

Weathering is the gradual disintegration of rocks by the combined action of exogenic and endogenic forces of earth

Weathering elements include wind, temperature, rainfall, frost, fog, ice etc...

Weathering contributes significantly to soil formation

Various processes of weathering helps in producing different colours and properties of soil

### 1) Physical Weathering

disintegration of rocks without any chemical change

#### 1. Block disintegration

disintegration of rocks by expansion and contraction of the rocks due to temperature variations

high diurnal range of temperature causes successive expansion and contraction of the rocks

#### 2. Exfoliation

peeling of rocks due to intense heating of outer layers of the rock

#### 3. Frost Action

water into freezing and melting of water inside the joints of the rocks, splits them into fragments

### 2) Chemical Weathering

change in the rocks through formation of new compounds

Chemical processes include oxidation, hydrolysis, and acid solution

Intensity is variable over the area affected by the earthquake

#### 1. Oxidation

atmospheric oxygen reacts with the rock to produce Oxides

#### 2. Carbonation

removal of rocks through carbonic acid

#### 3. Hydration

absorption of water by the minerals of the rock

volume of the rock increases and the grains lose their shape

#### 4. Solution

dissolution of minerals in water

### 3) Biotic weathering

#### 1. Plants

Plants contribute to both mechanical weathering and chemical weathering

Growth of roots disintegrates the rocks

#### 2. Animals

Hooves of animals break the soil and thus assist soil erosion

Digging animals like earthworms, rats, rabbits, termites and ants breakdown

Earthworms can convert 10 to 15 tonnes of rocks mass into good soil and bring it to surface

#### 3. Man

Man breaks lot of rocks for construction, agriculture and mining activities



Parent  
Rock

Determines colour, chemical  
properties, mineral content and  
permeability

Climate, Temperature  
And Rainfall

Influences rate of weathering  
and formation of humus

Time

Determines the  
thickness of  
soil profile

Soil

Determines  
accumulation of  
soil

Affects the rate of  
humus formation

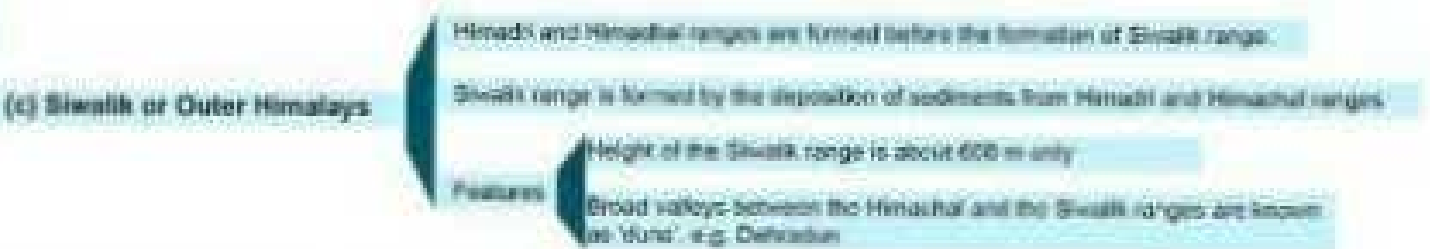
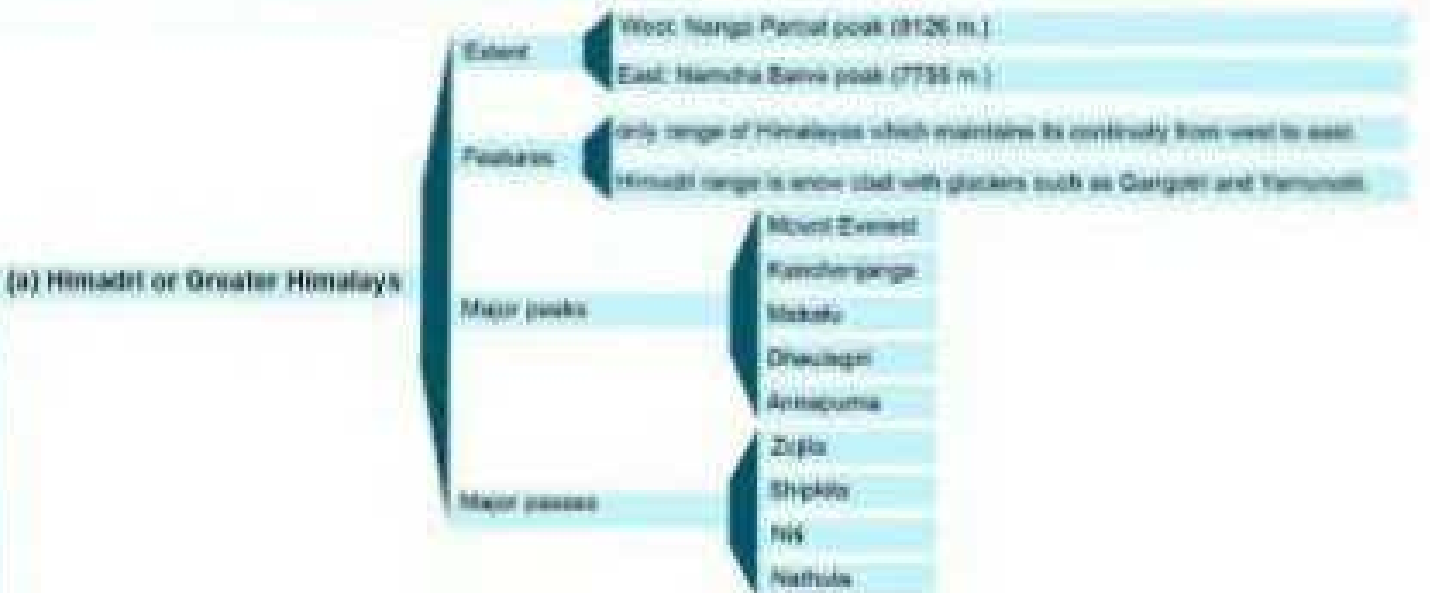
Relief, Altitude and  
Slope

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# The Himalayas

Length: 3500 km from the Indus gorge in Jammu and Kashmir (west) to Brahmaputra gorge in Arunachal Pradesh (east).

Breadth: 400 km in the west to 150 km in the east.





## Soil Erosion

### Definition

Removal of Soil > Replacement by Natural Agencies

### Types

#### 1. Wind Erosion

Winds carry away vast quantity of fine soil particles and sand from deserts

Spread it over adjoining cultivated land and thus destroy fertility

Thar desert is Spreading wind erosion over parts of

Gujrat

Rajasthan

Punjab

Haryana

#### 2. Sheet Erosion

Water when moves as a sheet takes away thin layers of soil

Common along the river beds and areas affected by floods

#### 3. Rill Erosion

Removal of Surface Soil by Running water

#### 4. Gully Erosion

Water moves as Channels down the slop and take away the soil forming gullies

also called Bad lands or Ravines

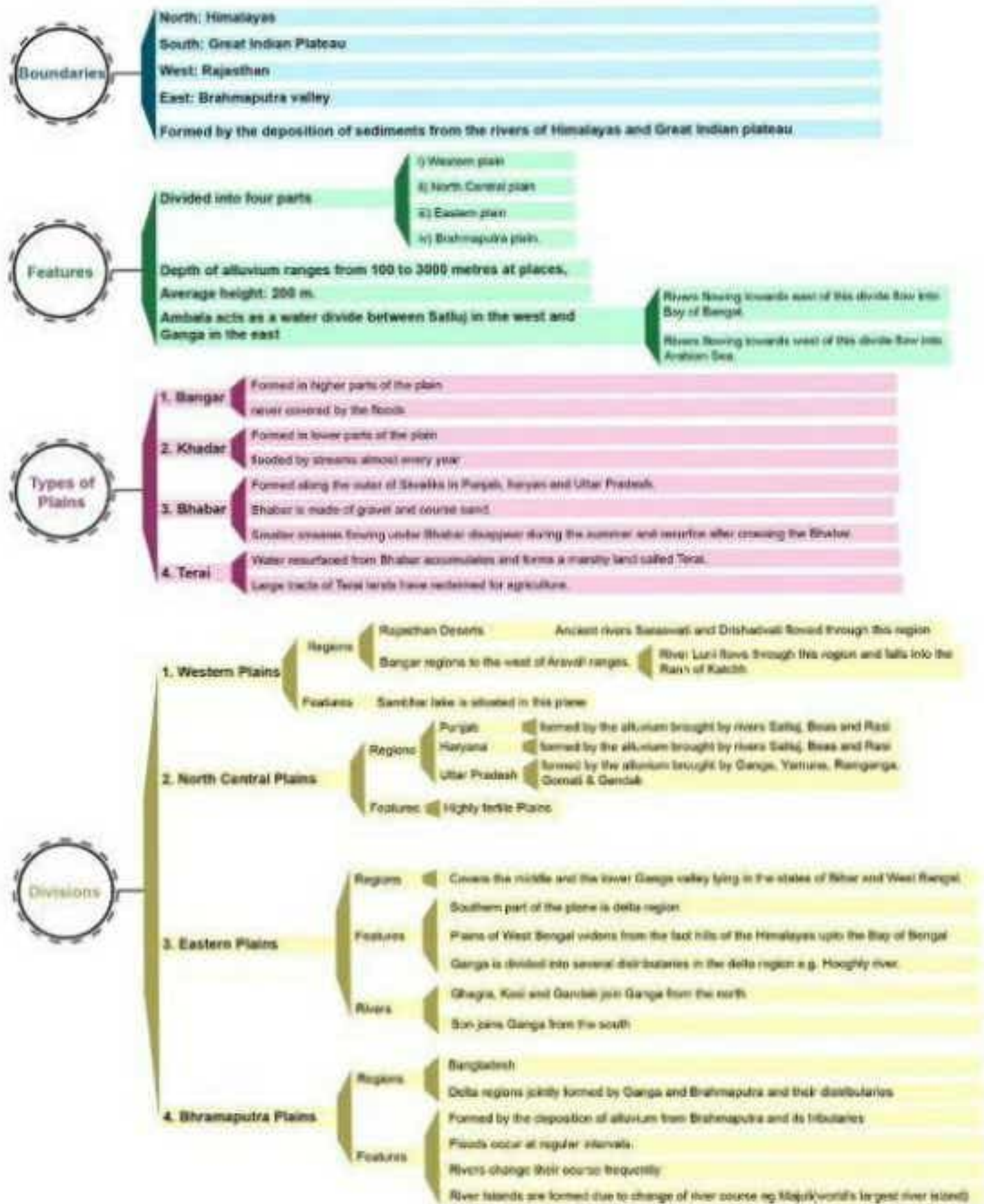
Ravines are Common

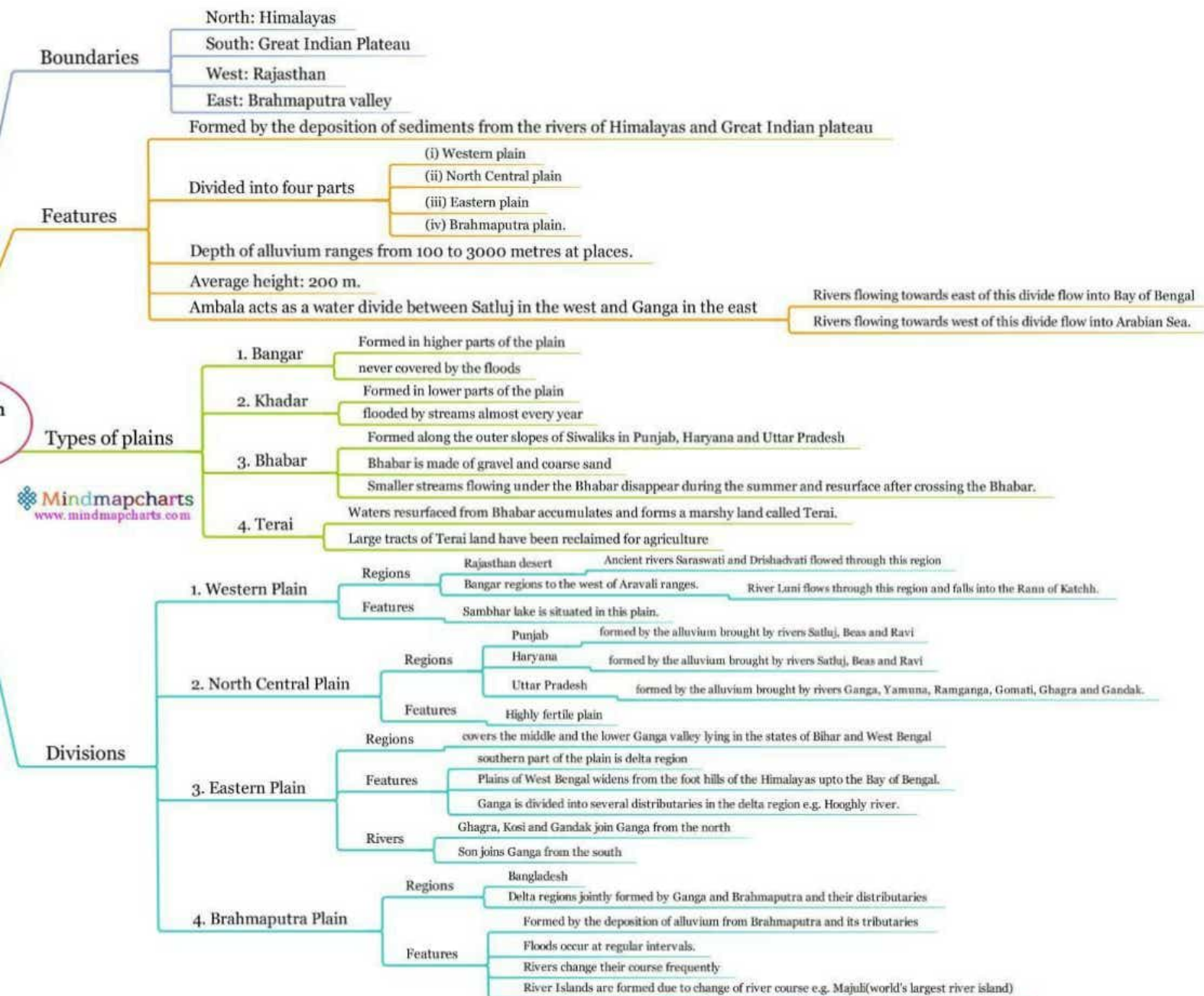
Chambal

Yamuna River basins

IASbaba







# The Himalayas

## Extent

Length: 2500 km from the Indus gorge in Jammu and Kashmir(west) to Brahmaputra gorge in Arunachal Pradesh(east).  
Breadth: 400 km in the west to 150 km in the east

## Ranges

### (a) Himadri or Greater Himalayas

#### Extent

West: Nanga Parbat peak (8126 m.)  
East: Namcha Barwa peak (7756 m.)

#### Features

only range of Himalayas which maintains its continuity from west to east  
Himadri range is snow clad with glaciers such as Gangotri and Yamunotri

#### Major peaks

Mount Everest  
Kanchenjunga  
Makalu  
Dhaulagiri  
Annapurna

#### Major passes

Zaski  
Shipkila  
Niti  
Nathula

### (b) Himachal or Middle Himalayas

Average height varies from 1000 m to 4500 m

#### Features

range is highly dissected and uneven.  
mainly consists of metamorphosed rocks.  
eastern part of this range is covered with dense forests.  
north facing gentle slopes of this range are covered by dense vegetation  
south facing slopes of this range are steep and devoid of any vegetation

#### Local names

Most of the hill stations are located in this range.  
Shimla  
Nainital  
Musouri  
Almora  
Darjeeling  
Pir Panjal in Jammu and Kashmir  
Dhauladhar in Himachal Pradesh

### (c) Siwalik or Outer Himalayas

Himadri and Himachal ranges are formed before the formation of Siwalik range.

Siwalik range is formed by the deposition of sediments from Himadri and Himachal ranges

#### Features

Height of the Siwalik range is about 600 m only  
Broad valleys between the Himachal and the Siwalik ranges are known as 'duns', e.g. Dehradun

## Features

separated by deep valleys and plateaus.

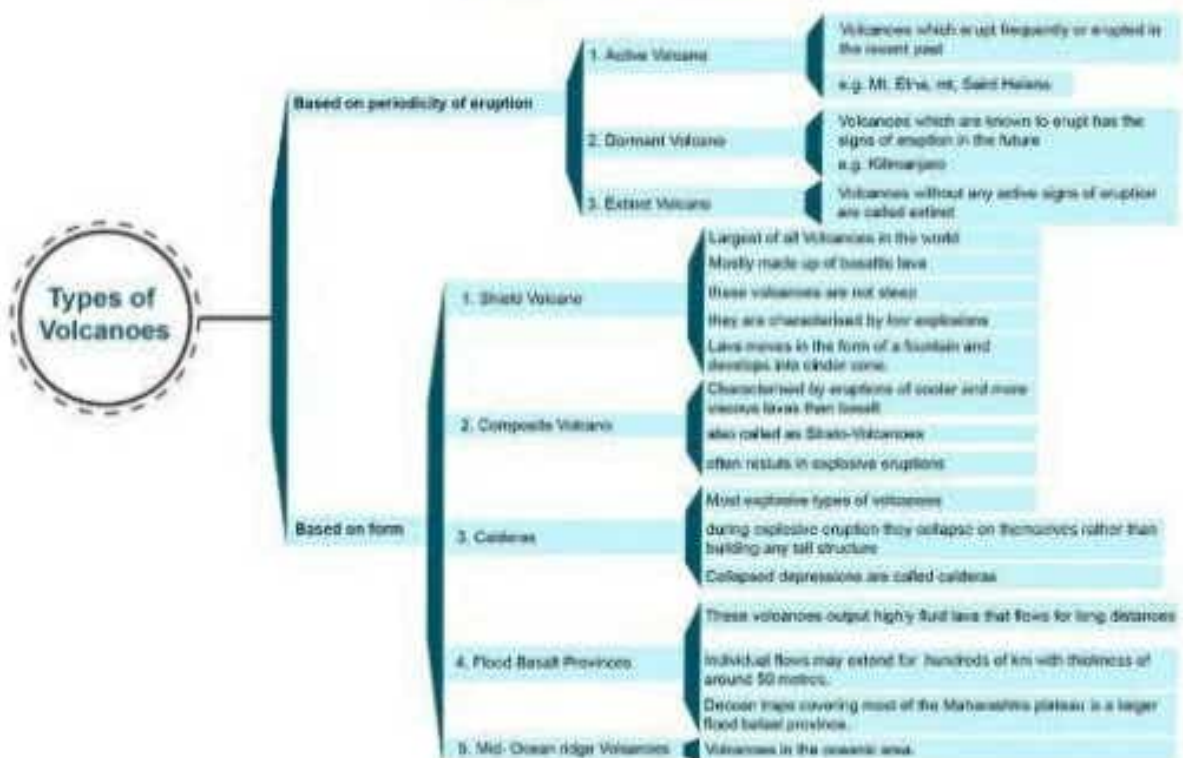
Western Himalayas rise gradually from the plains(peaks are far from the plains)

Eastern Himalayas rise abruptly from the plains of West Bengal and Assam(peaks are close to each other)

Northern slopes of Himalayas facing the Tibet are gentler

Southern slopes of Himalayas facing India are steeper











## Continental Drift

### Facts

Gradual movement and formation of continents

Conceived by German Scientist Alfred Wegener

Indian Sub-Continent has broke away from Gondwanaland during Cretaceous period

### Continental Drift Theory

About 280 million years ago

Super Continent

Pangea

Huge water body

Surrounding

Pangea

Known as

Panthalasa

Pangea

broke into

Laurasia ( Angaraland)

Gondwanaland

Carboniferous

Both drifted away

Shallow Sea Emerged

Tethys Sea

jig-Saw-fit of Continents

Coasts of continents could be fit like JigSaw puzzle

Geological Similarities

Coal and Vegetable evidences

South America, Africa, India and Australia were together in geological past

Evidences from PaleoMagnetism

Study of direction of Magnetic fields in magnetic Materials

Sea floor Spreading

Glacial Deposits

Magnetic minerals in Magma like haematite, Magnetite etc

Get aligned with Magnetic pole of the Earth

### Evidences

IASbaba

## Size

Landmass of India has

- Area: 3.28 million square km.
- Land boundary: 15,200 km.
- Length of coast line: 7,516.6km.
- Standard Meridian: 82°30'E

## India & The World

- Central location between the East & the West Asia.
- Trans Indian Ocean routes connect West European countries & East Asian countries.
- Various passes across northern mountains provided passages to ancient travellers.
- Routes have contributed in the exchange of ideas and commodities.

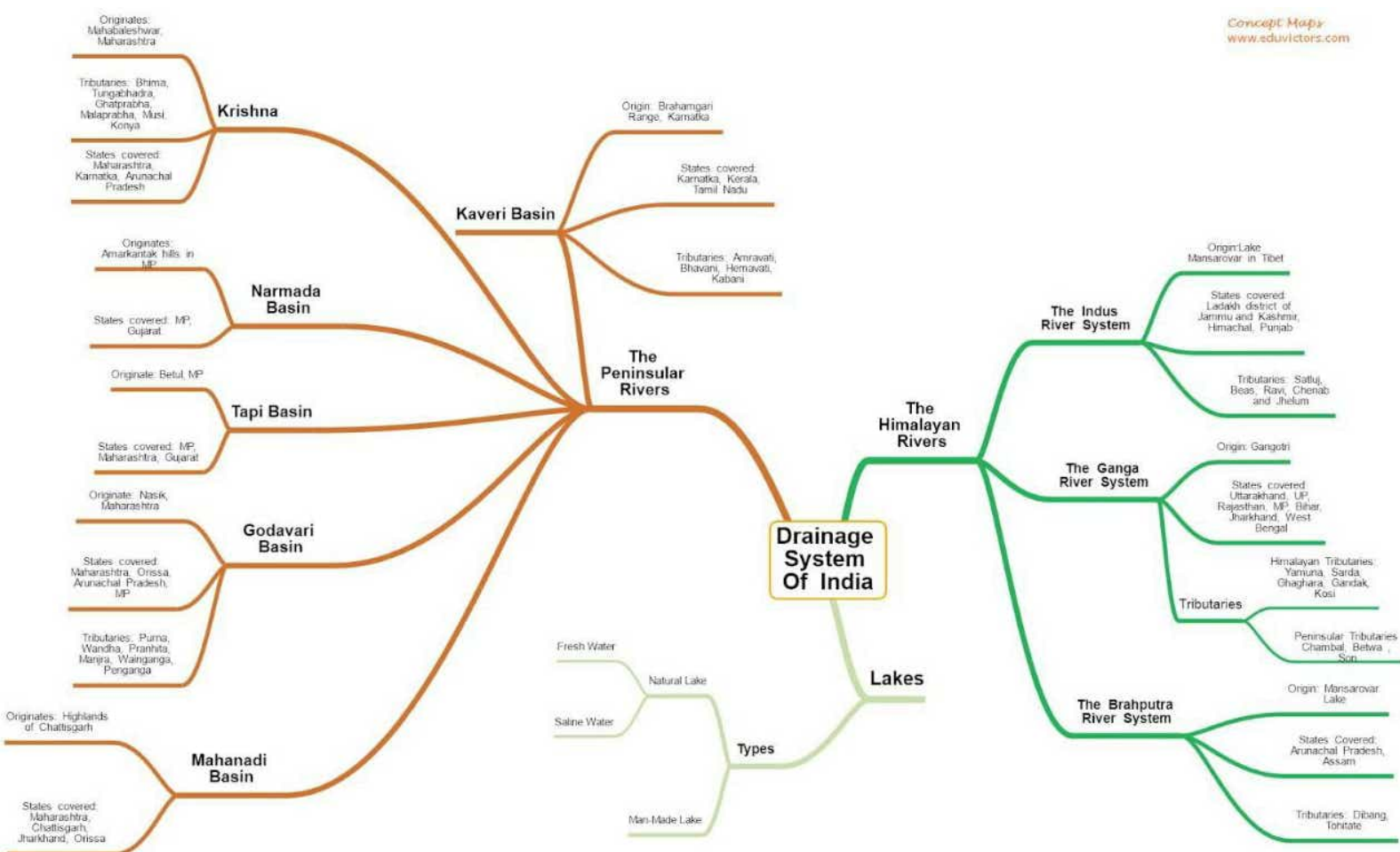
## Location

Northern Hemisphere

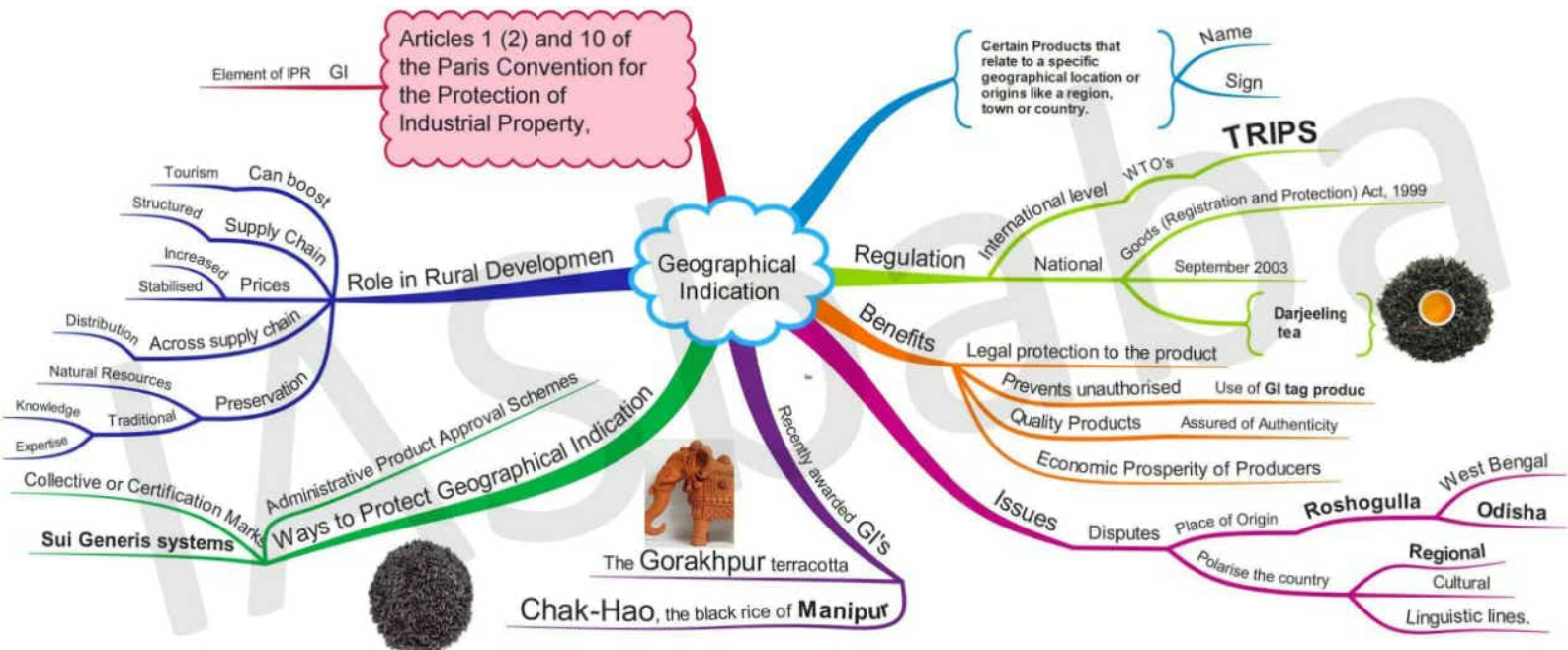
- Latitudes: 8°4'N and 37°6'N
- Longitudes: 68°7'E and 97°25'E

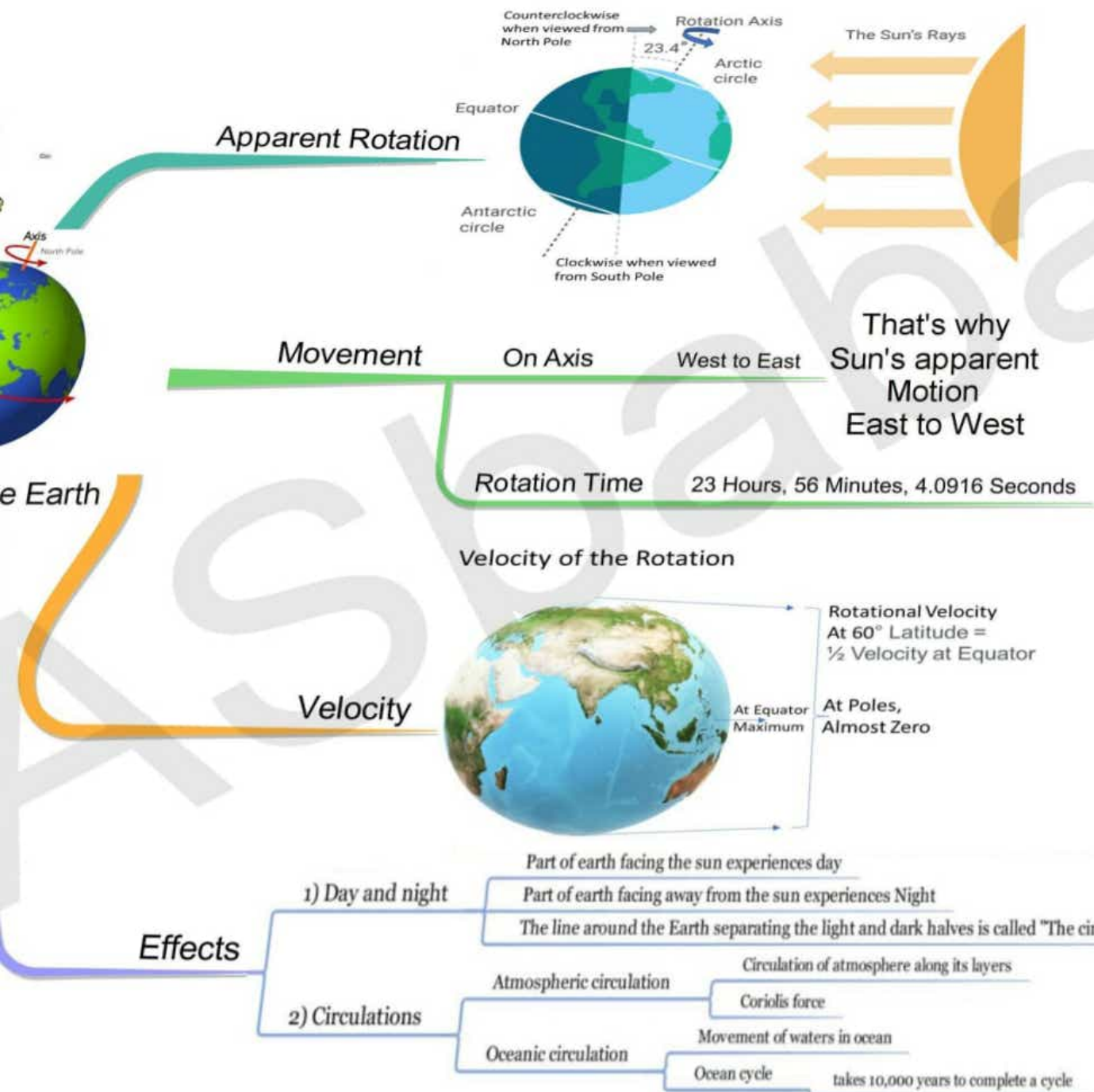
## India's Neighbour

- Pakistan and Afghanistan in the north west.
- China (Tibet), Nepal & Bhutan in the north.
- Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east.
- Southern neighbours are two island countries: Sri Lanka and Maldives
- Sri Lanka is separated by the Palk Strait & the Gulf of Mannar.

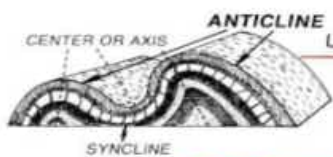
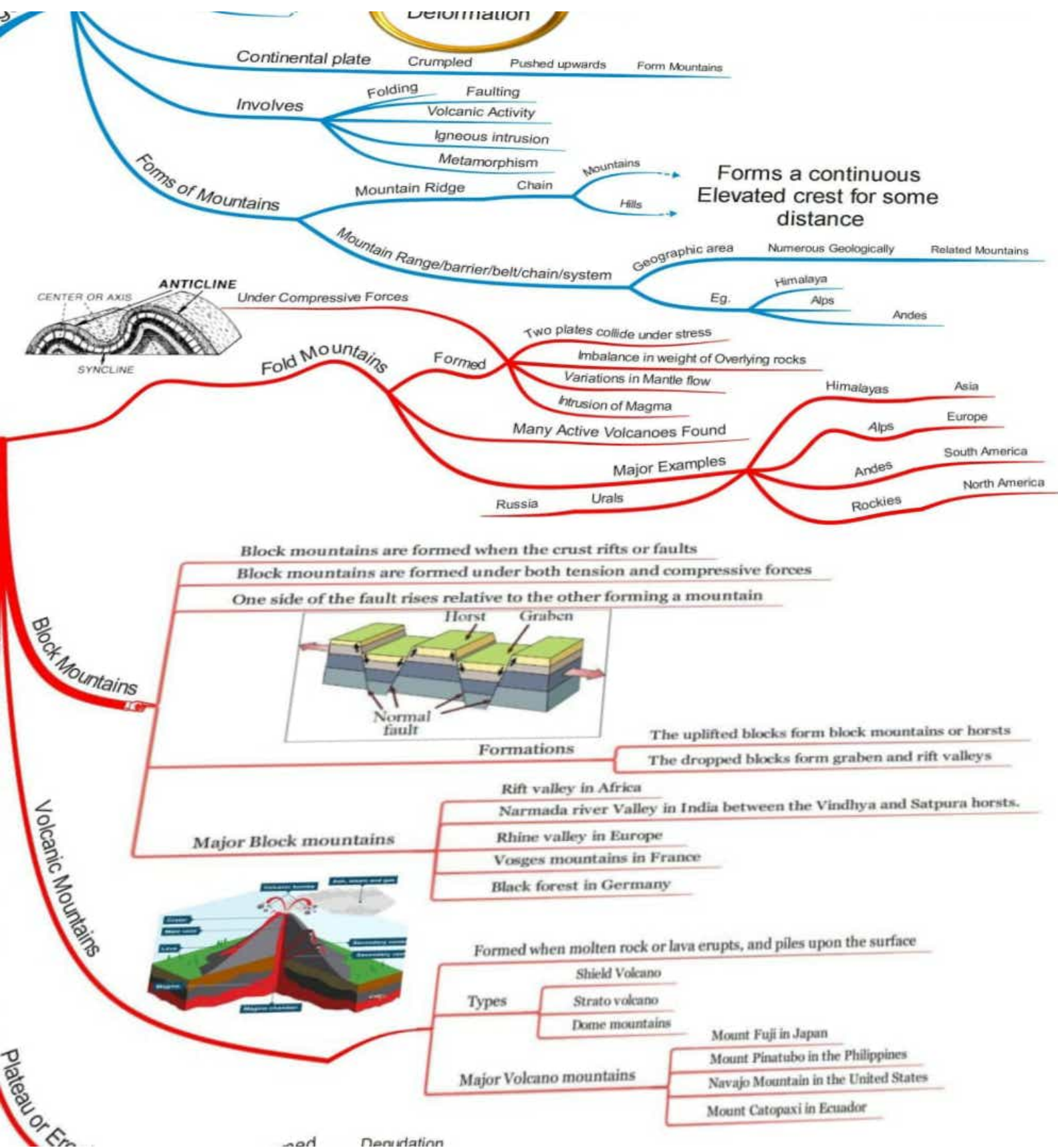












### Fold Mountains

Under Compressive Forces

#### Formed

- Two plates collide under stress
- Imbalance in weight of Overlying rocks
- Variations in Mantle flow
- Intrusion of Magma

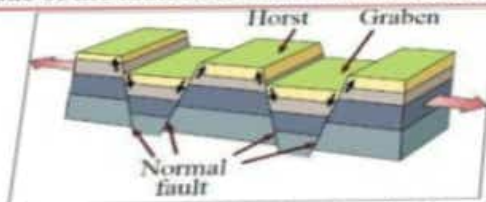
Many Active Volcanoes Found

#### Major Examples

- Himalayas → Asia
- Alps → Europe
- Andes → South America
- Rockies → North America
- Russia
- Urals

### Block Mountains

- Block mountains are formed when the crust rifts or faults
- Block mountains are formed under both tension and compressive forces
- One side of the fault rises relative to the other forming a mountain

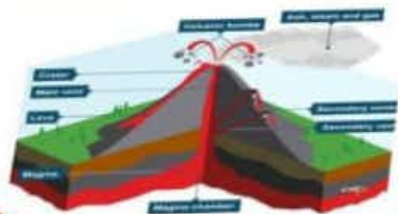


#### Formations

- The uplifted blocks form block mountains or horsts
- The dropped blocks form graben and rift valleys

#### Major Block mountains

- Rift valley in Africa
- Narmada river Valley in India between the Vindhya and Satpura horsts.
- Rhine valley in Europe
- Vosges mountains in France
- Black forest in Germany



Formed when molten rock or lava erupts, and piles upon the surface

#### Types

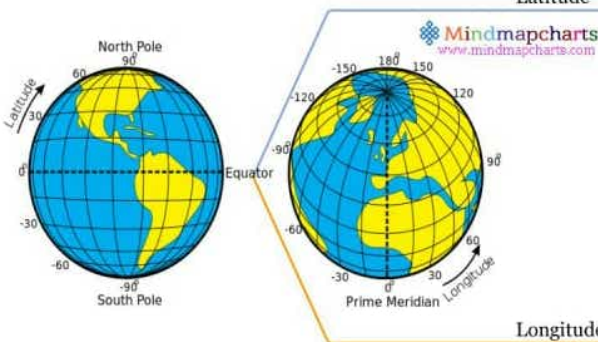
- Shield Volcano
- Strato volcano
- Dome mountains

#### Major Volcano mountains

- Mount Fuji in Japan
- Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines
- Navajo Mountain in the United States
- Mount Catopaxi in Ecuador

### Plateau or Erosion

and Denudation



## Latitude

Latitudes are imaginary lines around the Earth parallel to the equator also called as 'parallels'

- Characteristics**
  - Latitudes gradually decrease in size from the equator(Great circle) towards the pole
  - Degree of latitude is greater at the pole(111.7 km) than at the equator(110.7 km)
  - Latitude of a place is the angular distance measured either north or south from the equator
- Measurements**
  - Distance between the latitudes are constant
  - The length of 60° latitude is half the length of the Equator.
  - The length of 75° latitude is 1/4th of the length of the Equator.

- Important Latitudinal lines**
  - Arctic circle - 66 1/2° N
  - Tropic of cancer - 23 1/2° N
  - Equator - 0° largest of all latitudes also called as zero degree latitude
  - Tropic of Capricorn - 23 1/2° S
  - Antarctic circle - 66 1/2° S

- Sample Calculation**
  - What is the distance 12 degrees north of equator?
  - Solution:  $12 \times 111.044$ (average value of a degree latitude) = 1332.5 km

## Longitude

Longitudes are series of semi-circles passing from north to south direction crossing the equator also known as Meridians

- Characteristics**
  - All meridians are equal in length
  - Meridians extend up to 180° from the east and west of Prime meridian
  - All meridians cross the equator at right angle
  - Degree of longitude is greater at the equator(111.3 km) and decreases gradually towards the Pole(0 km)
- Zero degree meridian or Prime Meridian**
  - Chosen in 1884
  - Prime meridian divides the sphere into two hemispheres
  - Passes through the Royal Astronomical Observatory at Greenwich, London
  - Greenwich Meridian has been adopted internationally as the Standard meridian.
- Measurements**
  - Longitude of a place is the angular distance between a point on any meridian and the prime meridian at Greenwich
  - Longitude of a place is measured either east or west from the Prime meridian
  - Positive longitudes - Longitudes counted west of Prime meridian are called positive longitudes.
  - Negative longitudes - Longitudes counted east of Prime meridian are called negative longitudes.