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Contact Person: Dr. Bbosa Science 0778633682, 0753143413

E-mail: digitalteachersuganda@gmail.com

Primary 5 Social studies

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President of Ugandas 2031▶

Term 1

Theme: LIVING TOGETHER IN UGANDA

Topic 4/5: Climate of Uganda

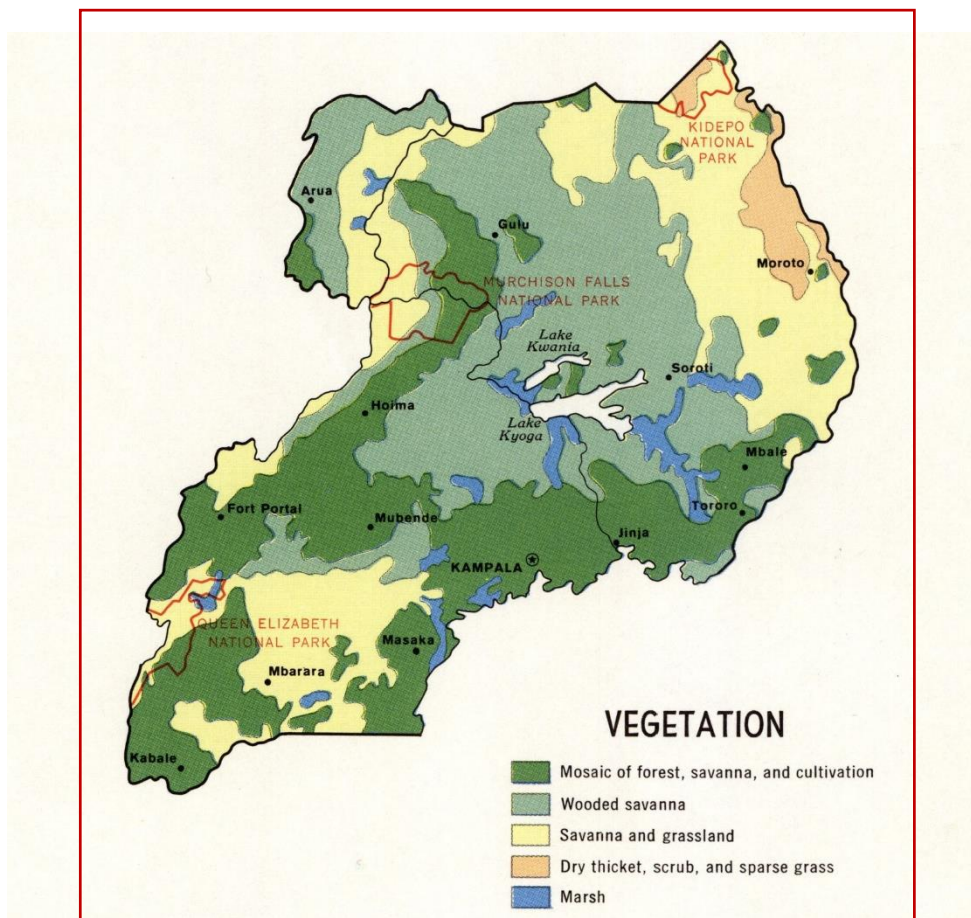
Learning Outcomes:

The learner is able to show, understand and appreciate the importance and value of vegetation for better living.

Vegetation

Vegetation means the **cover of plants** (trees, grasses, bushes, and crops) that grow naturally in a place.

A map showing vegetation of Uganda



- (a) **Forests** – thick trees found in areas with heavy rainfall

Examples of Forests in Uganda

- (i) **Mabira Forest** – near Jinja, one of the largest natural forests.
 - (ii) **Budongo Forest** – in Masindi District, known for chimpanzees.
 - (iii) **Kalinzu Forest** – near Bushenyi, rich in wildlife.
 - (iv) **Mpanga Forest** – close to Mpigi, used for research and education.
 - (v) **Bwindi Forest** – in southwestern Uganda, home to mountain gorillas.
- (b) **Savannah grasslands** – tall grasses with scattered trees, common in central and northern Uganda.
- (c) **Woodlands** – areas with short trees and bushes.
- (d) **Marsh/Swamp vegetation** – reeds, papyrus, and water plants found in wetlands.
- (e) **Mountain vegetation** – bamboo and alpine plants found on high mountains like Mt. Elgon and Rwenzori.

Exercise 1

1. Name two examples of forest vegetation in Uganda.
2. Which type of vegetation covers the largest part of Uganda?
3. What type of vegetation is found in wetlands?
4. Give one reason why savannah vegetation is suitable for cattle keeping.
5. Mention one mountain in Uganda with mountain vegetation.
6. Which vegetation type is common in areas with heavy rainfall?
7. Name one use of swamp vegetation.
8. Why is forest vegetation important to Uganda?
9. Which vegetation type has scattered trees and tall grasses?
10. Give one difference between forest vegetation and woodland vegetation.

Types of Vegetation in Uganda

1. Natural Vegetation

This grows on its own without being planted by people.

- (i) **Forests** – thick trees like Mabira and Budongo.
- (ii) **Swamps** – papyrus and reeds around Lake Victoria and Lake Kyoga.
- (iii) **Shrubs** – small woody plants in dry areas.
- (iv) **Grass** – tall or short grasses in savannah regions.

2. Planted Vegetation

This is grown by people for use.

Examples of planted vegetation

- (i) **Forests** – eucalyptus and pine plantations.
- (ii) **Grass** – planted for lawns or animal grazing.
- (iii) **Flowers** – grown for beauty and decoration.
- (iv) **Crops** – like maize, beans, bananas, and coffee.

Exercise 2

1. What is vegetation?
2. Name two types of vegetation found in Uganda.
3. Give two examples of **natural vegetation**.
4. Mention two examples of **planted vegetation**.
5. Which type of vegetation grows without being planted by people?
6. Name one use of swamp vegetation.
7. Which vegetation type is common in areas with heavy rainfall?
8. Give one difference between natural and planted vegetation.
9. Mention one example of planted forest in Uganda.
10. Why is vegetation important to people?

Factors Influencing Vegetation Distribution in Uganda

- (i) **Rainfall** – Areas with heavy rainfall have thick forests, while dry areas have grass and shrubs.
- (ii) **Fertile soils** – Rich soils support crops and dense vegetation, while poor soils support only sparse plants.
- (iii) **Distance from the sea / Altitude** – High mountains have special vegetation like bamboo and alpine plants, while lowlands have grasslands and swamps.
- (iv) **Landforms** – Mountains, plateaus, and valleys influence the type of vegetation that grows. For example, valleys have swamp vegetation, while plateaus have savannah grasslands.

Exercise 3

1. Name two factors that influence vegetation distribution.
2. How does rainfall affect vegetation?
3. Why do fertile soils support thick vegetation?
4. Give one example of vegetation found in valleys.
5. How does altitude (height above sea level) influence vegetation?
6. Mention one type of vegetation found on mountains in Uganda.
7. Which factor explains why swamps are found in lowland areas?
8. Give one difference between vegetation in wet areas and dry areas.
9. Why do plateaus mostly have savannah vegetation?
10. How do landforms influence the type of vegetation in Uganda?

How Vegetation Influences Human Activities

1. Savannah Grassland

- (i) Provides pasture for cattle and goats.
- (ii) Supports farming of crops like millet and sorghum.
- (iii) Source of firewood and building poles.
- (iv) Source of medicinal herbs.

2. Rain Forests

- (i) Supply timber for construction and furniture.
- (ii) Provide medicine from herbs and plants.
- (iii) Attract tourists for eco-tourism.
- (iv) Help in rainfall formation.

3. Mountain Vegetation

- (i) Supports farming of crops like coffee, tea, and bananas.
- (ii) Provides bamboo and alpine plants.
- (iii) Attracts tourists (e.g., Rwenzori Mountains).

4. Swamp Vegetation

- (i) Provides papyrus for mats, baskets, and roofing.
- (ii) Source of fish and water for domestic use.
- (iii) Controls floods and supports farming of crops like rice.

Exercise 4

1. How does savannah vegetation support cattle keeping?
2. Name two uses of rain forests to people.
3. Which crops are commonly grown in mountain vegetation areas?
4. Give one use of papyrus from swamp vegetation.
5. Why are rain forests important for tourism?
6. Mention one way swamp vegetation helps control floods.
7. Which vegetation type provides timber for furniture?
8. How does savannah vegetation influence farming?
9. Name one tourist activity carried out in mountain vegetation areas.
10. Why is vegetation important to human activities?

Ways of Conserving Vegetation

Conserving vegetation is protecting plants and using them wisely so they last for future generations.

- (i) **Avoid bush burning** – prevents destruction of grass and trees.
- (ii) **Plant more trees** – replaces those that are cut down.
- (iii) **Control grazing** – prevents animals from over-eating grass.
- (iv) **Protect wetlands** – stop people from draining swamps.
- (v) **Practice agroforestry** – mix crops with trees to protect soil.
- (vi) **Use timber wisely** – avoid cutting too many trees for building.
- (vii) **Educate people** – teach communities the importance of vegetation.

Exercise 5

1. What is vegetation conservation?
2. Give two correct ways of conserving vegetation.
3. Why should bush burning be avoided?
4. Mention one reason for planting more trees.
5. How does controlled grazing help vegetation?
6. Name one way of protecting wetlands.
7. What is agroforestry?
8. Why is it important to educate people about vegetation?
9. Give one danger of cutting down too many trees.
10. How does conserving vegetation benefit farmers?

Human Activities That Destroy Vegetation

- (i) **Bush burning** – destroys grass, trees, and soil fertility.
- (ii) **Deforestation (cutting down trees)** – reduces forests and causes soil erosion.
- (iii) **Overgrazing** – too many animals eat grass, leaving land bare.
- (iv) **Draining swamps** – removes papyrus and other swamp plants.
- (v) **Charcoal burning** – leads to loss of trees.
- (vi) **Poor farming methods** – like shifting cultivation, which leaves land bare.
- (vii) **Construction and settlement** – clearing vegetation for houses and roads.

Exercise 6

1. Name two human activities that destroy vegetation.
2. How does bush burning affect vegetation?
3. Why is deforestation dangerous to the environment?
4. Mention one effect of overgrazing on vegetation.

5. Which human activity leads to loss of swamp vegetation?
6. Give one reason why charcoal burning is harmful.
7. How do poor farming methods affect vegetation?
8. Mention one way construction affects vegetation.
9. What is the difference between bush burning and deforestation?
10. Why should people avoid activities that destroy vegetation?

Relationship between Vegetation and Population Distribution

(i) Savannah Grasslands

- Support cattle keeping and farming.
- Many people settle here because the land is open and fertile.

(ii) Rain Forests

- Few people live inside thick forests because they are dark and hard to clear.
- However, forests provide timber, medicine, and attract workers for logging and tourism.

(iii) Mountain Vegetation

- Population is low on high mountains because of cold conditions, steep slopes, and transport challenges.
- People settle on lower slopes to grow crops like coffee and bananas.

(iv) Swamp Vegetation

- Few people live in swamps because of floods and diseases.
- Swamps are used for papyrus, fishing, and farming crops like rice.

Exercise 7

1. How does savannah vegetation influence population distribution?
2. Why do few people live in thick rain forests?
3. Mention one crop grown on mountain slopes.
4. Give one reason why swamps have low population.
5. How does vegetation attract tourism?
6. Which vegetation type supports cattle keeping?
7. Why do people avoid settling in high mountain areas?
8. Name one use of swamp vegetation to human activities.
9. How does fertile savannah land affect settlement?
10. Why is vegetation important in determining where people live?

Revision questions

1. Write one way in which the nature of the soil influences vegetation distribution in an area.

Soil determine what kind of plants can grow in an area.

2. Mr. Opi started a tree planting project on his land. After some years, his land was thickly covered.

- (a) Name the type of forest that has grown on Mr. Opi's land.

Plantation forest.

- (b) Mention any one way in which Mr. Opi can continuously care for the forest.

- (i) **Avoid bush burning** – fire destroys young trees.
- (ii) **Protect against animals** – stop goats and cows from eating seedlings.
- (iii) **Replace cut trees** – plant new ones after harvesting.
- (iv) **Weed regularly** – remove grass and weeds that compete with trees.
- (v) **Prevent soil erosion** – plant cover crops or grass around trees.
- (vi) **Guard against illegal cutting** – ensure people don't cut trees carelessly.
- (vii) **Educate communities** – teach people the importance of caring for forests.

- (c) Write any two benefits Mr. Opi will get from the forest.

- (i) **Provide timber and firewood** – for building and cooking.
- (ii) **Control soil erosion** – tree roots hold the soil together.
- (iii) **Provide shade and fresh air** – making the environment cool and clean.
- (iv) **Create jobs** – people work in planting, harvesting, and processing timber.
- (v) **Beautify the environment** – planted forests make areas look green and attractive.

3. How are rubber trees important to the transport sector in Africa?

Provide rubber for making tyres

4. How does afforestation reduce landslides on mountain slope?
 - (i) Reduce soil erosion
 - (ii) Roots hold the soil firmly together
 - (iii) Reduce speed of water

5. (a) State any two reasons why you would visit any tourist attraction site in Uganda
 - (i) **To study nature** – plants, birds, and different environments.
 - (ii) **To see beautiful scenery** – like mountains, lakes, and waterfalls.
 - (iii) **To learn about animals** – such as lions, elephants, and gorillas in national parks.
 - (iv) **To enjoy fresh air and relaxation** – away from busy towns.
 - (v) **To learn history and culture** – from places like Kasubi Tombs and museums.
 - (vi) **To support tourism** – which brings money and jobs to people.
 - (vii) **For adventure and fun** – activities like hiking, boat rides, and game drives.

(b) Give two benefits of tourism to Uganda

 - (i) **Brings money (foreign exchange)** – tourists pay for entry, hotels, and services.
 - (ii) **Creates jobs** – guides, drivers, hotel workers, and craft sellers.
 - (iii) **Promotes culture** – tourists learn about Ugandan traditions and history.
 - (iv) **Develops infrastructure** – roads, hotels, and airports improve.
 - (v) **Protects environment** – national parks and forests are conserved for tourism.

6. Give any one factor that brings about differences in the vegetation distribution in mountain regions.
 - (i) Temperature; the higher one ascends the lower the temperature.
 - (ii) Rainfall: windward side receives more rainfall than leeward side
 - (iii) Soil fertility

7. Apart from controlling soil erosion, give one other reason why a school compound should have vegetation cover.
 - (i) For fruits
 - (ii) For beauty
 - (iii) For study purpose
 - (iv) For shade
 - (v) Wind breakers protect the buildings.

8. State any one social challenges that has been caused by thick forests in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(i) Isolation of Communities

- Thick forests make transport and communication difficult.
- Many villages remain cut off from schools, hospitals, and markets.

(ii) Limited Access to Social Services

- Health workers, teachers, and government services struggle to reach remote forest areas.
- This leads to poor education and healthcare for forest communities.

(iii) Insecurity and Conflict

- Forests provide hiding places for armed groups, leading to insecurity.
- Communities face violence and displacement.

(iv) Resource Conflicts

- Logging, mining, and farming in forests cause disputes between local people, companies, and government.
- Indigenous groups often lose land and rights.

(v) Poverty and Malnutrition

- Many forest communities depend only on hunting, gathering, and small farming.
- This leads to food shortages and poverty.

9. Mention any one challenge faced by the National Forest Authority as it carries out its work

(i) Encroachment on Forest Reserves

- Communities and private developers clear forest land for farming, settlement, and construction.
- This reduces forest cover and biodiversity.

(ii) Illegal Logging and Charcoal Burning

- Widespread cutting of trees without permits.
- Leads to deforestation and loss of valuable tree species.

(iii) **Corruption and Mismanagement Allegations**

- Investigations by the Inspectorate of Government have revealed complaints about financial mismanagement and irregular recruitment within NFA .
- Weak governance undermines trust and efficiency.

(iv) **Limited Resources and Funding**

- NFA lacks enough staff, equipment, and funds to patrol and manage all forest reserves.
- This makes enforcement of laws difficult.

(v) **Conflicts Over Land Titles**

- Some forest reserves have been illegally allocated or titled to individuals, creating disputes.

10. State any one way in which vegetation helps in controlling soil erosion.

- (i) **Tree roots hold the soil together**, preventing it from being washed away by rain.
- (ii) **Leaves and grass cover the ground**, reducing the speed of rainwater hitting the soil.
- (iii) **Vegetation slows down running water**, which prevents soil from being carried away

11. Name the largest natural forest found in the central part of Uganda.

Mabira forest

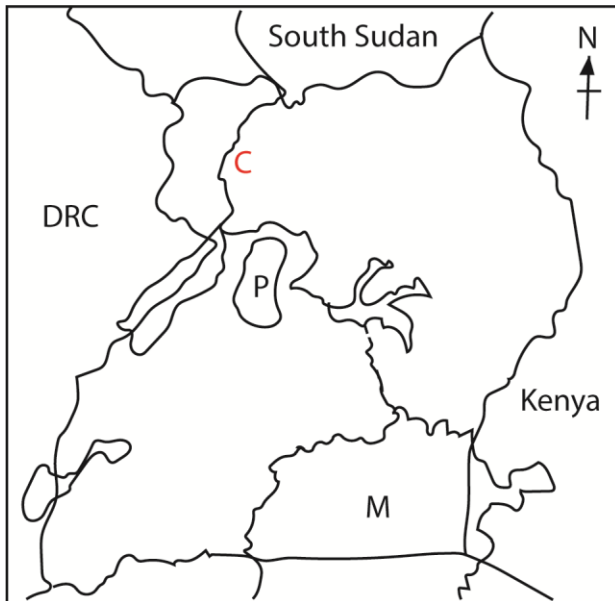
12. Why should children be encouraged to plant trees to school?

- (i) For fruits
- (ii) For beauty
- (iii) For study purpose
- (iv) For shade
- (v) Wind breakers protect the buildings.

13. Which neighbouring country of Uganda is mainly covered by equatorial rain forests?

Democratic Republic of Congo

14. Use the sketch map of Uganda below to answer the questions that follow



- (a) Name the natural forest found in the area marked P
Budongo Forest Reserve..
- (b) Mention any two reason why the area around lake m is suitable for farming
- (i) Has fertile soils
 - (ii) Has reliable rainfall throughout the year
 - (iii) Has favorable temperature.
- (a) Use letter C to show Albertine Nilr on the map.

Thank You

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