

Chapter-2 Land, Soil, Water, Natural Vegetation and Wildlife Resources

- Summary:-

- i. *Land is among the most important natural resources.*
- ii. *Land is used for many purposes such as agriculture, forestry, mining, building houses, roads and setting up of industries.*
- iii. *The thin layer of grainy substances covering the surface of the earth is called soil.*
- iv. *The major factors of soil formation are the nature of the parent rock and climatic factors.*
- v. *Three-fourth's of the earth's surface is covered with water.*
- vi. *Natural vegetation and wildlife exist only in the narrow zone of contact between the lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere that we call biosphere.*
- vii. *The life supporting system is known as ecosystem.*
- viii. *Forests are broadly classified as evergreen and deciduous depending on when they shed their leaves.*
- ix. *National Park is a natural area designated to protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for the present and the future generations.*
- x. *Biosphere reserves is a series of protected areas linked through a global network, intended to demonstrate the relationship between conservation and development.*

- Answer the following question:-

1. *Which are the two main climatic factors responsible for soil formation? Climatic factors responsible for the formation of soil are temperature, rainfall, influence rate of weathering, topography and the role of organic material.*
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2. Which are the two reasons for land degradation today?

The two reasons for land degradation today are expansion of the agricultural construction activities.

3. Why is land considered an important resource?

Land is considered an expensive resource because it is used for different purposes such as agriculture, forestry, mining, building houses, roads, and setting up of industries. It is commonly termed as land use.

4. Name any two steps that government have taken to conserve plants and animals?

Steps that government have taken to conserve plants and animals are listed below:-

- i. National parks, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserve are made to check and protect natural vegetation and wildlife.*
 - ii. Awareness programs like social forestry and vanamahotsav are encouraged at regional and community level.*
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5. Suggest three ways to conserve water?

Three ways to conserve are:-

- i. Forest and other vegetation cover slow the surface runoff and replenish underground water.*
 - ii. Water harvesting is another way of rainwater conservation and harvesting.*
 - iii. The canals used for irrigation fields should be properly lined to minimise water loss through seepage.*
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- Extra question:-

1. *What do you understand by land use?*

The usage of land for different purposes such as agriculture, forestry, mining, building houses, roads, setting up industries is commonly termed as land use.

2. *What are the different factors that determine land use?*

Different factors that determine land use are Physical and Human factors.

Physical Factors:

These are topology, soil, climate, minerals and availability of water.

Human factors:

Such as population and technology.

3. *Write the different methods of land conservation?*

Some methods of land conservation are as follows:-

- i. Afforestation.*
 - ii. Land reclamation.*
 - iii. Regulated use of fertilizers and pesticides.*
 - iv. Checks on overgrazing.*
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4. *What do you understand by landslide? How is it caused?*

Land slides are mass movements of land surface on a slanty or rarely plain surface. Landslides are caused by earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions.

5. *What do you mean by weathering?*

The process of breaking down of rocks into soil with the help of wind, sunshine, rainfall and other climatic conditions is called weathering.

6. Name the major factors of soil formation

The major factors of soil formation are:-

- i. *nature of parent rock.*
 - ii. *climatic factors like wind, rainfall, etc.*
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7. Write the methods of soil conservation. Explain any two.

The methods of soil conservation are:

- i. *Mulching.*
- ii. *Contour barriers.*
- iii. *Rock dams.*
- iv. *Terrace farming.*
- v. *Intercropping.*
- vi. *Contour ploughing.*

Rock dams:

rocks are piled up to slow the flow of water. This prevents gullies and further soil loss.

Intercropping:

Different crops are sown in alternate rows and are sown at different times to protect from rain wash.

8. Explain the types of forests.

Different types of forests are:

Evergreen forests:

Evergreen forests are located in a humid climate and receive rainfall throughout the year and they do not shed their leaves at the same time but different trees shed their leaves at different times of the year so they always look green.

Deciduous forests:

The trees of deciduous forest shed their leaves at a particular time of the year to prevent water loss through transpiration. These are further classified into tropical and temperate deciduous forest.