

Introduction to the Geography of India

You have read about many regions and countries of the world. Make a list of them.

Did you feel that all of them resembled each other? In what ways did they differ?

Write the names of the countries or regions that have the following characteristics:

1. *Six months day and six months night in a year* _____
2. *Heavy rain and warmth throughout the year* _____
3. *Different seasons of winter and summer in the year* _____
4. *Equatorial dense forests* _____
5. *Treeless region* _____
6. *Coniferous trees with needle-like leaves* _____
7. *Light drizzle throughout the year* _____
8. *Terraced fields for farming/step cultivation* _____
9. *Sheep-rearing* _____
10. *Plains of hard, dry grass* _____
11. *Plains of soft, juicy grass* _____
12. *Agriculture with small machines* _____
13. *Mineral oil* _____
14. *Most of the population working in industry* _____
15. *Mines of gold, diamond, chrome etc.* _____
16. *Agriculture with big machines on big farms* _____

Now that you know something about different regions of the world, let's study the different regions of our own country in greater depth.

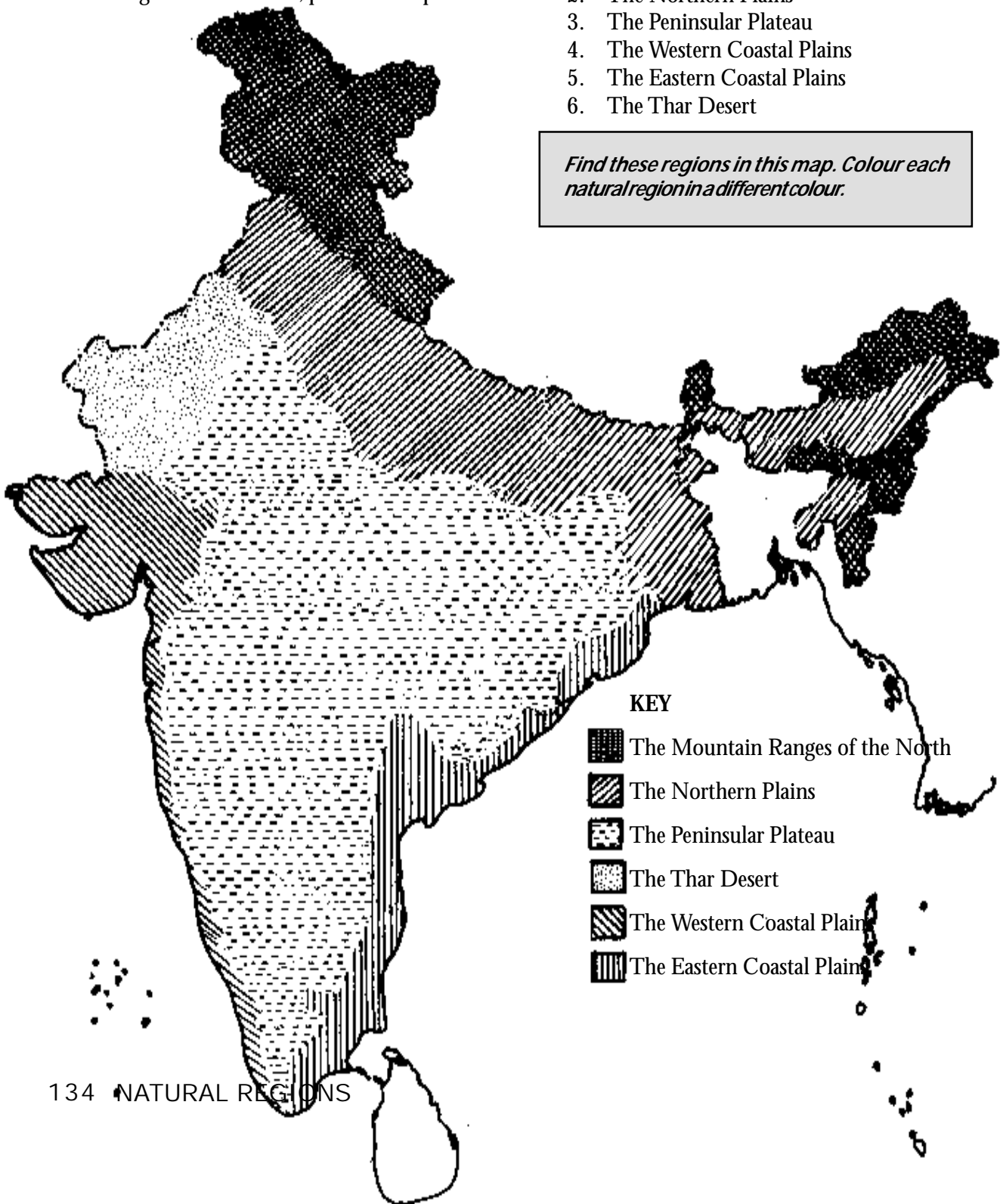
The Natural Regions of India

India is a vast country with a lot of variation between different regions. You already know that in terms of natural land forms, there are three kinds of regions - mountains, plateaus and plains.

Based on these physical land forms, we can divide India into the following regions :

1. The Mountain Ranges of the North
2. The Northern Plains
3. The Peninsular Plateau
4. The Western Coastal Plains
5. The Eastern Coastal Plains
6. The Thar Desert

Find these regions in this map. Colour each natural region in a different colour.



KEY

-  The Mountain Ranges of the North
-  The Northern Plains
-  The Peninsular Plateau
-  The Thar Desert
-  The Western Coastal Plain
-  The Eastern Coastal Plain

Find a map showing the present states of India in your atlas. Get a political outline map of India showing the state boundaries and colour the states in different colours.

Look at the political outline map and physical features map of India in your atlas. Compare the two and answer the following questions:

- a) In which states do you find the Mountain Ranges of the North?*
- b) In which states do you find the Northern Plains?*
- c) In which states do you find the Thar Desert?*
- d) In which states do you find the Peninsular Plateau?*
- e) In which states do you find the Eastern Coastal Plains?*
- f) In which states do you find the Western Coastal Plains?*

To get to know these natural regions well, get a plastic 3-D map of India's natural regions and study it.

Take a look at all the different thematic maps of India in your atlas. We will be referring to these maps as we study the different regions of India in the chapters that follow.

How many thematic maps are given in your atlas? For each thematic map that you find, tell what is the theme of the map.

Sort all the thematic maps that you find into a few broad themes and make a list of all the broad themes that you have found.

*Here's an interesting question:
What is the minimum number of colours you need to be sure that no two states that share a common border will be the same colour?*