

Lesson 3: Man and Climate

A Discuss the questions in pairs.

- 1 Can man influence the climate? If the answer is yes, explain how?
- 2 Which human activities are responsible for increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?
- 3 How can trees help save our environment?

Now read the text below and find answers to the above questions.

Humans can neither change the sun's radiation nor the earth's orbit around the sun. But they can control the increase in the amount of greenhouse gases and its effect on the atmosphere. Only during the last hundred years the carbon dioxide concentration has been raised alarmingly in the atmosphere and we humans can be held responsible for this.

The main cause of the increase in carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels. Since the end of the 19th century, industrial activities increased rapidly giving rise to many factories. These factories required energy, which was produced through the combustion of coal. Besides coal, other sources of energy such as mineral oil and natural gas were also burned to heat our houses, run cars and airplanes or to produce electricity. Nowadays, about 85 million barrels of crude oil are burned daily. Every time a fossil raw material is burned, it releases carbon dioxide into the air.

Therefore, it is clear that more and more greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide are being generated worldwide by humans. Moreover, we are also strengthening the greenhouse effect by deforestation, which means cutting down trees. Every year enormous areas of forests are destroyed by people to obtain wood and to clear regions for mining and to create pasture. This loss of the forest causes dual problems. Trees that are burned up release large volumes of carbon dioxide gas into the air. On the other hand, as forests absorb a lot of carbon dioxide from the air and deliver oxygen instead, we also destroy an important storehouse of carbon dioxide when we clear forests.

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B . Read the statements below and say if they are True/False. If false, give the correct information.

- 1 Fossil fuels are burned at an alarming rate due to industrialisation.
- 2 Coal is the only fuel used for generating energy.
- 3 At present, nearly 85 million barrels of crude oil are used weekly.
- 4 Deforestation is caused by nature.
- 5 Forests help consume carbon dioxide gases from the air.

C Match the meanings in column B and the words/phrases in column A.

A	B
1 Sun's radiation	a. energy that is transmitted from the sun in the form of rays or waves or particles
2 Fossil fuels	b. the process used by plants to convert light energy captured from the sun to chemical energy
3 Combustion of coals	c. a basic material or substance used in the production or manufacturing of goods
4 Crude oil	d. non-renewable sources of energy that come from the remains of plants and animals
5 Raw materials	e. intentional destructions or removal of trees and other vegetations for agricultural, commercial, housing or firewood use
6 Deforestation	f. a naturally occurring, unrefined petroleum product that can be refined to produce usable products such as diesel, gasoline, heating oil, jet fuel, kerosene, etc.
7 Photosynthesis	g. burning of coal usually in industrial plants.

D Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your concern about growing

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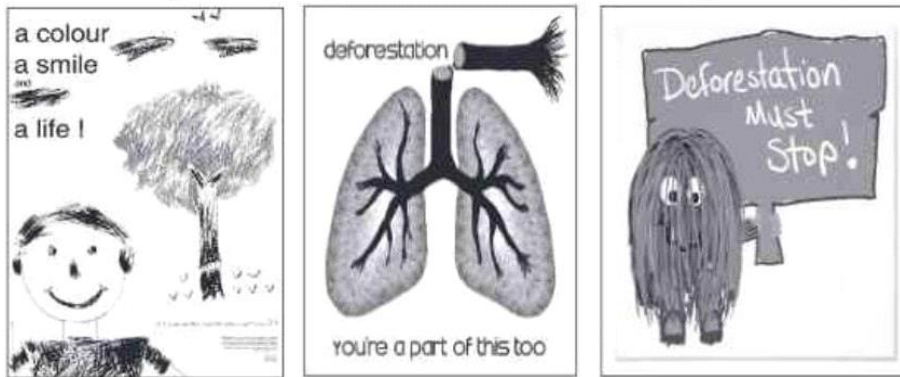
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deforestation in your area. Describe how deforestation is changing your environment. Also suggest what actions could be taken to stop cutting down trees. Follow the clues below.

- * dangers caused by deforestation
- * increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- * the greenhouse effect
- * making people aware of the adverse effect of deforestation
- * making an action plan to stop deforestation

E Look at these posters below. They are made to make people aware of the dangers of deforestation. In groups, design a poster to show the dangers caused by deforestation. Then write a slogan for the poster.



Lesson 4: The Wheel of Cyclone

A Read the following excerpt from Amitabh Ghosh's *The Great Derangement* and answer the questions.

On the afternoon of March 17, 1978, the weather took an odd turn in north Delhi. Mid-march is usually a nice time of year in that part of India: the chill of winter is gone and the blazing heat of

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summer is yet to come; the sky is clear and monsoon is far away. But that day dark clouds appeared suddenly and there were squalls of rain. Then followed an even bigger surprise: a hailstorm.

I was then studying for an MA at Delhi University while also working as a part-time journalist. When the hailstorm broke, I was in a library. I had planned to stay late, but the unseasonal weather led to a change of mind and I decided to leave. I was on my way back to my room when, on an impulse, I changed direction and dropped in on a friend. But the weather continued to worsen as we were chatting, so after a few minutes, I decided to head straight back by a route that I rarely had occasion to take.

I had just passed a busy intersection called Maurice Nagar when I heard a rumbling sound somewhere above. Glancing over my shoulder I saw a gray, tube-like extrusion forming on the underside of a dark cloud: it grew rapidly as I watched, and then all of a sudden it turned and came whiplashing down to earth, heading in my direction.

Across the street lay a large administrative building. I sprinted over and headed toward what seemed to be an entrance. But the glass-fronted doors were shut, and a small crowd stood huddled outside, in the shelter of an overhang. There was no room for me there so I ran around to the front of the building. Spotting a small balcony, I jumped over the parapet and crouched on the floor.

The noise quickly rose to a frenzied pitch, and the wind began to tug fiercely at my clothes. Stealing a glance over the parapet, I saw, to my astonishment, that my surroundings had been darkened by a churning cloud or dust. In the dim glow that was shining down from above, I saw an extraordinary panoply of objects flying past-bicycles, scooters, lampposts, sheets of corrugated iron, even entire teastalls. In that instant, gravity itself seemed to have been transformed into a wheel spinning upon the fingertip of some unknown power.

I buried my head in my arms and lay still. Moments later the noise died down and was replaced by an eerie silence. When at last I climbed out of the balcony, I was confronted by a scene of devastation such as I had never before beheld. Buses lay overturned, scooters sat perched on treetops, walls had been ripped out of buildings, exposing interiors in which ceiling fans had been twisted into tulip-like spirals. The place where I had first thought to take shelter, the glass-fronted doorway had been reduced to a jumble of jagged debris. The panes had shattered and many people had been wounded by the shards. I realised that I too would have been among the injured had I remained there. I walked away in a daze.

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Long afterward, I am not sure exactly when or where I hunted down the Times of India's New Delhi edition of March 18, I still have the photocopies I made of it. "30 dead", says the banner headline, "700 Hurt As Cyclone Hits North Delhi."

(Abridged)

Answer the following questions from your understanding of the above text

1. What do you mean by the title "The Great Derangement"? What reasons are there for our environment to be deranged?
2. Describe the weather of 17th March 1978 in your own words.
3. What job did the author do while studying in Delhi?
4. What steps did the author take to save himself when the cyclone hit North Delhi?
5. Did you ever see any natural calamity around you? Describe what you saw in your own words.