

FILL IN THE BLANKS -

1. Riyadh is derived from the plural of the Arabic word rawdha.
2. Jeddah was founded over 2500 years ago.
3. Makkah is Islam's holiest city.
4. Yathrib is the original name of Madinah.
5. Dammam is the capital city of Eastern Province in Saudi Arabia.
6. The capital of Asir Province is Abha.
7. Hail is located in the North Western part of Saudi Arabia.
8. The highest peak in Jizan is the Fifa mountain.
9. Al-Ka'aba is covered with a black curtain known as Al-Kiswah.
10. King Fahd laid the foundation for a new addition to the Holy mosque at Makkah.
11. The Prophet's mosque in Madinah contains the tomb of the Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him).
12. The big mosque in the middle of London can accommodate more than 5000 worshippers.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING -

1. Mention the major attractions of Riyadh city.

Ans. The centre of the city Al-Batiha and Al-Dirah is the oldest part. At its heart lies the 19th century Al Masmak fort, which is one of the city's major attractions. To the west lies the Riyadh Museum of History and Archaeology and the Murabba Palace, an old residence of first Saudi king Ibn Saud, now a museum. Qasr Al-Hukm or palace of Justice is nearby. It is here that the Governor of Riyadh Province meets citizens listens to their grievances and problems. Al-Dirah area also contains commercial markets and traditional buildings.

2. Explain briefly about Jeddah city.

Ans. Jeddah is located on the coast of the Red Sea and is the major urban centre of western Saudi Arabia. It is the largest city in Makkah Province, the largest sea port on the Red Sea and the second largest city in Saudi Arabia after the capital city Riyadh. It is an important commercial hub in Saudi Arabia. It was the main city of the historic Hejaz Province and the historic port for pilgrims arriving by sea on their pilgrimage or Hajj to Makkah.

3. Mention the significant features of Makkah city.

Ans. Makkah city is known for the annual Hajj pilgrimage, which being the five pillars of Islam, attracts about 2 million pilgrims. In the 7th century the Islamic Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) proclaimed Islam in the city. After 966 AD Makkah was led by local sharifs until 1924 AD when it came under the rule of the Saudis. In its modern period Makkah has seen a great expansion in size and infrastructure.

4. Explain the importance of Madinah.

Ans. Madinah means city. Madinah officially Al Madinah al Munawwarah (the enlightened city) is a city in the western region of Saudi Arabia and serves as the capital of Al Madinah Province. It is the second holiest city in Islam after Makkah and the burial place of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

5. Describe briefly Dammam city.

Ans. Dammam is the largest city in the Eastern Province. Dammam Port is one of the largest on the Arabian Gulf. It is served by the new King Fahd International Airport. Other cities that surround Dammam are Khobar which is a thriving modern economic hub and Dhahran which is the headquarters for Saudi Aramco, the largest oil company in the world and Qatif the populated fishing and agricultural town.

6. How did Taif city earned its title 'the Garden of Hijaz'?

Ans. The climate of Taif marked the city out from its dry and barren neighbours closer to the Red Sea. Wheat, vines and fruits were grown around Taif and this is how the city earned its title 'the Garden of the Hijaz'.

7. Explain briefly the history of Hail.

Ans. Historians believed that Hail existed before Isa (Jesus). One of the most famous tribes inhabited Hail, Tai tribe before Islam. There are many ruins and monuments in many places in Hail region which let many travellers come to visit the area.

8. What is the significance of agriculture in Jizan ?

Ans. Jizan is one of the Kingdom's richest agricultural regions, remarkable for both the quality and variety of its agricultural produce. It is notable for its production of coffee beans, grain crops and fruit (apples, grapes, lemons, mangoes, oranges , bananas, papayas, plums and tamarinds)

9. Mention the important features of Al-Ka'aba.

Ans. Al-Ka'aba is the first house built on earth for the worshipping of Allah. It is a cuboid shaped building. Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son Ismail constructed the Kaaba. Al-Kiswah has silver and gold writings. It is replaced once a year. The door of Al-Ka'aba is made of gold. Near the door there is the sacred black stone. All muslims must face Al-Ka'aba during prayer times. The pilgrims also circle Al-Ka'aba to perform Hajj.

10. Explain the expansion of the Holy mosque.

Ans. A large extension has been built on to the western side of the Holy Mosque. It consists of a basement , ground floor and first floor. A large plaza has been created. Loud speakers, telephones and clocks have been fixed. Escalators have been built to help the elderly pilgrims to move.

11. Explain briefly the expansion of Prophet's mosque at Madinah.

Ans. Before the first Saudi expansion there was room for 17,000 worshippers. There were five minarets. There were no escalators and no air-conditioning. Now there is room for 6,50,000 worshippers. The number of minarets has increased to ten. There are now four escalators and eighteen fixed staircases. In addition a central air-conditioning station has been built.
