Greenland: The land of ice and snow

Greenland on map and globe......
* The Arctic Circle/Zone (66½°N) is the world’s coldest region.

* No trees grow in this part of the world.

* Land and water remain covered with thick sheets of ice.

* The northern part of the North America, Europe and Russia of the Arctic zone is called the Tundra Region.
* Greenland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean.

* Most of the Greenland falls in the Tundra Region, north of the Arctic Circle.

* It is the world’s largest island.

* Godthab now called Nuuk, "The tip", is the capital and largest city of Greenland.

* Greenland belongs to Denmark.

* About 95% of this island remains covered with thick ice all the year round.
* It is a long journey from Mumbai to Greenland by sea.

* We have to go through the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal and then Mediterranean Sea—Atlantic Ocean.

* After a long voyage, we reach the southern tip of Greenland.

* **There are huge blocks of ice floating in the sea called as icebergs.**

* There is a dense fog over here.

* 90% of an iceberg remains hidden in the water in the ocean/sea.

  - Due to this it is very dangerous for the ships.

**Titanic**

* It was the biggest ship of its time.

* On the night of **14-15 April 1912**, it struck against an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic Ocean.

* **1513 lives were lost.**
**Land Surface:**

* It is a low plateau surrounded by coastal mountains.

* These mountains are always covered with thick snow.
  
  - These ice coverings are called as Ice Cap.

**Climate:**

* Winter season is too long in Greenland which last nearly nine to ten months.
  
  - It is extremely cold during this season.
  
  - Darkness and cold are the main features in this season.
  
  - Snow falls and chilly winds blow at a speed of 150 km per hour.

* Summer lasts for only two to three months. During this season-
  
  - There is continuous daylight.
  
  - The sun can be seen even at midnight.

* Due to this, Greenland and Norway also called as the ‘Land of Midnight Sun’.
Vegetation:-

* The name is only Greenland.

* **There is nothing green in Greenland.**

* The whole land is covered with ice.

* One has to wear sunglasses to protect the eyes from the white ice glare.

* **It never rains in Greenland,** only snow fall occurs.

* No plants or vegetation grows in such climate- (winter climate)

* During short summer, some beautiful flowers, short grasses and lichen can be seen in the south-west part of Greenland.

* Birches and willow trees can also be seen in some of the part.
Wildlife:-

* Greenland is rich in wildlife.

* The animals which can bear extreme cold can be seen in this region.

* It includes-

Musk ox, polar bear, the lemming, the reindeer, the ermine, the Arctic fox, the Arctic tern and the hare.

* Near coast, lots of fish, seals and whales are found which are hunt by the people for the food.

* Huskies plays important role in the life of people over here.
Life of the people:  

* The people of Greenland are called Greenlanders.  

* Most of the people are from Eskimo origin which belongs to North America.  

* Their body features shows  
  - Short thick body.  
  - Short arms and legs.  
  - Slanting eyes set in wide, flat faces.  

* They are very hardy people.
Clothes: Wearing such clothes that can protect them from the biting cold.

- Wearing long leather shoes.
- Double set of trousers.
- Wearing coats that are made up of animal fur.
- Hood is attached to this coat cover their head.
- Hoods attached to the coats of women are bigger.
- All the peoples wearing same clothes.

The Eskimo Houses: Igloos
* Eskimos don’t have permanent homes.

- During winter, they are building houses (Igloos) with wonderful skills to protect themselves from the extreme cold.
- Not using any building material.
- Houses are made of snow itself.
- Hardly takes few hours to build.

* In summer, Eskimos are living in skin tent.

**Hunting:**

* Eskimos main occupation is hunting.

* Their main hunting weapon is harpoon.

  - It is a spear with a rope attached to it.
- Used for catching whales and large fish.
- It can be thrown by hand or fired from the gun.
- The hunted animal can be pulled back with the help of rope attached to it.

* Eskimos hunting polar bears and hares on land.

  - Even they hunt animals like seals, walruses and big fish on sea.

* Eskimos are using all the parts of the animals they hunt.

  - They eat the meat.
  - They use the skin to make clothes, tents and boats.
  - Fat used to make oil.
  - Bones are used to make tools and boats.
  - Blood is used to make a kind of soup.

**The Eskimo Boats and Sledges:**

* Eskimos are using a boat called Kayak.*
- It is a small boat made of seal skin.
- The frame of the boat is made of bones.
- It is used for hunting sea animals.

* For the transportation, they are using sledge.

* On land, sledge is their chief means of transport.
  - It is a wheelless cart.
  - Used for carrying their loads.
  - Used for bringing hunted animals to their homes.
  - Huskies and reindeers are used to pull the sledges.

**The Modern Eskimos:**

Now, they have made great changes their life style.

- They have learnt the art of cooking. Earlier they were eating raw meat.

- They are getting tinned vegetables and milk from other parts of the world.

- Instead of Igloos, they have started living in pucca houses which are made of wood or stone.

- Instead of harpoon, they are using guns to hunt fishes and seals.

- Now they are using motor sledges.

- Earlier they were living like nomads. Now they have started living and working in cities and towns.
- Earlier they were uneducated, now they are sending their children to school.