

A Climate

On a journey from north to south across this huge region, you would pass through a fascinating series of hot tropic landscapes. Plenty of rain falls in the far south, whereas the **arid**¹ northerly region is **prone to**² serious **drought**³. (*West Africa*)

- ¹ dry
- ² tending to have a particular negative characteristic
- ³ period without rain

B Vegetation

About one third of the landscape of Canada lies within the Arctic Circle and can remain frozen for up to nine months of the year. In these cold areas, known as the **tundra**¹, any **vegetation**² is limited. However, further south, large areas of land are covered by dense, **coniferous**³ forests, known as taiga. Towards the border with the USA lie the mixed, temperate forests and the grasslands of the **prairies**⁴. (*Canada*)

- ¹ area in north with no trees and permanently frozen ground
- ² plant life
- ³ trees that are evergreen [green all year round] and produce cones, unlike deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in winter
- ⁴ flat grasslands in Canada and northern USA (similar to steppes in Asia or pampas in South America)

C Agriculture

In the south the main crop is rice, though tea, cotton, fruit and vegetables are also grown. The rice is planted in flooded **paddy fields**¹. Two crops of rice and one of vegetables are harvested in a good year. In the north and west, which is drier and hillier, farmers grow a single crop of cereals² and **tend**³ sheep and cattle. (*China*)

- ¹ fields planted with rice growing in water
- ² type of grass cultivated to produce a grain, i.e. a food plant like rice, wheat or maize
- ³ take care of animals

D Industry

One of the world's leading industrial nations, France has large **manufacturing**¹, steel and chemical industries and stands **at the forefront**² of engineering and technology. The country is a major producer of cars and aircraft. France has a large nuclear industry which **generates**³ about 75 per cent of the country's electrical power. (*France*)

- ¹ producing goods in large numbers
- ² in an important position
- ³ produces

E Population

THE POPULATION of Brazil is a mixture of peoples. Some are descended from¹ native Indians who have always lived in Brazil, others from the Portuguese who ruled there for 300 years. Many Brazilians have African ancestors² who were brought over in the 17th century to work as slaves on sugar plantations. During the 20th century large numbers of European migrants³ settled⁴ in the south. (*Brazil*)

- ¹ are related to
- ² relatives from earlier times: we are our ancestors' descendants
- ³ people who move to live in another country (an emigrant is someone who leaves a country and an immigrant is someone who moves to live in a country – emigrants from Britain currently outnumber immigrants coming to live here)
- ⁴ made their homes

Exercises

33.1 Some of the expressions from the opposite page are strong collocations. Match them.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1 coniferous | plantation |
| 2 industrial | industry |
| 3 paddy | forest |
| 4 chemical | field |
| 5 sugar | nation |

33.2 Here are some other words which collocate with the words in the right-hand column in exercise 33.1. There are three for each of the above five words. Can you find them?

coffee	deciduous	dense	civilised	manufacturing
oil	pharmaceutical	rain	ripe	rubber
tea	textile	wheat	independent	sovereign

33.3 Complete the sentences using a word from the box.

descendants	ancestors	migrants	emigrants	immigrants
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- I believe my came to Britain from France in the 17th century.
- Many left Russia for France after the Revolution in 1917.
- The USA has traditionally welcomed from all over the world.
- Our largest cities are full of looking for work and a better life.
- Some Scots are said to be the of 16th century Spanish sailors shipwrecked off the Scottish coast.

33.4 Use the words in brackets to complete each sentence. Then decide which country each sentence refers to. The countries you need are given in the box below the exercise.

- About 80% of the lives in or around cities along the where life is easier than in the towns and farms of the
(coast, outback, population, remote)
- 400 years ago it was the of the Inca that the of South America.
(centre, length, stretched, Empire)
- Two thirds of the is under water but so, because the are to grow rice.
(flooded, deliberately, farmland, fields)
- To the of a long, narrow more than a hundred islands the rest of the
(country, east, make up, peninsula)
- Much of the land is, dotted with, but parts of the are more
(coastline, desert, fertile, oases)
- A line of, many still, dominates the of this small country and, once rich with cedar, mahogany and oak, have been cut down for farmland.
(active, forests, landscape, volcanoes)

Oman	Vietnam	Peru	Australia	El Salvador	Denmark
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