

the common animals found here.



Fig. 6.13 (a): A Coniferous Forest



Fig. 6.13 (b): Snow covered Coniferous Forest

GRASSLANDS

Tropical grasslands: These occur on either side of the equator and extend till the tropics (Fig. 6.14). This vegetation grows in the areas of moderate to low amount of rainfall. The grass can grow very tall, about 3 to 4 metres in height. Savannah grasslands of Africa are of this type. Elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer, leopards are common in tropical grasslands (Fig. 6.15).



Fig. 6.14: Tropical Grassland

NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE 43

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Fig. 6.15: Giraffes



Do you know?

Grasslands are known by different names in different regions.

Tropical Grasslands

East Africa- Savanna
Brazil- Campos
Venezuela- Llanos

Temperate Grasslands

Argentina- Pampas
N. America- Prairie
S. Africa- Veld
C. Asia- Steppe
Australia- Down

Temperate grasslands: These are found in the mid-latitudinal zones and in the interior part of the continents. Usually, grass here is short and nutritious. Wild buffaloes, bison, antelopes are common in the temperate region.

Thorny bushes: These are found in the dry desert like regions. Tropical deserts are located on the western margins of the continents. The vegetation cover is scarce here because of scanty rain and scorching heat. Identify the desert regions in the world map. Can you name the great desert of India? Name some of the common animals of the desert which you have learnt earlier.

If you reach the polar region you will find the place extremely cold. The growth of natural vegetation is very limited here. Only mosses, lichens and very small shrubs are found here. It grows during the very short summer. This is called Tundra type of vegetation. This vegetation is found in the polar areas of Europe, Asia and North America. The animals have thick fur and thick skin to protect themselves from the cold climatic conditions. Seal, walrus, musk-oxen, Arctic owl, Polar bear and snow foxes are some of the animals found here (Fig. 6.16).

Salma's father showed her some photographs of thick forests. In some of the photographs, Salma observed that people were cutting trees and clearing the forests.

Her father explained that the local people wanted their land for agriculture and settlements, so they cleared up the forests. Salma started wondering if all forests are cleared, then where will the wild life go? Will the forest take its original shape again? If people go on cutting the trees like this, will there be enough oxygen, water vapour, timber, fruits, nuts available in future?

Do you agree with Salma? Hold a discussion with your friends about the depletion of our diversified flora and fauna. Suggest some measures to conserve them.



Walrus



Polar Bear



Seal

Fig. 6.16