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Protect the Environment

Environment is a combination of air, soil, water, human beings, animals, birds, etc. They affect each other and an equilibrium is maintained between them. Men always try to harness nature for economic growth.

Progress in science and technology is taken as a general criteria of development of any country. This craze has resulted in unlimited exploitation of every bit of natural resource. Unlimited exploitation of nature by man has disturbed the delicate ecological balance between living and non-living components of the biosphere. The unfavourable conditions created by man himself have threatened the survival not only of man himself but also of other living organisms. A large number of the species are likely to become rare, threatened, endangered or extinct. Even, the colour of the beautiful Taj Mahal has changed from white to a yellowish grey because of the smoke from nearby factories.



Pollution can damage or destroy our environment. There is terrible pollution in the air, in water, in the soil and even in space.

Pollution is anything that poisons the air, water or land around us. Thus, pollution is a direct or indirect change in any component of the biosphere that is harmful to living things, and in particular undesirable for man. Conservation means looking after the earth's resources - plants, animals, air, water and land.

There is the highly pernicious noise pollution as a result of high pitch of T.V. sets, horns, loud speakers, radios, vehicles, etc. Sensitive and excessive noise can impair the human senses to a considerable extent, particularly those of new born infants. Experiments with animals have shown that very loud noises can even damage the ear drums irreparably.



The area or the natural surroundings in which an animal lives is called its habitat. Today man is destroying the natural habitat of birds and animals. If the habitats are destroyed, animals will become extinct. This means they will perish. Many plants and animals that could once be seen on earth have become extinct. Many more are on the verge of disappearing. In his search for more space to live, man has cut down trees; in his search for food and articles of luxury, he has hunted and killed animals.

Cutting down of trees is called deforestation. The roots of trees hold the soil together. If trees are cut down, the soil gets washed away by water or blown away by the wind. The land turns into a desert. Trees absorb carbon-dioxide and so help reduce pollution. They cool the earth. So let's plant more trees.

You bring home things from the market in plastic bags. You throw away the bags and forget about them. But they refuse to go away. Plastic is not bio-degradable. Put simply, plastic is impossible to break down through any process. In city like Delhi, they accumulate in garbage heaps or float on the Yamuna river and settle on its bed, cutting off the supply of oxygen to the fish. They block off all air supply to anything they rest on.



Smoke from factories and cars is one of the main causes of air pollution. Many of the chemicals in smoke can cause dangerous health problems.

Rubbish and poisonous wastes from factories pollute water. Dirty polluted water causes illness and infection. People, plants and animals need clean water to live in. Animals and plants are affected by pollution just as we are. Plants provide us with the oxygen we breathe. Without them, there would be no life on Earth. If we continue to cut down trees there will be no oxygen left for us to breathe.

We must all do our bit to preserve our world and make it a better place to live in, both for ourselves and the numerous other creatures that also inhabit this Earth. It is our responsibility to protect the environment from pollution. Let us learn how to protect the environment instead of destroying it.

So when you go out for a picnic. Put your rubbish in a dustbin or take it home with you. Do not use soap or toothpaste in fresh water streams as they pollute the water. Sweep paths and driveways rather than washing them with water. It saves a lot of water. Turn off the lights when no one is in the room. Save energy. Turn down noisy radios, music systems and televisions as they create noise pollution. Say no to plastic bags. Reduce waste. Choose products that can be repaired or recycled. Give away waste glass, aluminium and plastic cans, cardboard and paper for recycling. Like people, plants and animals have a right to live too. Do not tease them in the zoo.



SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- Pollution can or destroy our environment.
(a) crack (b) damage (c) turn (d) throw
- If the habitats are destroyed, will become extinct.
(a) animals (b) plants (c) human beings (d) trees
- Smoke from factories and cars is one of the main causes of pollution.
(a) sound (b) water (c) air (d) sight
- If we continue to cut down trees there will be no left for us to breathe.
(a) carbon (b) sulphur (c) carbon dioxide (d) oxygen
- down of trees is called deforestation.
(a) making (b) cutting (c) destroying (d) sleeping

B. Complete the following sentences :

1. Environment is a of air, soil, water, human beings, animals, birds, etc.
2. They affect each other and an is maintained between them.
3. Pollution can damage or our environment.
4. Cutting down of trees is called
5. Rubbish and poisonous waste from pollute water.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. We should not continue to cut down trees otherwise there will be no oxygen left for us to breathe.
2. Cutting down of trees is called deforestation.
3. Trees absorb oxygen and so help reduce pollution.
4. We should not plant more trees.
5. Pollution can damage or destroy our environment.

D. Match the following :

A	B
1. Plastic	(a) energy.
2. Put rubbish	(b) waste glass.
3. Save	(c) in a dustbin.
4. Give away	(d) illness and infection.
5. Dirty polluted water	(e) non bio-degradable.

E. Answer the following questions :

1. What is environment ?
2. What is pollution ?
3. What is noise pollution ?
4. What is deforestation ?
5. How do rubbish and poisonous waste pollute water ?



FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Observe one Sunday every month as '*Shram Diwas*' and clean the area around your house along with your neighbours.