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CLASS: VIII	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: PART II GEOGRAPHY	CH-1 (Theme A)

2026-27

WORLD GEOGRAPHY : A BRIEF EXPLORATION

A. Ticket ✓ the correct option.

1. Which ocean is the largest and deepest?
Answer: **(iii) Pacific Ocean**

2. The Tibetan Plateau is often called the
Answer: **(i) Roof of the World**

3. The Great Barrier Reef is located off the coast of which country?
Answer: **(ii) Australia**

4. Which mountain range forms a natural boundary between Europe and Asia?
Answer: **(iv) The Ural Mountains**

5. The Atacama Desert is known for its use by NASA to test rovers because of its
Answer: **(iii) Mars-like landscapes**

6. A human-made waterway built to connect two larger water bodies is known as a
Answer: **(iv) Canal**

7. The world's largest desert is
Answer: **(iii) Antarctica**

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. The Earth is an **oblate spheroid**, a shape that bulges at the equator.

2. Oceans cover about **71** per cent of the Earth's surface.

3. The deepest point on Earth is found in the **Mariana** Trench.

4. The **Sahara** Desert is the largest hot desert in the world.

5. The **Savannah** is a tropical grassland ecosystem known for its rich diversity of wildlife.

6. The **Nile** River is the longest river in the world.

7. The Great Lakes are a chain of massive **fresh**water lakes.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements

1. The Mercator projection is known for distorting the size of landmasses near the poles. — **True**

2. Ocean currents only bring cold water from the poles towards the equator. — **False**

3. The Suez Canal is a natural waterway connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. **False**

4. The Eurasian Steppes act as a global carbon sink. **True**

5. The Amazon Rainforest is home to hundreds of indigenous communities. **True**

6. The Appalachian Mountains are one of the youngest mountain ranges in the world. **False**

7. The Gobi Desert is a hot desert with temperatures often exceeding 50°C. **False**

D. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. **Why is the Earth called ‘blue planet’?**

   The ocean is a vast body of salt water covering about 71% of the Earth's surface. This is why the earth looks blue from space and early astronauts called it the ‘blue planet’.

2. **What is the map projection and why is it necessary?**

The process of showing the Earth on a flat surface is called a map projection. To understand the world more accurately, we use different map projections.

3. **Define an ocean current.**

   Ocean currents are like giant rivers flowing through the ocean.
4. **What is the Great Australian Desert?**
   A large part of Australia is desert or arid, termed the Great Australian Desert. It comprises several desert areas, among which is the Great Victoria Desert.
5. **How do plants and animals adaptive survive in the Sahara Desert?**
   The plants and animals of the Sahara have developed special adaptations that enable them to survive.
6. **Why is the Amazon rainforest known as the 'Lungs of the Earth'?**
   The Amazon Rainforest is known as the 'Lungs of the Earth' because it cleans the air and regulate weather for the entire planet.

E. Answer the following questions and detail:

1. **Explain the significance of oceans in supporting life and regulating climate.**

   Significance of Oceans in supporting life and regulating climate:-

   1. Controls Climate - Oceans absorb solar heat and circulate warm and cold water around the globe to balance weather.

   2. Produces Oxygen - Marine phytoplankton generate about half of the oxygen on Earth.

   3. Absorbs Carbon - Oceans take in large amounts of carbon dioxide, slowing down global warming.

   4. Supports Life - They provide habitats for marine species and supply food and resources for humans.

2. **Describe the threats facing the Great Barrier Reef and the Amazon Rainforest. Why is there conservation important?**

   The threats to the Great Barrier Reef and the Amazon Rainforest and their conservation:-

   1. Major Threats - Warmer ocean temperatures cause coral bleaching, while logging and farming cause Amazon deforestation.
   2. Rich Biodiversity - Both areas host millions of unique plant and animal species found nowhere else.
   3. Environmental Protection -The Amazon stores massive amounts of carbon, while coral reefs protect coastlines from storm damage.
   4. Human Livelihoods - Conservation safeguards indigenous communities, fishing industries, and natural sources for medicines.

3. **Explain the concept of an ecosystem using the example of the African Savannah or Yellowstone National Park.**

   Concept of an Ecosystem in the African Savannah. An ecosystem is a community where living organisms interact with their non-living physical environment.

   1. Producers - Grasses and scattered trees convert sunlight into food for the ecosystem.
   2. Consumers - Herbivores (like zebras) feed on the grasses, while carnivores (like lions) feed on herbivores.
   3. Natural Balance - Decomposers return nutrients to the soil, maintaining a continuous cycle that supports life.

4. **Describe the key features and economic and cultural significance of the Andes Mountains and the Rocky Mountains.**

   The key features of Andes and Rocky Mountains Significance

   1. Major Mountain Ranges - Both are extensive, high-altitude mountain chains along the western edges of the Americas.

   2. Rich Mineral Resources - Both regions contain massive deposits of valuable metals like copper, gold, and silver.

   3. Water Supply - Their snow and glaciers feed major rivers, providing freshwater and hydroelectric power.

4. Cultural Heritage - They hold deep historical ties for indigenous cultures (like the Incas and Native Americans) and attract global tourism.