

Chapter – 06 Geography

Major Landforms of the Earth

- Within the earth a continuous movement is taking place.
- The first is internal process which leads to upliftment and sinking of the earth's surface at several places.
- The second is the external process. It is the continuous wearing down and rebuilding of the land surface.
- The wearing away of the earth's surface is called erosion.
- The surface is being lowered by the process of erosion and rebuilt by the process of deposition.
- These two processes are carried out by running water, ice and wind.
- The different landforms depending on elevation and slope are mountains, plateaus and plains.
- **Mountains:**
 - (i) A mountain is any natural elevation of the earth's surface with a peak or a summit.
 - (ii) In some mountains, there are permanently frozen rivers of ice. They are called glaciers.
 - (iii) A continuous chain of mountains over a large area is called 'Range'.
 - (iv) The Himalayas, The Alps and The Andes in Asia, Europe and South America respectively are some leading mountains.
 - (v) There are three types of mountains-Fold mountains, Block mountains and the Volcanic mountains.
 - (vi) Mountains are storehouse of water. Further they have forests which give us fuel, fodder, shelter and other products.
- **Plateau:**
 - (i) A plateau is a flat-topped table land. It is an elevated flat land.
 - (ii) The Deccan plateau in India is one of the oldest plateaus.
 - (iii) Plateaus are useful as they are rich in mineral deposits.
 - (iv) Many plateaus have waterfalls. The lava plateaus have soil good for cultivation.
- **Plains:**
 - (i) Plains are low-lying and flat stretches of land.
 - (ii) Plains may be extremely level, slightly rolling and undulating.
 - (iii) Plains are fertile. They are good for cultivation, transport and habitation.
- **Landforms and the People.**
 - (i) Human settlements are dependent upon types of landforms.
 - (ii) Areas which are dangerous or isolated have less habitation as compared to areas which are plain or rich in minerals.

