
Chapter – 17

Forests: Our Lifeline

- **Forest:** Large area of land thickly covered with trees, bushes, etc.
 - We get various products from the forests surrounding us.
 - Forest is a system comprising various plants, animals and micro-organisms.
 - In a forest, trees form the uppermost layer, followed by shrubs. The herbs form the lowest layer of vegetation.
 - Different layers of vegetation provide food and shelter for animals, birds and insects.
 - The various components of the forest are interdependent on one another.
 - The forest keeps on growing and changing, and can regenerate.
 - In the forest, there is interaction between soil, water, air and living organisms.
 - Forests protect the soil from erosion.
 - Soil helps forests to grow and regenerate.
 - Forests are the lifeline for the forest-dwelling communities.
 - Forests influence climate, water cycle and air quality.
 - **Importance of Forests:**
 - (i) Provide timber.
 - (ii) Purify air.
 - (iii) Provide shelter.
 - (iv) Prevent soil erosion.
 - (v) Control floods.
 - (vi) Noise absorbers.
 - **Interdependence of Plants and Animals in Forest:**
 - (i) Plants and animals depend on each other to remain alive.
 - (ii) All organisms interact with each other and their physical environment to derive energy and survive.
 - **Conservation of Forest:**
 - (i) Amount of carbon dioxide in air will increase, resulting in the increase of earth's temperature.
 - (ii) Animals will not get food and shelter.
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(iii) Soil will not hold water, which will cause floods.

(iv) Endanger lives and environment.

- **Conservation of Forests:**

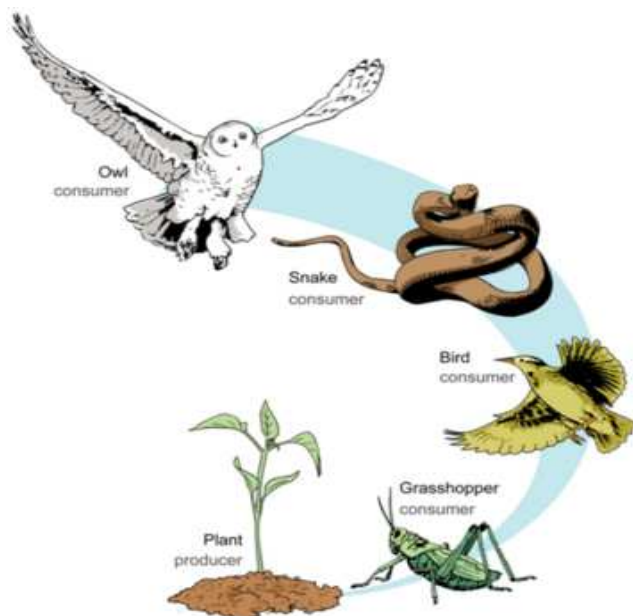
(i) Do not allow overgrazing.

(ii) Promote afforestation.

(iii) Protect wildlife.

(iv) Control forest fires.

- **Food Chain:** Interdependence between producers and consumers studied in form of various linkage that appears as a chain.



- **Food Web:** A system of interdependent food chains used to represent various relationships of organisms.
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