

Conservation Of Plants And Animals

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INTRODUCTION

We see different kinds of plants and animals around us. When we go to a park or zoo we see many types of animals. In a garden, you find a variety of flowers, trees of different shapes, sizes and colours. Often you see also many pet animals like, dog, cat, cow etc. and many birds such as, parrot, sparrow, pigeon etc. in the garden.



If your neighbourhood garden can have such a diverse variety of plants and animals, then think that what type of variety one can find in the forest.

Deforestation and its Causes

A great variety of plants and animals exist on earth. They are essential for the well being and survival of each other. We know that deforestation means clearing of forests and using that land for other purposes. Trees in the forest are cut for some of the purposes mentioned below :

- Procuring land and cultivation
- Building houses and factories
- Making furniture or using wood as fuel

Some natural causes of deforestation are forest fires and severe droughts.

Consequences of Deforestation

Due to deforestation, temperature and pollution are increasing day-by-day. It leads to increase the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Ground water level also gets lowered. Deforestation disturbs the nature. Due to continuous cutting of trees, rainfall and fertility of soil also decreases.

Plants need carbon dioxide for the process of photosynthesis, if we will cut trees continuously then level of carbon dioxide will increase in the atmosphere. This will lead to global warming as carbon dioxide traps the Sun rays. The increase in temperature on the earth disturb the water cycle and may reduce rainfall. This may cause droughts.

Deforestation is a major cause which leads to the change in soil properties. Roots of trees bind the soil but due to deforestation, top layer of soil is removed and lower layer exposes which is hard and rocky. This soil has less humus and is less fertile. Gradually the fertile land gets converted into deserts. It is called desertification.

Biosphere Reserve

Biosphere reserves are the areas meant for conservation of biodiversity. As you are aware that biodiversity is the variety of animals, plants and micro organisms generally found in an area. The biosphere reserves help to maintain the biodiversity and culture of that area. A biosphere reserve may also contain other protected areas in it. The Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve consists of one national park named Satpura and two wildlife sanctuaries named Bori and Pachmarhi.



Biosphere reserve

Protected Areas for Conservation

National Park	Protected Areas	Wildlife sanctuary	Protected Area
Jim Corbett National park	Uttarakhand	Chilka Lake bird sanctuary	Odisha
Kaziranga Nationl Park	Assam	Manas Wild life sanctuary	Assam
Kanha National Park	Madhya Pradesh	Periyar sanctuary	Kerala
Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal	Dachigam sanctuary	Jammu & Kashmir

FLORA AND FAUNA

The terms flora and fauna are related to plants and animals. The numerous species of plants living in their natural surroundings are termed as the flora of the place. Such as sal, teak, mango, jamun, silver ferns, arjun etc. are the example of flora.

The animal species constitute the fauna. The plants and animals found in a particular area are termed flora and fauna of that area. Wild dog, leopard, wolf, cheetal, barking deer etc. are the main examples of fauna.



Jamun tree



Mango tree



Sal tree



Teak tree

Do You Know ?

An ecosystem comprises of all plants, animals and microorganisms is an area along with the non-living components like soil, water, climate, etc.

Endemic Species

Endemic species are these species of plants and animals which are found exclusively in a particular area. They are not naturally found anywhere else. A particular type of animal or plant may be endemic to a zone, a state or a country.

Species is a group of population which are capable of interbreeding. This means that the members of a species can reproduce fertile off spring only with the members of their own species and not with members of other species. Members of a species have common characteristics.

Wildlife Sanctuary

Wildlife sanctuary provide protection and suitable living conditions to wild animals. Sanctuaries are places where killing or capturing of animals is strictly prohibited. Some of the threatened wild

animals like black buck, white eyed buck, elephant, golden cat, pink headed duck, gharial, marsh crocodile, python, rhinoceroses etc. are protected and preserved in our wild life sanctuaries.

RED DATA BOOK

Red data book is the source book which keeps a record of all the endangered animals and plants. There are different red data books for plants, animals and other species.

Migration

Birds and animals migrate to escape the harsh climate conditions.

Migratory birds fly to far away areas every year during a particular time because of climatic changes. They fly for laying eggs as the weather in their natural habitat becomes very cold and inhospitable. Birds who cover long distances to reach another land are known as migratory birds.

Recycling of Paper

We save and reuse used paper and recycle it. By this we do not only save trees but also save energy and water needed for manufacturing paper. Moreover the amount of harmful chemicals used in paper making will also be reduced.

Reforestation

Reforestation is restocking of the destroyed forests by planting new trees. The planted trees should generally be of the same species which were found in that forest. We should plant at least as many number of trees as cut down. Reforestation can take place naturally also if the deforested area is left undisturbed for same time.



Siberian Cranes

Know the Keywords :

Wildlife : The organism occurring in their natural habitats.

Rarer species : The species with very small population confined to a limited geographical area.

Conservation : The steps by which wildlife can be preserved and protected.

Sanctuary : A specified protected area where human activity is lawfully restricted only upto exploitation of plant resources.

Biosphere reserve : A large protected area under the law for the protection of wildlife and simultaneously meeting the needs of tribal people.

National parks : An area which is strictly reserved for the betterment of wildlife both plants and animals.

Afforestation : Planting of trees on a large scale to regenerate forests.

Point to Remember

- Deforestation means clearing of forests and using that land for other purposes.
- The fertile land gets converted into deserts is called desertification.
- Biosphere reserves are the areas meant for conservation of biodiversity.

- The term flora and fauna are related to plants and animals.
- Wildlife sanctuary provide protection and suitable living conditions to wild animals.
- Birds and animals migrate to escape the harsh climate conditions.
- Reforestation is restocking of the destroyed forests by planting new trees.

EXERCISE TIME

A. Answer the following questions :

1. What is biodiversity ? Explain with an example.
2. How can we conserve wildlife ?
3. What is the major threat to wildlife today ?
4. Why is there an urgent need to protect tigers in India ?
5. How can we prevent depletion of forest resources ?
6. How does recycling of wastes help in ecological balance ?
7. We take out resources from the earth and put back many harmful things. Discuss the consequences of this.

B. Fill in the blanks :

1. Animals and plants are _____ resources.
2. Deforestation destroys _____ of animals and hence effects wildlife.
3. Recycling resources saves the resource as well as _____.
4. We should adopt the policy of _____ and _____ in order to conserve our natural resources.

C. Write a short note about the following :

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Endemic species | 2. Red data book |
| 3. Migration | 4. Reforestation |
| 5. Flora and Fauna | |

D. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. Biological resources are :

(i) plants and animals

(ii) sunlight, air and water

(iii) minerals and energy

2. Recycling means :

- (i) to convert waste into useful materials
- (ii) to collect wastes in one place
- (iii) to throw away objects after one use

3. Wildlife is depleting due to :

- (i) soil erosion
- (ii) hunting and poaching
- (iii) loss of sunlight

4. The extinction and disappearance of some species is because of :

- (i) planting of trees
- (ii) conservation of species
- (iii) destruction of habits

5. Zoos and sanctuaries help to :

- (i) preserve endangered species
- (ii) serve as rescue centers for wild animals
- (iii) all of the above



Creative Work

- **Form a 'conservation club' in your school. Make posters, charts, handouts and power point presentation to spread awareness among common people. You can also organize a stage show in your morning assembly to highlight the fact that conservation is the need of the hour.**
- **Project– Find out the chipko movement. Make a power point presentation on it. Plant at least different plants in your locality during this academic year and ensure their maintenance till they grow.**
- **Study the biodiversity of a park nearby. Prepare a detailed report with photographs and sketches of the flora and fauna.**
- **What are the species which have become extinct, Imagine yourself to be any one of them. Write a biography trying to highlight the problem faced for survival.**
- **Karnataka Government had launched 'Project Elephant' to save Asian elephants in the state. Find out about this and other such campaigns launched to protect threatened species.**