Class 9 Social Science Chapter 11: Life on Earth - Notes, Important Questions and MCQs (2026-27)

Free PDF notes from Nextoper.in | Session 2026-27 | Read online:
https://nextoper.in/class-9-social-science-chapter-11-pdf-notes/

These Class 9 Social Science Chapter 11 notes (Part 2, Chapter 2) cover “Life on Earth” from the new NCERT textbook Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Part 2, 2026-27): terrestrial biomes – forests, grasslands, deserts and tundra – the biome pyramid, geography of biodiversity conservation, traditional conservation practices, forest-based livelihoods and ecotourism, GI-tagged forest products, forest rights and ecological commons – with tables, Q&A, 10 MCQs and a free PDF.

Use the table of contents below to jump to the part you need, or read top to bottom for a complete revision of the chapter.

Table of Contents

- Chapter Overview
- Important Topics and Concepts
- Biomes at a Glance
- Human–Forest Connections
- Important Definitions and Terms
- Short Answer Questions
- Long Answer Questions
- MCQs with Answers
- Quick Revision Points
- Chapter Summary
- Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Conclusion

Want notes for every chapter? Explore the full Class 9 Social Science notes on Nextoper, arranged book-wise and chapter-wise.

Chapter Overview

Physiography and climate shape where different plants and animals live. Biomes are large regions with characteristic vegetation and animal life, classified by temperature, rainfall, flora and fauna. Humans live closely with these biomes and adapt their food, clothing, housing and work to them.

Indian communities have long conserved nature through sacred groves and movements like the Bishnoi and Chipko. Forests support many occupations – from gathering forest produce to modern ecotourism – and laws such as the Forest Rights Act protect forest dwellers. Growing pressure on forests, however, causes human–wildlife conflict and resource depletion.

Important Topics and Concepts

Biomes of the World

- Forests: tropical rainforests (hot, wet, dense), tropical deciduous (shed leaves in dry season), temperate and coniferous forests.
- Grasslands: tropical savannas (Africa) with tall grass and scattered trees; temperate grasslands with fertile soils used for farming.
- Deserts: very low rainfall; plants like cacti and animals like camels adapted to save water.
- Tundra: cold polar and high-altitude regions with mosses, lichens and shrubs; very fragile.

Biome Pyramid

- A graphical representation of trophic levels – producers at the base, then herbivores, carnivores and top predators.
- Number of organisms, biomass and energy decrease at each higher level because energy is lost as heat.
- Shows why plants are the foundation of every biome.

Geography of Biodiversity Conservation

- Protecting critical habitats and preventing habitat fragmentation.
- Natural barriers (rivers, mountains) and corridors that connect habitats for wildlife movement.
- Protected areas: national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and biosphere reserves.
- Conservation must consider location, climate and human settlement.

Traditional Conservation and Forest Livelihoods

- India has over 1,00,000 sacred groves – forest patches protected by communities (e.g. Devrai in Maharashtra).
- The Bishnoi movement in Rajasthan, led by Amrita Devi, and the Chipko movement in Uttarakhand, where village women hugged trees, protected forests.
- Forest occupations: gathering timber, bamboo, tendu leaves, mahua flowers, honey, medicinal plants; crafts; ecotourism.
- Responsible ecotourism conserves nature and supports local incomes.

GI Tags, Rights and Commons

- Geographical Indication (GI) tags protect region-specific products such as Ramban Sulai honey (Jammu and Kashmir), promoting heritage and income.
- The Forest Rights Act (2006) recognises rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and forest produce; government also runs tribal welfare schemes.
- Schemes like PM Ujjwala Yojana (clean cooking gas) reduce dependence on firewood.
- Ecological commons – forests, rivers, grazing lands shared by communities – need collective, sustainable management.
- Pressures: population growth, human–wildlife conflict and depletion of resources.

Biomes at a Glance

Most-asked table.

Biome	Climate	Vegetation	Animals / people
Tropical rainforest	Hot, very wet	Dense evergreen trees	Many species; shifting cultivation
Savanna grassland	Hot, seasonal rain	Tall grass, scattered trees	Zebras, lions; herding
Temperate grassland	Moderate, less rain	Short grass, fertile soil	Farming, ranching
Desert	Very dry	Cacti, thorny shrubs	Camels; nomadic herding
Tundra	Very cold	Mosses, lichens	Reindeer; fishing, hunting

Human–Forest Connections

Activity	Examples
Forest produce	Timber, bamboo, tendu leaves, mahua, honey
Traditional conservation	Sacred groves, Bishnoi, Chipko
Livelihood and crafts	Bamboo crafts, medicinal plants
Ecotourism	Responsible visits to forests and reserves
Legal rights	Forest Rights Act, 2006

Important Definitions and Terms

Term	Meaning
Biome	Large region with characteristic vegetation and animal life
Savanna	Tropical grassland with scattered trees
Tundra	Cold treeless region with mosses and lichens
Trophic level	Position of an organism in a food chain
Biome pyramid	Diagram of decreasing energy and numbers up trophic levels
Habitat fragmentation	Breaking of habitats into small isolated parts
Sacred grove	Forest patch protected by a community for religious reasons
Ecotourism	Responsible travel to natural areas
GI tag	Label identifying a product’s geographical origin
Ecological commons	Natural resources shared by a community

Short Answer Questions

Q1. What is a biome?

A large area with specific vegetation and animal life, shaped by climate and physiography.

Q2. Name the four main terrestrial biomes.

Forests, grasslands, deserts and tundra.

Q3. What does the biome pyramid show?

That numbers, biomass and energy decrease at higher trophic levels.

Small forest patches protected by local communities for religious and cultural reasons.

Q5. Who led the Bishnoi movement?

Amrita Devi in Rajasthan.

Q6. What was the Chipko movement?

A movement in Uttarakhand where village women hugged trees to stop them from being cut.

Q7. How does a GI tag help communities?

It protects region-specific products and brings better market value and recognition.

Q8. Name two problems caused by pressure on forests.

Human–wildlife conflict and depletion of forest resources.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. Describe the major terrestrial biomes.

Forests – rainforest, deciduous, coniferous by climate.

Grasslands – savannas and temperate grasslands.

Deserts – very dry, adapted plants and animals.

Tundra – cold, mosses and lichens, fragile.

Each shapes the lifestyle of people living there.

Q2. Explain the role of communities in conserving forests.

Over 1,00,000 sacred groves protected across India.

Bishnoi movement led by Amrita Devi.

Chipko movement where women hugged trees.

Community forest management and eco-restoration.

Traditional knowledge supports sustainable use.

Q3. How are forests important for livelihoods? What steps support forest dwellers?

Forests give timber, bamboo, tendu leaves, mahua, honey and medicines.

They support crafts and ecotourism.

GI tags add value to forest products.

Forest Rights Act, 2006 secures land and resource rights.

Schemes like Ujjwala reduce firewood dependence; commons need collective care.

MCQs with Answers

1. Savannas are(a) cold deserts (b) tropical grasslands (c) coniferous forests (d) tundraAnswer: (b) tropical grasslands

2. Mosses and lichens are typical of(a) rainforest (b) tundra (c) savanna (d) desertAnswer: (b) tundra

4. Bishnoi movement was led by(a) Amrita Devi (b) Gaura Devi (c) Medha Patkar (d) Sunderlal BahugunaAnswer: (a) Amrita Devi

5. Chipko movement took place in(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttarakhand (c) Kerala (d) AssamAnswer: (b) Uttarakhand

6. Number of sacred groves in India is over(a) 1,000 (b) 10,000 (c) 1,00,000 (d) 10,00,000Answer: (c) 1,00,000

7. GI stands for(a) Geographical Indication (b) Global Index (c) Green India (d) Government InitiativeAnswer: (a) Geographical Indication

8. Forest Rights Act was passed in(a) 1986 (b) 2006 (c) 2016 (d) 1996Answer: (b) 2006

9. Ramban Sulai honey is from(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Jammu and Kashmir (c) Sikkim (d) KeralaAnswer: (b) Jammu and Kashmir

10. Shared resources like grazing lands are called(a) private goods (b) ecological commons (c) EEZ (d) biomesAnswer: (b) ecological commons

Quick Revision Points

- Biomes: forests, grasslands, deserts, tundra.
- Biome pyramid: energy falls upward.
- Conservation geography: habitats, corridors, protected areas.
- Sacred groves, Bishnoi, Chipko.
- Forest livelihoods, ecotourism, GI tags.
- FRA 2006, Ujjwala, ecological commons; pressures on forests.

Chapter Summary

Biomes – forests, grasslands, deserts and tundra – are shaped by climate and landforms and support distinct life. The biome pyramid shows how energy decreases up the food chain. Conserving biodiversity means protecting habitats, corridors and protected areas.

Indian communities have long protected nature through sacred groves and movements like Bishnoi and Chipko. Forests provide livelihoods, products with GI tags and ecotourism, while laws like the Forest Rights Act and welfare schemes support forest dwellers. Rising pressure on forests calls for careful, shared management of ecological commons.

Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern

- Biomes comparison table is likely in exams.
- Remember Amrita Devi (Bishnoi) and Chipko details.
- Explain the biome pyramid with a simple diagram.
- Give one GI product example.
- Link FRA to rights of forest dwellers.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this chapter in the 2026-27 CBSE syllabus?

Yes. It is part of the new NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook “Understanding Society: India and Beyond” (Part 2, Chapter 2), prescribed for the 2026-27 session.

Can I download these notes as a PDF?

Yes. Use the free PDF link at the top of this page – no signup needed.

What are the main biomes on Earth?

Forests, grasslands, deserts and tundra.

What are sacred groves?

Forest patches protected by local communities for religious and cultural reasons; India has over 1,00,000 of them.

Conclusion

Life on Earth connects landscapes, climate and human livelihoods. Learn the biome and forest tables, practise the Q&A here and save the free PDF for revision.

More Notes: Class 9 Social Science Chapter 10: Oceans and Life notes | Class 9 Social Science Chapter 12: Resistance and Resilience (1000–1700 CE) notes | All Class 9 Social Science notes

Author Bio: Written and reviewed by the Nextoper Editorial Team, a group of CBSE social science educators who build chapter notes directly from the NCERT textbook and past board paper patterns.

Freshness Note: These notes follow the NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook, Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Parts 1 and 2, first edition 2026, NCF-SE 2023), and the CBSE syllabus for the 2026-27 session. Last checked on 23 November 2026.