

Passage:

The Himalayan Range is one of the most awe-inspiring natural wonders on Earth. Stretching over 2,400 kilometers across five countries, it boasts some of the world's tallest peaks, including Mount Everest, the highest point on the planet. But beyond its sheer size and breathtaking beauty, the Himalayas hold a profound significance for the people who call this region home. For centuries, the Himalayas have served as a barrier, separating the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia. This geographical isolation has shaped the unique cultures and traditions of the Himalayan people, fostering a deep sense of community and resilience. Despite the harsh climate and rugged terrain, the inhabitants have adapted to their environment, carving out a way of life that is as diverse as the landscape itself. But the Himalayas are not just a physical barrier; they are also a source of spiritual inspiration. For Hindus and Buddhists alike, the mountains are sacred, believed to be the abode of gods and goddesses. Pilgrims from far and wide make the arduous journey to the Himalayas, seeking enlightenment and inner peace amidst the towering peaks and pristine valleys. In recent years, however, the Himalayas have faced unprecedented challenges. Climate change, deforestation, and rapid urbanization threaten the delicate balance of this fragile ecosystem. Glaciers are melting at an alarming rate, leading to water scarcity and increased risk of natural disasters. The Himalayan communities are on the front lines of these environmental crises, grappling with the consequences of global warming and struggling to

adapt to a rapidly changing world. Despite these challenges, there is hope for the future of the Himalayas. Conservation efforts are underway to protect the region's biodiversity and promote sustainable development. Local communities are working together to find innovative solutions to the pressing issues facing their homeland. And as long as there are people who are willing to fight for the preservation of this natural wonder, the Himalayas will continue to inspire awe and reverence for generations to come.

Questions:

1. What is the geographical significance of the Himalayan Range?
2. How have the Himalayas influenced the cultures and traditions of the people living in the region?
3. Why are the Himalayas considered sacred by Hindus and Buddhists?
4. What are some of the challenges facing the Himalayas in recent years?
5. What efforts are being made to address these challenges and protect the Himalayan ecosystem?

Reading Comprehension.

Question 1:

What is the geographical significance of the Himalayan range?

Answer:

The Himalayan range is among the most inspiring and breathtaking wonders of the world. It stretches about 2400 km and spans across five countries. It is home to some of the world's tallest peaks. Besides its size and overwhelming beauty, the Himalayas are of the great importance for people residing in this range. Furthermore, for centuries, Himalayas have served as the natural barrier for separating the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia. This geography has shaped its unique cultures and traditions.

Question # 2:

How have the Himalayas influenced the cultures and traditions of the people living in the region?

Answer:

While having a wonderful geography, the Himalayas have influenced the cultures and traditions of the people living in the region. The

Himalayas serve as a natural barrier to separate the Indian Subcontinent from the rest of Asia. This has shaped and influenced the cultural and traditional setting of Himalayan people bolstering the sense of oneness and resilience. Despite of harsh climate conditions and rough landscape, the people are used to their environment and hence are promoting and adapting to a way of life which is as diverse as the geography itself.

Question #3

Why are the Himalayas considered sacred by Hindus and Buddhists?

Answer:

Besides its cultural and traditional importance, The Himalayas are considered as sacred for Hindus and Buddhists. They believe that Himalayas are the place of gods and goddesses. Pilgrims from far away areas risk this tough and rugged journey to Himalayas, for the sake of mental satisfaction and spiritual affiliation.

Question #4:

What are some of the challenges facing the Himalayas in recent years?

Answer:

In recent years, Himalayas have been facing multiple challenges. Climate change, deforestation and rapid urbanization pose a serious threat to this beautiful landscape. The melting of glaciers as a result of climate change is leading towards water scarcity and the risk of natural disasters. Himalayas are affected by the global warming and the inhabitants are struggling to adapt to this changing environment.

Question #5:

What efforts are being made to address these challenges and protect the Himalayan ecosystem?

Answer:

Himalayas are being affected badly as a result of climate change. Efforts are being made to mitigate this challenge and protect the Himalayan ecosystem. The measures to

protect the diverse ecosystem and promote sustainable development is underway. Even the local community is also working for this cause. It's the will of the region's people that Himalayas continue to inspire in its diverse landscape for generations to come.
