

Chapter 16

Management of Natural resources

Intext Questions

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Question 1: What changes can you make in your habits to become more environment-friendly?

Solution: We can make lot of changes in our habits.

For example:

- Switch off the electrical appliances when not in use
- Avoid wastage of water and food resources
- Close the tap when not in use
- Plastic, paper, or glass must be recycled or reused
- Dispose the wastes safely and not disperse in public places.

Question 2: What would be the advantages of exploiting resources with short-term aims?

Solution: We know that natural resources are limited in nature. Thus, there should be a judicious use of natural resources. We should not exploit resources for our short term gains as this would only lead to depletion of natural resources for the present generation as well as generations to come.

Question 3: How would these advantages differ from the advantages of using a long-term perspective in managing our resources?

Solution: In the case of a long-time perspective in managing our resources, these resources will last for longer period. Thus, future generation can also use them. This management ensures uniform distribution among the people. These measures help in their conservation. It

maintains the balance in environment & they last long for many years and not just for a few years, as in the case of a short-term perspective in conserving natural resources.

Question 4: Why do you think there should be equitable distribution of resources? What forces would be working against an equitable distribution of our resources?

Solution: Natural resources of the Earth must be distributed among the people uniformly so that each and every one gets his share of the resource.

Greed, corruption, etc. are factors which work against an equitable distribution of resources.

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Question 1: Why should we conserve forests and wildlife?

Solution: Forests and wildlife should be preserved because of many advantages:

Helps in maintaining ecological stability.

A large number of tribes are the inhabitants in and around the forests. If the forests are not conserved, then it may affect these inhabitants.

Without proper management of forest and wildlife, the quality of soil, the water sources, and even the amount of rainfall may be affected.

Without forest and wildlife, life would become impossible for human beings.

Question 2: Suggest some approaches towards the conservation of forests.

Solution:

Some approaches towards the conservation of forests are as:

- (a) People should encourage each other for not cutting trees.
- (b) Planting of trees should be increased.
- (c) Inhabitants of forests must not be bothered by the forest officials.

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Question 1: Find out about the traditional systems of water harvesting/management in your region.

Solution: One of the traditional systems of water harvesting used in our region is tanks.

Question 2: Compare the above system with the probable systems in hilly/mountainous areas or plains or plateau regions.

Solution: In plains, the water harvesting structures are crescent-shaped earthen embankments. These are low, straight, and concrete.

In hilly regions, the system of canal irrigation called Kulhs is used for water harvesting. This involves a collection of rain water in a stream, which is then diverted into man-made channels down the hill sides.

Question 3: Find out the source of water in your region/locality. Is water from this source available to all people living in that area?

Solution: The source of water in our region is ground water. Water from the source is available to all the people living in that area.

Exercise

Question 1: What changes would you suggest in your home in order to be environment-friendly?

Solution:

Changes that can be undertaken in our homes to be environment-friendly are listed below:

- Switch off the electrical appliances when not in use.
- Turn the taps off while brushing or bathing.
- Throw biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste into separate bins.
- Repair the leaking taps

- Food items like pickles, etc., come packed in plastic bottles. These bottles can later be used for storing things in the kitchen.
- Construct composting pits

Question 2: Can you suggest some changes in your school which would make it environment-friendly?

Solution: Changes that can be undertaken in our schools to make it environment friendly are listed below:

- Save electricity by switching off lights and fans when not required.
- Turn the taps off when not in use.
- Biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes should be thrown into separate bins.

Question 3: We saw in this chapter that there are four main stakeholders when it comes to forests and wildlife. Which among these should have the authority to decide the management of forest produce? Why do you think so?

Solution: The forest department of the government should have the authority to decide the management of forest produces. This is because the forest department is the care taker of the forest land and is responsible for any damage to the forest.

Question 4: How can you as an individual contribute or make a difference to the management of (a) forests and wildlife, (b) water resources and (c) coal and petroleum?

Solution:

Forest and wildlife:

- Stop deforestation
- Stop poaching of wild animals.
- Stop the annexation of forest land for our use.

Water resources:

- Turn the taps off while not in use.
- Practice rainwater harvesting.
- Avoid the discharge of sewage and other wastes into rivers and other water resources.

Coal and petroleum:

- Use public transport mostly
- Stop using coal as a fuel
- Use alternative sources of energy such as hydro-energy and solar energy instead of depending largely on coal and petroleum.

Question 5: What can you as an individual do to reduce your consumption of the various natural resources?

Solution: Natural resources such as water, forests, coal and petroleum, etc. are important for the survival of human beings.

The ways in which we can reduce the consumption of various natural resources are as:

- Don't waste water
- Practice rainwater harvesting
- Stop deforestation
- Use recycled paper to reduce the cutting down of trees.
- Practice car pooling to avoid the excessive use of petroleum.

Question 6: List five things you have done over the last one week to –

- (a) Conserve our natural resources
- (b) Increase the pressure on our natural resources

Solution:

To conserve our natural resources:

- Walk for short distances & for long distance use public transport
- Plant trees
- Practice rain water harvesting
- Use recycled paper
- Throw biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste into separate bins

To increase the pressure on our natural resources:

- Use private transport instead of public
- Waste water
- Use non-renewable resources of energy
- Waste electricity
- Use plastics and polythene bags for carrying goods

Question 7: On the basis of the issues raised in this chapter, what changes would you incorporate in your life-style in a move towards a sustainable use of our resources?

Solution:

Changes can be:

- Switch off electrical appliances when not in use.
- Save electricity.
- Take stairs and avoid using lifts
- Avoid cutting trees and practice forestation
- Avoid usage of plastic and polythene bags
- Use recycled paper
- Waste minimum amount of water
- Practice rainwater harvesting.