctica faces the Pacific Ocean.  | The East Antarctica faces the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans.                  |
| The Antarctic Peninsula which points towards the South America shows that it is the continuation of the Andes mountain range. | The Mt. Erebus in this region is an active volcano located in the Ross Island. |

### 3. Great Barrier Reef and Artesian Basin.

| Great Barrier Reef  | Artesian Basin   |
|---|--|
| Great Barrier Reef is located in the north east of Australia. | The Artesian Basins are regions on the earth's surface where water gushes out like a fountain. |
| It is formed by the tiny coral polyps                         | It is found in the arid and semi - arid parts of Queensland.                                   |
| It is about 2300 kms long.                                    | It extents for 1.7 million square km.  |

## **VII. Give reasons**

### **1. Egypt is called the gift of the Nile.**

- Nile is the life line of Egypt
- Without Nile the Egypt would have been a desert
- So Egypt is the gift of the Nile.

### **2. Deserts are found in the western margins of continents.**

- Most of the world deserts are located in the western margins of continents in the subtropics because the prevailing winds in the tropics are tropical easterly winds.
- The tropical easterly winds become dry by the time they reach the western margins of continent and so they bring no rainfall.

### **3. Antarctica is called the continent of scientists**

Scientists of any country are free to conduct experiments and collect data from Antarctica. Hence it is called 'continent of Science'.

## **VIII. Answer in a paragraph**

### **1. Give an account on mineral wealth of Australia.**

- Minerals are the largest export item of Australia.
- It contributes about 10 percent of country's GDP.
- Australia is the world's leading producer of bauxite, limonite, rutile and zircon.
- The Second largest producer of gold, lead, lithium, manganese ore and zinc, the third largest producer of iron ore and uranium and they fourth largest producer of black coal.
- The coal belts of the country stretches from New Castle to Sydney on the South Eastern Coast.
- Iron ores are found mainly in southern and Western Australia.
- Petroleum and natural gas is obtained from Bass Strait and west of Brisbane.
- Uranium is mined in northern territory at Ram jungle and Queensland.
- Gold is mined in the western desert at Kalgoorlie and Koolgarlie.
- Lead, Silver, Zinc, Manganese, Tungsten, Nickel and copper are also mined in parts of Australia.

### **2. Describe the flora and fauna of Antarctica**

- Since the temperature is below freezing point almost throughout the year, no major vegetation is found in this continent.



- Simple plants like algae, mosses, liverworts, lichens and microscopic fungi can survive and grow in Antarctica.
- Some algae live in the snow, while other plants grow on the coastal rocky land that is ice free.
- A few species of plants, such as plankton, algae and mosses are seen in and around, Antarctica's fresh and saltwater lakes.
- Small red fish called krill are found in large shoals .It is the food for many warm blooded sea animals.
- The blue whale is the largest animal which feeds on plankton. All these animals and birds have a thick layer of fat called blubber which helps them to withstand the cold condition.
- Penguin birds in Antarctica cannot fly. They have webbed feet and flipper instead of wings. Small invertebrates are the only land animals which lives in the continent.

### 3. Name the physical divisions of Africa and explain any one.

1. Africa consists of mixture of land forms such as mountains, plateaus and plains. The following are the 8 major physical divisions of Africa.

- Sahara
- Sahel
- Savanna
- The Great Rift Valley and the Great Lakes of Africa
- East African Highlands
- Swahili Coast
- The Congo Basin or Zaire Basin
- Southern Africa

### 2. Southern Africa.

- Most part of the Southern Africa is a plateau region.
- Drakensberg Mountain is found in the eastern portion of the escarpment.
- It extends from north east to south west for 1125 km.
- Its highest peak is Thabana Ntlenyana (3482m).
- This region is covered with grasslands known as 'Veld'.
- Kalahari Desert lies in the south and Namib Desert is along the south - west shore of Africa.
- Kalahari Desert in this region is not actually a desert but, a bushy scrubland situated between the Orange and Zambezi Rivers.