

Social Science

Resources and Development



**Textbook in
Geography for Class VIII**



**राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING**

ISBN 978-81-7450-816-4

First Edition

February 2008 Magha 1929

Reprinted

February 2009 Magha 1930
January 2010 Pausa 1931
January 2011 Magha 1932
January 2012 Magha 1933
November 2012 Kartika 1934
November 2013 Kartika 1935
November 2014 Agrahayana 1936
December 2015 Pausa 1937
December 2016 Pausa 1938
December 2017 Agrahayana 1939
January 2019 Pausa 1940
September 2019 Bhadrapada 1941

PD 570T RPS

© National Council of Educational
Research and Training, 2008

₹ 60.00

Printed on 80 GSM paper with NCERT
watermark

Published at the Publication Division
by the Secretary, National Council of
Educational Research and Training, Sri
Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110 016 and
printed at Raj Printers, A-9, Sector B-2,
Tronica City Industrial Area, Loni, District
Ghaziabad - 201 102 (U.P.)

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

- ❑ No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher.
- ❑ This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise disposed of without the publisher's consent, in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published.
- ❑ The correct price of this publication is the price printed on this page. Any revised price indicated by a rubber stamp or by a sticker or by any other means is incorrect and should be unacceptable.

**OFFICES OF THE PUBLICATION
DIVISION, NCERT**

NCERT Campus
Sri Aurobindo Marg
New Delhi 110 016 Phone : 011-26562708

108, 100 Feet Road
Hosdakere Halli Extension
Banashankari III Stage
Bangalore 560 085 Phone : 080-26725740

Navjivan Trust Building
P.O. Navjivan
Ahmedabad 380 014 Phone : 079-27541446

CWC Campus
Opp. Dhankal Bus Stop
Panihati
Kolkata 700 114 Phone : 033-25530454

CWC Complex
Maligaon
Guwahati 781 021 Phone : 0361-2674869

Publication Team

Head, Publication Division : M. Siraj Anwar
Chief Editor : Shveta Uppal
Chief Production Officer : Arun Chitkara
Chief Business Manager : Bibash Kumar Das
Editor : R.N. Bhardwaj
Assistant Production Officer : Deepak Jaiswal

Cover, Layout and Illustrations

Blue Fish

Cartography

Cartographic Designs Agency



FOREWORD

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005, recommends that children's life at school must be linked to their life outside the school. This principle marks a departure from the legacy of bookish learning which continues to shape our system and causes a gap between the school, home and community. The syllabi and textbooks developed on the basis of NCF signify an attempt to implement this basic idea. They also attempt to discourage rote learning and the maintenance of sharp boundaries between different subject areas. We hope these measures will take us significantly further in the direction of a child-centred system of education outlined in the National Policy on Education (1986).

The success of this effort depends on the steps that school principals and teachers will take to encourage children to reflect on their own learning and to pursue imaginative activities and questions. We must recognise that, given space, time and freedom, children generate new knowledge by engaging with the information passed on to them by adults. Treating the prescribed textbook as the sole basis of examination is one of the key reasons why other resources and sites of learning are ignored. Inculcating creativity and initiative is possible if we perceive and treat children as participants in learning, not as receivers of a fixed body of knowledge.

These aims imply considerable change in school routines and mode of functioning. Flexibility in the daily time-table is as necessary as rigour in implementing the annual calendar so that the required number of teaching days are actually devoted to teaching. The methods used for teaching and evaluation will also determine how effective this textbook proves for making children's life at school a happy experience, rather than a source of stress or boredom. Syllabus designers have tried to address the problem of curricular burden by restructuring and reorienting knowledge at different stages with greater consideration for child psychology and the time available for teaching. The textbook attempts to enhance this endeavour by giving higher priority and space to opportunities for contemplation and wondering, discussion in small groups, and activities requiring hands-on experience.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) appreciates the hard work done by the textbook development committee responsible for this book. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the advisory committee for textbooks in Social Sciences, at the upper primary level, Professor Hari Vasudevan and the Chief Advisor for this book, Vibha Parthasarathi, for guiding the work of this committee. Several teachers

contributed to the development of this textbook; we are grateful to their principals for making this possible. We are indebted to the institutions and organisations which have generously permitted us to draw upon their resources, material and personnel. We are especially grateful to the members of the National Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Chairpersonship of Professor Mrinal Miri and Professor G.P. Deshpande, for their valuable time and contribution. As an organisation committed to systemic reform and continuous improvement in the quality of its products, NCERT welcomes comments and suggestions which will enable us to undertake further revision and refinement.

New Delhi
30 November 2007

Director
National Council of Educational
Research and Training



TEXTBOOK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON, ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TEXTBOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE UPPER PRIMARY LEVEL

Hari Vasudevan, Professor, Department of History, University of Calcutta, Kolkata

CHIEF ADVISOR

Vibha Parthasarathi, Principal (Retd.), Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, New Delhi

MEMBERS

Anindita Datta, Lecturer, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi

Anshu, Reader, Kirorimal College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Aparna Pandey, Lecturer, DESSH, NCERT, New Delhi

Bhagirathy Jhingran, TGT, Pathways World School, Gurgaon

Meera Hoon, TGT, Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

Punam Behari, Vice Principal, Miranda House, University of Delhi, Delhi

Samita Dasgupta, PGT, Anandalaya, Anand, Gujarat

Srinivasan K., TGT, Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore

Syamala Srivatsa, TGT, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, New Delhi

MEMBER-COORDINATOR

Tannu Malik, Lecturer, Department of Education in Social Sciences and Humanities, NCERT, New Delhi



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Council of Educational Research and Training acknowledges the contributions of Pramila Kumar, Professor (Retd), Bhopal and Shipra Nair, Darjiling in the development of this textbook.

Acknowledgements are also due to Savita Sinha, Professor and Head, Department of Education in Social Sciences and Humanities, NCERT, for her valuable support at every stage of preparation of this textbook.

The Council is also grateful to the individuals and organisations as listed below for providing various photographs, illustrations and activities used in this textbook: Anshu, Reader, Kirorimal College, Delhi for Figs. 2.5, 2.15 and 4.14; Srinivasan K., TGT, Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore for picture of varieties of maize on page 45; Krishan Sheoran from Austria for Fig. 2.1; Mohammad Aslam, Learning Touch, New Delhi for Fig. 4.4; R.C. Das, CIET, NCERT for Figs. 2.8, 2.10 and picture of bamboo on page 50; Nimisha Kapoor for the photographs of the windmill, children and the potter on the cover; Blue Fish for Fig. 1.1 and a picture of a notebook on page 50; National Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs for pictures of retention wall, Union Carbide Factory and rescue operation in Gao Qiao on page 12, 53 and 54 respectively; Department of Industry, Government of Bihar for Figs. 4.5, 4.6, 4.13 and 5.1; Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, I.A.R.I Campus, New Pusa, New Delhi for Figs. 2.9, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11 and 4.14; Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India for Figs. 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.16, 2.17, 2.18 and 2.19 and a picture of a vulture on page 18; Ministry of Coal, Government of India for Figs. 3.1 and 3.10; Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India for Fig. 3.15; COMFED, Patna for Fig. 5.2; Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for Figs. 3.7, 3.13 and 3.16; Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited for Figs. 3.4 and 3.11; ITDC/Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for Fig. 3.9; Social Science Textbook for Class VIII, Part II (NCERT, 2005) for Figs. 2.6, 2.7, 4.7, 4.8, 4.12, 4.16, 4.17, 4.18 and a picture of landslide on page 12; The Times of India, Hindustan Times and Indian Express for news in a collage on page 20; Arvind Gupta, IUCAA, Pune for an activity of solar worker on page 34 and Kushal Sharma, Reader, Kirorimal College, New Delhi for a case study of landslide on page 12.

The Council also gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Uttam Kumar, Anil Sharma and Moqaddas Azam, DTP Operators; Ajay Singh, Satish Jha, Copy Editors and Dinesh Kumar, Incharge, Computer Station who have helped in giving a final shape to this textbook. The contribution of the Publication Department, NCERT is also duly acknowledged.



CONTENTS

Foreword	iii
Chapter 1 Resources	1 – 6
Chapter 2 Land, Soil, Water, Natural Vegetation and Wildlife Resources	7 – 21
Chapter 3 Mineral and Power Resources	22 – 37
Chapter 4 Agriculture	38 – 47
Chapter 5 Industries	48 – 61
Chapter 6 Human Resources	62 – 71

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a ¹**[SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC]** and to secure to all its citizens :

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the ²[unity and integrity of the Nation];

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949 do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

1. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)
2. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)