

GRADE 11

GEOGRAPHY

READING
MATERIAL

NATURAL
RESOURCES
OF THE
WORLD

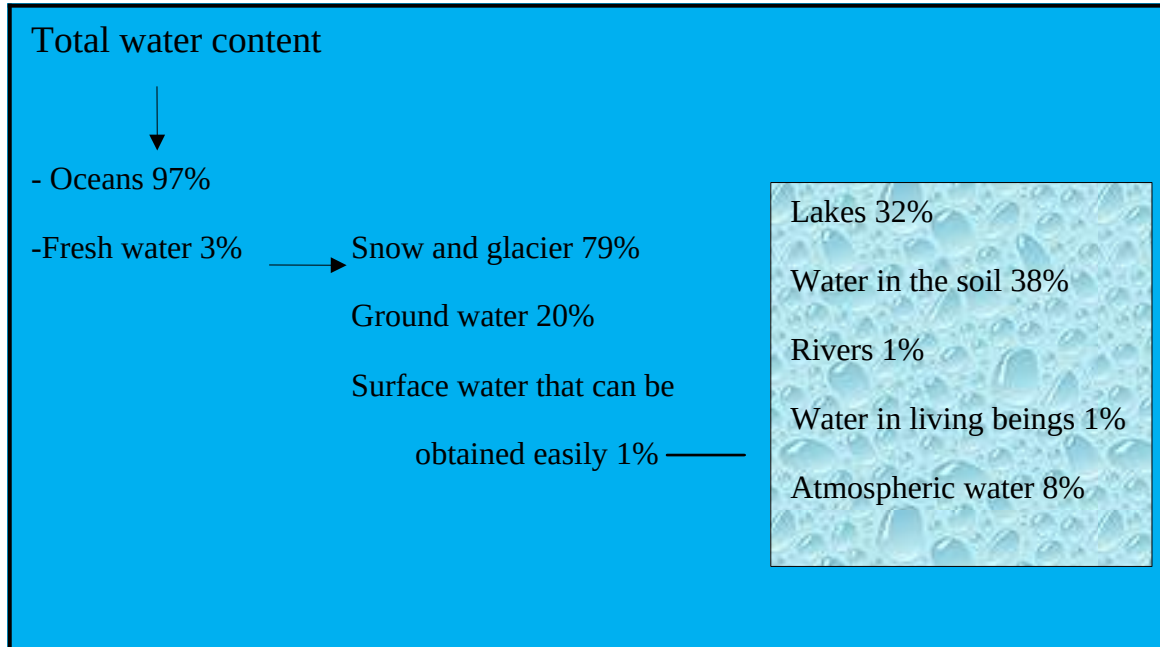
NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE WORLD

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- **Water resources**

Global distribution of water



- Places where water is stored -
- Sources of water-

1. Atmospheric water
2. Ocean water
3. Ground water
4. Water in the Soil
5. Surface water

1. Precipitation
2. Ocean
3. Lakes
4. Springs
5. Glacier
6. Ground water
7. Inland reservoirs

- **Importance of water**

- For drinking and domestic purposes. (A person needs 3L of water per day).
- For agriculture, livestock farming and industries.
- For the survival of living beings and balance of the earth.
- To increase the fertility of soil and to maintain it.
- For irrigation systems.
- Generation of hydroelectricity.
- To engage in leisure activities.

- **Forest**



- **Main types of forests in the world**

Type of forest	Distribution	Characteristics	Animals	Plants
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Tropical rain forest	Region between tropic of Cancer and Capricorn Estuary of the River Amazon Central America The Congo basin Asian Region	High bio-diversity Speedy growth of plants Several Layers of trees in the forest Trees have many broad leaves There are creepers and undergrowth Epiphytes are abundant.	Chimpanzee Tiger Gorilla Mouse deer Bear Varieties of Apes Serpents Lizards Reptiles Varieties of fish	Mahogany Ebony Bamboo Sandal Wood Acasia Palms Eucalyptus
Temperate forests	* Latitudinal extent of these forests are between 30° - 50° North and South. * These forests are distributed in West and Central Europe, Eastern Coast of North America, Australia, Argentina South America and South China.	There are evergreen and deciduous trees Less bio - diversity Hard heart wooded trees and broad leaves No clear layers Leaves fall during winter Trees that provide economically valuable timber	Bear Wolf Siberian Tiger Stag Varieties of birds Varieties of reptiles Deer	Oak Chest nut Pine Eucalyptus Douglas Fir Beech Ash and Lime
Coniferous forest	* These forests can be found in areas between 50°–60° latitudes in the Northern hemisphere. * Western coast of America to Eastern coast of North America. * North Europe and North of Asia.	Most of the trees are conical in shape. Trees are well adapted to cold and dry conditions. Leaves are needle shaped. Erect trunks and soft timber	Reindeer Panda Polar bear Stag Lynxes Mink Varieties of foxes Seals Varieties of birds	Oak Maple Beech Spruce Fir Larch Cedar Poplar

- **Significance of forests**

- Protection of bio-diversity.
- Protection of wild life and ensure their survival.
- They are important as catchment areas and protect the underground water.
- Provides food, medicine, timber and fuel for living beings.
- Maintaining a clean atmosphere and help to maintain environmental balance.
- Gives natural beauty.
- Affects climatic conditions.
- Reduces soil erosion and protects fertility of soil.

- **Problems faced by Forests and living beings**

Process	Problems
1. Increase in population	Clearance of Forests
2. Environmental pollution	Destruction of plants and animals
3. Collecting plants and animals for commercial purposes	Extinction of plants and animals
4. Natural disasters and human activities (Bushfires, droughts, landslides, storms, setting fire to forests.)	Forests are destroyed
5. Breeding of invasive species of plants and animals	Danger to endemic species
6. Climatic changes	Many species of flora and fauna are threatened with extinction