

S.S.2 GEOGRAPHY

CLASSIFICATION OF WORLD CLIMATE

Climatic classification is a method whereby all areas of the earth with similar climatic condition or characteristics are grouped into the same climatic type called **Climatic zone or Region**. The two common systems of classification of world climate are:

The Greeks classification

Koppen's classification

GREEK'S CLASSIFICATION

The Greek's classification of climate is based on temperature and latitude. They classified world climate into 3 zones.

The torrid zone

The frigid zone

The temperate zone

TORRID ZONE

This zone lies between the tropics of cancer ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{N}$) and Capricorn ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{S}$)

Within this zone, the sun is directly overhead twice a year.

The zone experiences high temperature throughout the year.

The sun's rays are vertical through the year thereby making it a hot zone.

FRIGID ZONE

This zone is found between the Arctic Circle and North Pole in the northern hemisphere and between Antarctic Circle and South Pole.

The sun rays are oblique throughout the year.

The zone is generally cold with low temperature throughout the year.

It has lots of ice-caps in the greater part of the year.

TEMPERATE ZONE

This is the zone between the torrid (tropic of cancer) and the frigid (Arctic Circle)

The zone is also called Middle Latitudes.

The sun is never overhead in the zone.

The temperature is mild (neither really hot or cold)

ADVANTAGES OF GREEKS CLASSIFICATION

It is very simple to understand

It is fundamental classification which is still in use till today with some modification where necessary.

DISADVANTAGES OF GREEKS CLASSIFICATION

It is based on temperature only as an element of climate.

It is too simple.

It fails to take into account other factors like altitude, vegetation, wind and rainfall.

It did not recognize highland climate or the desert climate.

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