

## Lesson 2

### *Biogeographic Zones*

**OBJECTIVE:** To communicate the concept that India's forests and natural wealth are at the core of the country's ecological health and that by saving the tiger, we are saving our forests, our water supplies and India's ecological foundation.

**AIM:** To communicate to children the rich diversity of natural India.

**INTRODUCTION:** "India is blessed." Talk about exotic, exciting places across India. Examples: alpine snows, coral reefs, rainforests.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

- 🐾 Ask children to name places that they have visited for their holidays.
- 🐾 Some may mention foreign trips, but remind children that we have varying habitat types in India that are equally beautiful.
- 🐾 Suggest various habitat types and have them guess where they are located.
- 🐾 Connect with Lesson 1 on ecosystems.
- 🐾 Take the zone that your city falls in and explain its features. (See map on page 11).
- 🐾 Then discuss the country's biogeography zone-by-zone focussing on the importance of each zone and discussing the various animals found there.
- 🐾 Emphasise diversity and richness and the pride at being one of the few countries that can boast of such variety.

**AIDS:** Advertisements, a map of India, pictures of different biomes.

**BLACKBOARD:** List of various animals and the biogeographic zones in which they are found, zones marked on a map.

**EVALUATION:** Quiz (favourite holidays, animals, birds, reptiles). Ask about the weather conditions in each zone (hot in a desert, shivering in the alpine) and connect to animals found in the region.

#### *Activities*

- ◆ **Class:** Decorate your class as one of the zones.  
Chart on various zones.
- ◆ **Nature Club:** Big map of the zones, placed behind the web.

### *Biogeographic Zones*

**Trans-Himalaya:** Biotic Province: Ladakh (J&K) and Lahaul-Spiti (Himachal) (1). Biome: Tundra valley, lakes and marshes. Wildlife: Chiru, Black-necked Crane, Himalayan pit viper.

**Himalaya:** Biotic Province: Northwestern Himalaya (2a), Western Himalaya (2b), Central Himalaya (2c), Eastern Himalaya (2d). Biome: All alpine, temperate conifer, temperate broadleaf, subtropical. Wildlife: Ibex, red panda, Monal Pheasant.

**Indian Desert:** Biotic Province: Kutchh (3a), Thar (3b). Biome: Saltflats, scrublands, desert grasslands. Wildlife: Wild ass, blackbuck, flamingo, desert monitor.

**Semi-arid:** Biotic Province: Punjab and Gujarat-Rajwara (4). Biome: Scrublands, Bhabar forests, wetlands, dry deciduous, hill and thorn forests. Wildlife: Tiger, Asiatic lion, Great Indian Bustard, gharial.

**Western Ghats:** Biotic Province: Western Ghats (5). Biome: Evergreen, moist deciduous, wetlands, Montane forests, grasslands. Wildlife: Lion-tailed macaque, Malabar civet, hornbill, draco.

**Deccan Peninsula:** Biotic Province: Southern Plateau (6a), Central Plateau (6b), Eastern Plateau (6c), Chhota-Nagpur (6d), Central Highlands (6e). Biome: Dry deciduous, thorn forests, wetlands, subtropical, moist deciduous. Wildlife: Swamp deer, Jerdon's Courser, mugger.

**Gangetic Plains:** Biotic Province: Lower and upper Gangetic plains (7). Biome: Alluvial plain, wetlands, rivers. Wildlife: Rhino, otter, Gangetic dolphin, terrapin.

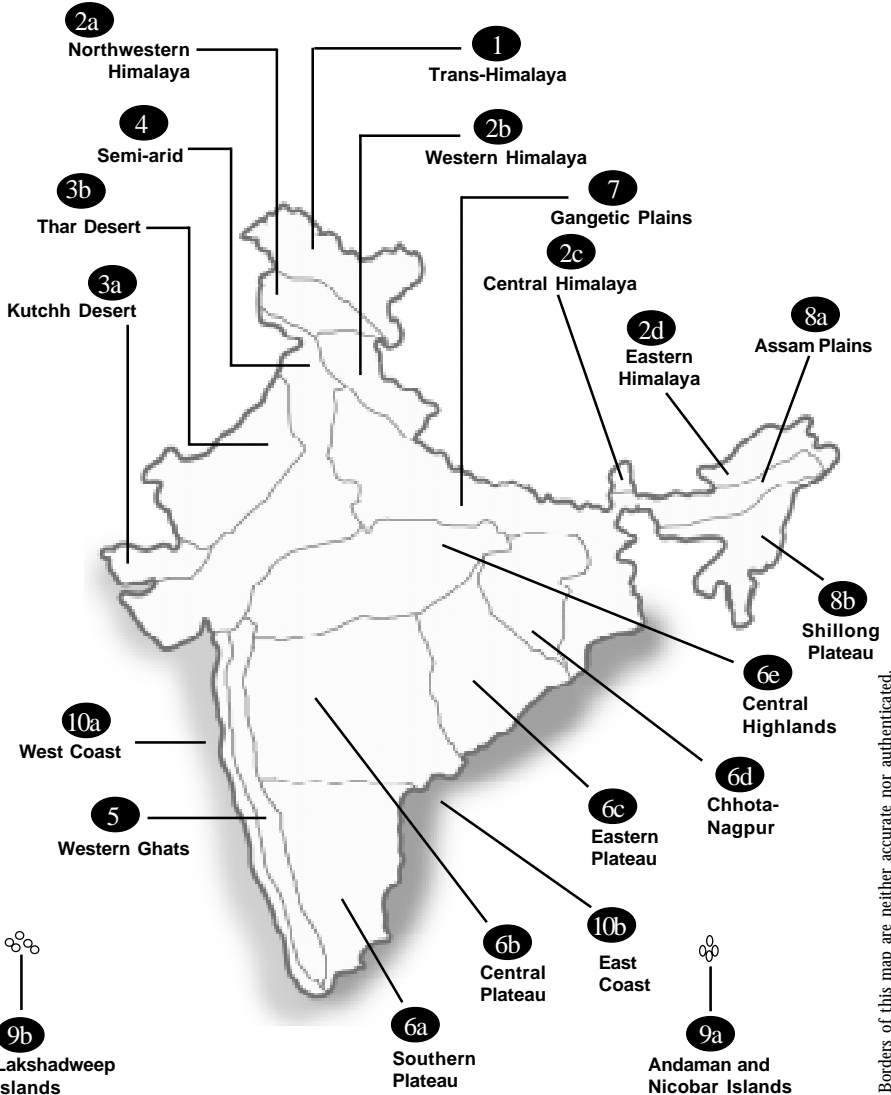
**Northeast India:** Biotic Province: Assam Plains (8a), Shillong Plateau (8b). Biome: All plain grasslands, woodlands, Bhabar terai, evergreen moist deciduous, wetlands and rivers, subtropical temperate. Wildlife: Pygmy hog, serow, Yellow-backed Sunbird.

**Islands:** Biotic Province: Andaman and Nicobar (9a), Lakshadweep (9b). Biome: Evergreen, moist deciduous, subtropical temperate wetlands, coastal habitat. Wildlife: Dolphin, Narcondam Hornbill, olive ridley turtle.

**Coasts:** Biotic Province: West Coast (10a), East Coast (10b). Biome: Mangrove, brackish lakes and lagoons, mudflats, sandy or rocky littoral. Wildlife: dugong, Brahminy Kite, sand skink.

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## Biogeographic Zones



Borders of map are neither accurate nor authenticated.

**Biogeographic zones:** Major zones representing distinctive units of similar ecology, biome representation, community and species. e.g. Himalaya, Gangetic plain.  
**Biotic provinces:** Next level of detail within the zones. e.g. Northwestern Himalaya, Western Himalaya.  
**Biomes:** Major ecosystem groupings found within each province and region. e.g. Alpine, subalpine.

Source: Planning a Wildlife Protected Area Network in India Vol. I (1988). W.A. Rodgers and H.S. Panwar