

Introduction of Our Forests



Introduction

A forest is a very large uncultivated piece of land which

- is densely covered with various types of herbs shrubs trees told classes creepers and climbers at certain places in a forest trees are so thick that the sunlight barely reaches the forest floor
- Provides home for many different birds, animals, insects, warms, reptiles and microbes.

Due to different climatic conditions there are variations in the types of trees and plants in forests.

The types of animals also differ from forest to forest.



Forest Animals and Their Habitats

Forests are the habitat of a large number of different kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, etc.

- Animals like bear, bison, jackals, deer, porcupine, elephants, etc. live in the deeper areas of the forests.
- Monkeys, bats and the birds live on trees.
- Reptiles such as snakes regal on the ground or live in burrows in the soil.
- Spiders, beetles and grubs live on the forest floor.



Structure of a Forest

The plants (trees, shrubs and herbs) make different layers in the forest which are described below:

1. Canopy: The uppermost branches and leaves of tall trees which act as a roof over the forest ground is called canopy. It is the highest layer of vegetation in the forest. The branch part of a tree above the stem is known as the crown of the tree.

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2. Understory: The different horizontal layers formed due to different types of crowns in the forest is called understory. The constituents of understory can be described as follows:

(i) Top layer: It constitutes the giant and tall trees followed by shrubs and tall grasses.

(ii) Shrub layer: It has many shrubs and bushes of approximately 1-2 metres of height from the forest floor. It makes dense layer at some places of forest where enough sunlight is present.

(iii) Herb layer: It just below the shrub layer occurs the herb layer of plants. It is the lowest layer of vegetation in the forest (having leafy plants). Most of the plants in herb layer have short lifespan.

(iv) Forest floor: Plants found here are as small as mosses, liverworts, lichens. It has many kinds of insects, worms, toad stool, etc. Most of the forest floor is covered with dead and decaying plant matter, and animal waste.