

CLASS VII CHAPTER 9 LIFE IN THE DESERTS

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TOPICS:



INTRODUCTION



THE HOT DESERTS –SAHARA



CLIMATE OF SAHARA



FLORA AND FAUNA OF SAHARA



PEOPLE OF SAHARA



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THE COLD DESERT OF LADAKH

FLORA AND FAUNA OF LADAKH

PEOPLE OF LADAKH



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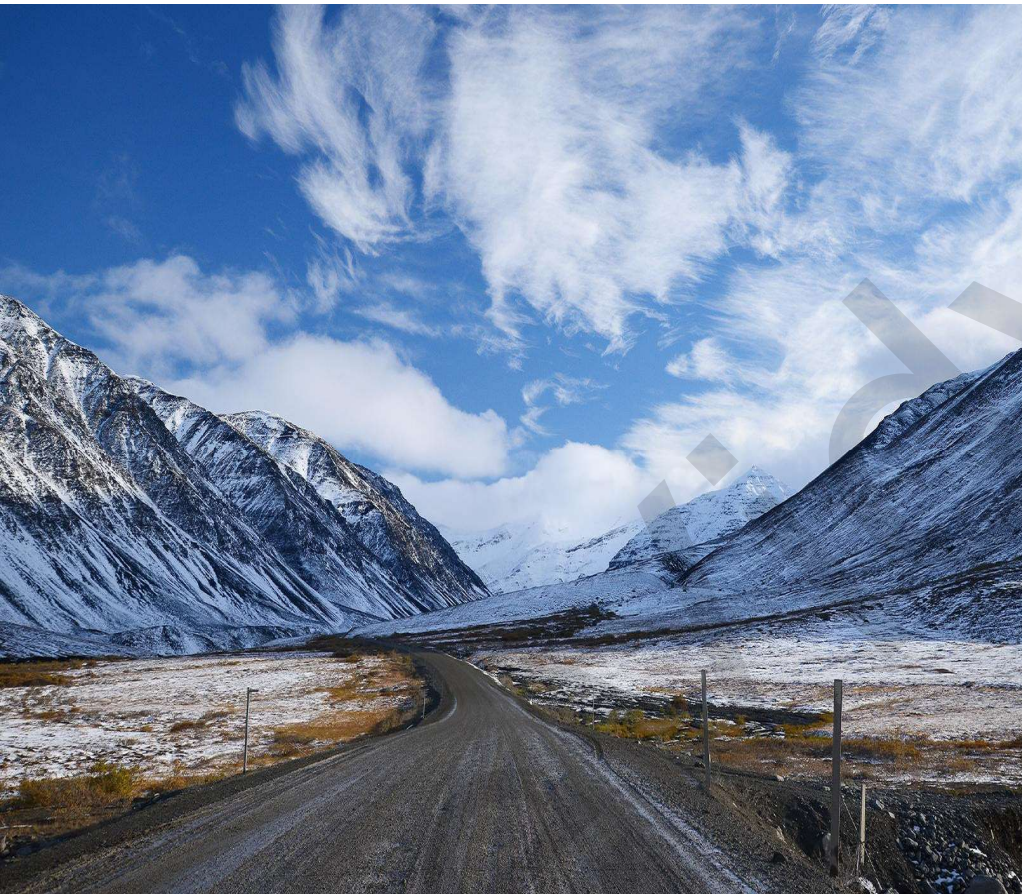
INTRODUCTION

- It is difficult for anyone to live in places where there is **NO WATER TO DRINK**, where there is **NO GRASS** for their cattle to feed on and where there is no water to help the crops to grow.
- We will now learn about the places in the world where people have learned to cope with **EXTREME HARSH TEMPERATURES**.

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SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS



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- in some places as hot as fire and some as cold as ice. These are the desert areas of the world.
- These are characterized by **LOW RAINFALL, SCANTY VEGETATION** and **EXTREME TEMPERATURES**.



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THE HOT DESERTS -SAHARA

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- The Sahara desert touches eleven countries. These are **ALGERIA, CHAD, EGYPT, LIBYA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, NIGER, SUDAN, TUNISIA AND WESTERN SAHARA.**
- When you think of a desert the picture that immediately comes to your mind is that of sand but the Sahara desert is also covered with gravel plains and **ELEVATED PLATEAUS** with **BARE ROCKY SURFACE.**

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ELEVATED PLATEAUS



GRAVEL PLAINS



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- the Sahara desert covers a **LARGE PART OF NORTH AFRICA**. It is the world's largest desert.



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CLIMATE OF SAHARA

- The climate of the Sahara desert is **SCORCHING HOT** and **PARCH DRY**. It has a short rainy season.
- The sky is cloudless and clear. Here, the moisture evaporates faster than it accumulates. Days are unbelievably hot.



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- The temperatures during the day may soar as high as **50°C**, heating up the sand and the bare rocks, which in turn radiates heat making everything around hot.
- The **NIGHTS MAY BE FREEZING COLD** with temperatures nearing zero degrees.

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FLORA AND FAUNA OF SAHARA

- Vegetation in the Sahara desert includes- **CACTUS, DATE PALMS AND ACACIA**. In some places there are **OASIS, GREEN ISLANDS, DATE PALMS** surrounding them.
- **ANIMALS – CAMELS, HYENAS, JACKALS, FOXES, SCORPIONS, SNAKES AND LIZARDS**



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PEOPLE OF SAHARA

- It is inhabited by various groups of people, pursue different activities. i.e. **BEDOUINS AND TUAREGS**. These groups are nomadic tribes rearing livestock.
- **GOATS, SHEEP, CAMELS AND HORSES**. provide them with milk, hides from which they make **LEATHER FOR BELTS, SLIPPERS, WATER BOTTLES**; hair is used for **MATS, CARPETS, CLOTHES AND BLANKETS**.



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BEDOUINS



TUAREGS



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- They wear heavy robes as protection against dust storms and hot winds. The oasis in the Sahara, **NILE VALLEY** in Egypt supports settled population.
- Since water is available, people grow **DATE PALMS**.
- Crops such **AS RICE, WHEAT, BARLEY** and **BEANS** are also grown. **EGYPTIAN COTTON**, famous worldwide is grown in Egypt.



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- **RICE**
- **WHEAT**
- **BARLEY**
- **BEANS**

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- **THE DISCOVERY OF OIL** – a product in great demand throughout the world, in **ALGERIA, LIBYA** and Egypt is constantly transforming the Sahara desert.
- important minerals are found in the area include **IRON, PHOSPHORUS, MANGANESE AND URANIUM.**



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- **GLEAMING GLASS CASED OFFICE, BUILDINGS, TOWER OVER SUPERHIGHWAYS, CRISSCROSS THE ANCIENT CAMEL PATHS.**
- Trucks are replacing camels in the salt trade.
- Tuaregs are seen acting as guides to foreign tourists.
- More and more nomadic herdsmen are taking to city life finding jobs in **oil and gas operations.**

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BUILDINGS



MOSQUES,



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THE COLD DESERT OF LADAKH

- Ladakh is a cold desert lying in the **GREAT HIMALAYAS, ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**. The Karakoram Range in the north and the Zaskar mountains in the south enclose it.
- Many rivers flow through Ladakh, (**INDUS** most important)



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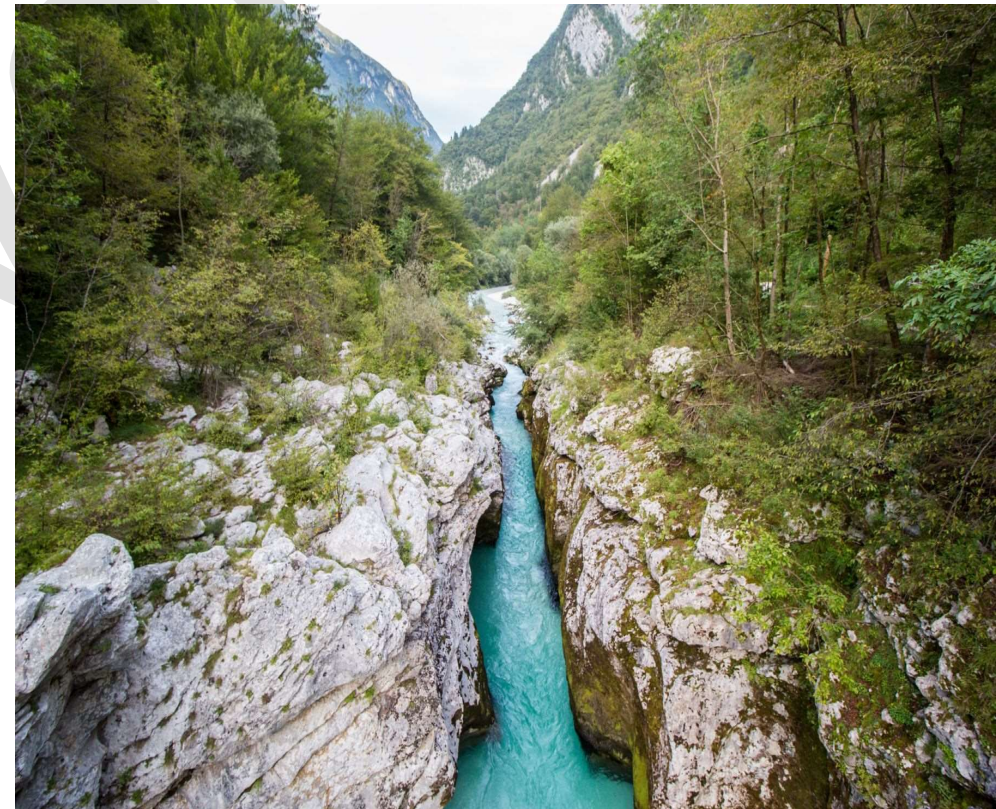
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- The rivers form deep valleys and gorges. Several glaciers are found in Ladakh.
- **EX- THE GANGRI GLACIER.**
- Due to its high altitude, the climate is **EXTREMELY COLD AND DRY.**
- The air at this altitude is so thin that the **HEAT OF THE SUN** can be felt intensely with little rainfall.

GORGES



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GLACIER GANGRI



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- **AREA EXPERIENCES**
FREEZING WINDS, BURNING
HOT SUNLIGHT. IF SIT IN
THE SUN YOU MAY SUFFER
FROM BOTH SUNSTROKE
AND FROST BITE AT THE
SAME TIME.



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FLORA AND FAUNA OF LADAKH

- Due to high aridity, the vegetation is sparse. There are scanty patches of grasses and shrubs for animals to graze.
- **GROVES OF WILLOWS AND POPLARS** are seen in the valleys.
- **SUMMERS** – fruit trees such as **APPLES, APRICOTS AND WALNUTS** bloom.



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POPLARS



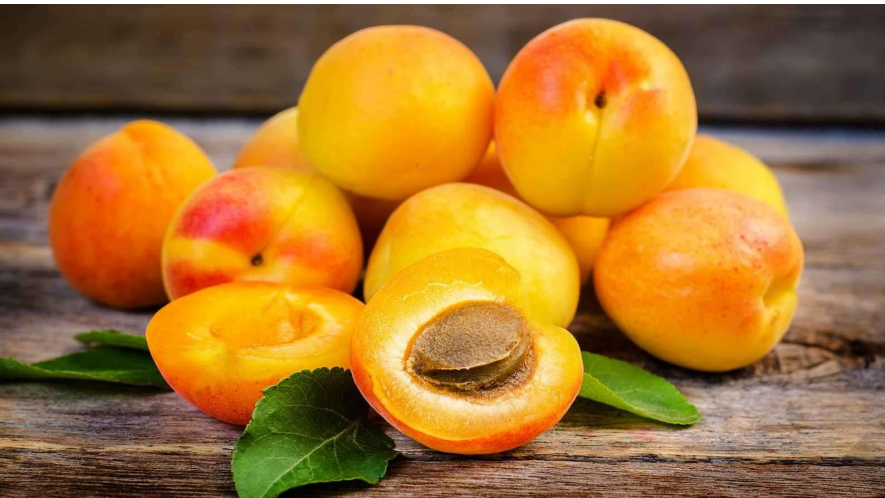
WILLOWS



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APPLES, APRICOTS AND WALNUTS



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- **SPECIES OF BIRDS – ROBINS, REDSTARTS, TIBETAN SNOWCOCK, RAVEN AND HOOPOE** are common. Some are migratory birds.
- **ANIMALS – WILD GOATS, WILD SHEEP, YAK AND SPECIAL KINDS OF DOGS.**
- The animals are reared to provide for the milk, meat and hides. Yak's milk is used to make cheese and butter.
- The hair of the sheep and goat is used to make woolens.

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RAVEN



REDSTARTS



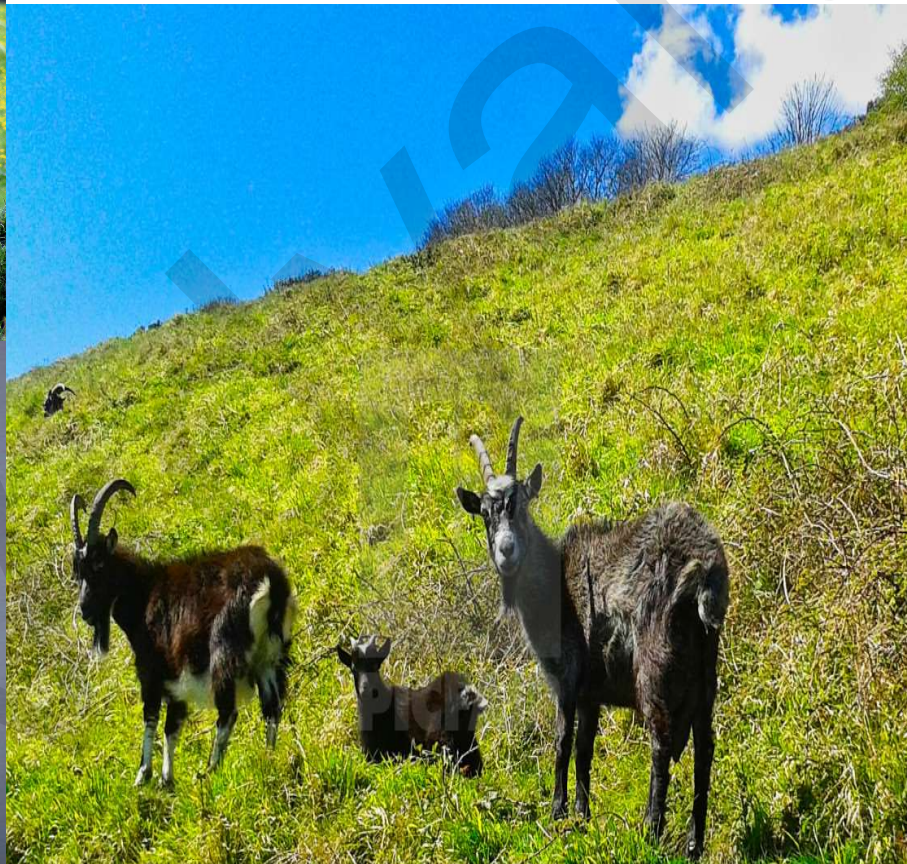
TIBETAN SNOWCOCK



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PEOPLE OF LADAKH

- The people here are either **MUSLIMS OR BUDDHISTS**.
- In fact several Buddhists monasteries dot the Ladakhi landscape with their traditional '**GOMPAS**'.
- **FAMOUS MONASTERIES** – Hemis, Thiksey, Shey and Lamayuru



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- **IN SUMMERS PEOPLE ARE BUSY CULTIVATING – BARLEY, POTATOES, PEAS, BEANS AND TURNIP.**
- winter months is so harsh that people keep themselves engaged in **FESTIVITIES AND CEREMONIES.**
- The women are very hard working - **WORK NOT ONLY IN THE HOUSE AND FIELDS, BUT ALSO MANAGE SMALL BUSINESS, SHOPS.**



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WOMEN IN BUSINESS



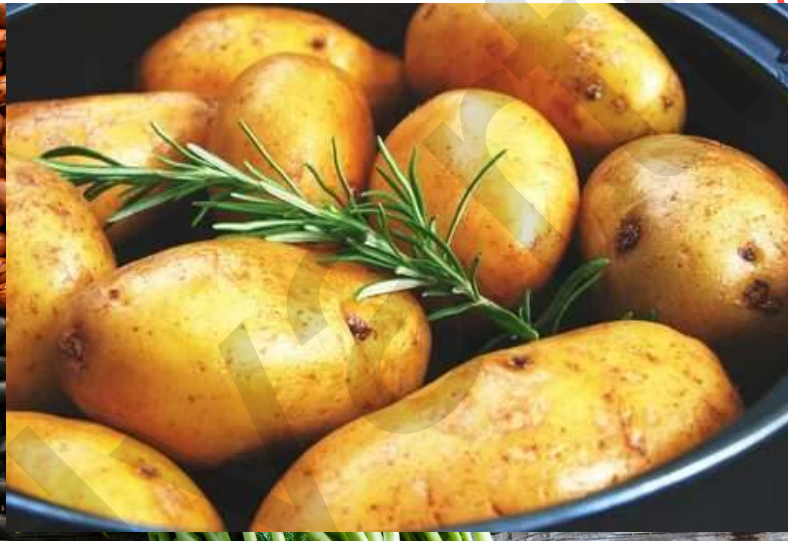
WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



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- **BARLEY**
- **POTATOES**
- **BEANS**
- **TURNIP.**

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- **LEH, THE CAPITAL OF LADAKH** is well connected both by road and air.
- The National Highway 1A connects Leh to Kashmir Valley through the Zoji la Pass.
- Tourism a major activity (tourists streaming within India and abroad.
- Visits to the gompas, treks to see **THE MEADOWS AND GLACIERS, CEREMONIES AND FESTIVITIES.**



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- Life of people is modernizing
But the people of Ladakh
have over the centuries
learned to live in balance and
HARMONY WITH NATURE.
- Due to scarcity of resources
like **WATER AND FUEL**, they are
used with reverence and
care. **NOTHING IS DISCARDED OR
WASTED.**

