

GRADE 11 GEOGRAPHY

LESSON 2

NATURAL RESOURCES OF SRI LANKA



NATURAL RESOURCES OF SRI LANKA

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Things that are found in the natural environment which are required for the existence of man and his activities are called natural resources. Sri Lanka is rich with natural resources.

The exact land area of Sri Lanka includes not only the land but a part of the ocean too. An International Law was implemented on the 16th of November 1994 which helps to decide the ownership of maritime boundary in a country. According to that each coastal state owns a maritime boundary less than twelve nautical miles from the coast.

1.1 Maritime boundaries

1. Ocean

1. Territorial Maritime Boundary

- ⊕ Every coastal state owns a maritime boundary less than 12 nautical miles (22.02km) from the coast called the “Territorial Maritime Boundary”.

- ⊕ The air, sea and all internal resources of that boundary belongs to Sri Lanka.
- ⊕ It is very useful for the fishing and tourist industries.

2. Contiguous Zone

- ⊕ The zone between 12 – 24 Nautical miles is called the “Contiguous Zone”.
- ⊕ The government has the right to punish and take actions against the violation of laws in customs, fishing, migrations and sanitary laws within this zone.

3. Exclusive Economic Zone

- ⊕ The zone between 24 – 200 Nautical miles is called the “Exclusive Economic Zone”.
- ⊕ Living and nonliving natural resources, the sea bed and the water particles of that belongs to Sri Lanka.



Historic waters

Mannar strait, Palk strait, Bay of Bengal which belong to Historic waters (Internal waters) are divided between Sri Lanka and India by an agreement. All activities in this zone are taken place with the agreement of both parties.

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Natural
Resources of Sri Lanka

2. Land

- The land area of Sri Lanka is 65610 km².
- It includes the islands like Mannar, Delft, Punkudutivu, Nainativu, Kachchativu, Mandativu etc. around it.



- Land utilization means the different types of uses obtain through the land by man.
- There are several main zones in Sri Lanka with a significant variation of the physical features of the land and the specific features pertaining to

Example-

- Coastal area - Fishing industry / Tourist industry
- Dry zone - Crop cultivation / Irrigation
- Urban areas - Industrial and service centers / housing schemes / Developed road systems
- Rural areas - Dispersed settlements / gardens / mining
- Hilly areas - Terraced cultivation / tea cultivation / reservoirs

Problems related to utilization of land in Sri Lanka and methods of conservation of land



Problems related to utilization of land

- Intensification of soil erosion due to clearance of slopes.
- Destruction of forests and wildlife.
- Destruction of coastal eco systems.
- Destruction of wetlands.
- Damages to the natural beauty of the environment.
- Destruction of biodiversity.
- Drying of water springs.
- Lack of drinking water.
- Spread of diseases due to wastelands.
- Intensification of floods.
- Intensification of landslides.
- Air pollution due to set fire to forests.
- Illegal constructions.
- Filling of reservoirs.

Methods of conservation of land

- Planning of land utilization policies
- Use new protective cultivation methods such as 'SALT'.
- Set for alternative employments.
- Establishment of natural reserves.
- Establishment of wildlife reserves.
- Banning removal of coral and limestone.
- Regularizing law.
- Replanting forests.
- Cultivation of environmental friendly crops.