



4. What will happen if:

- (a) we go on cutting trees.
- (b) the habitat of an animal is disturbed.
- (c) the top layer of soil is exposed.

Answer:

(a) If we go on cutting trees then: Earth will lose its top fertile soil layer and get converted into desert.

The ecological balance will get disturbed and floods and drought will become more frequent. Wildlife will also be affected.

(b) The habitat of an animal provides it with necessities such as shelter, food, and protection. If the habitat of an animal is disturbed, then it will be forced to go to other places in search of food and shelter. The animal could get killed by other animals in this process.

(c) If the top layer of soil is exposed, then it will gradually expose the lower layer of soil, which is hard and rocky in nature. This type of soil is less fertile as it contains less humus. Continued soil erosion will make the land barren or infertile.

5. Answer in brief:

(a) Why should we conserve biodiversity?

Answer:

We should conserve biodiversity because it is very important for all living organisms and for the environment. We should conserve biodiversity to save it from becoming extinct.

(b) Protected forests are also not completely safe for wild animals. Why?

Answer:

Protected forests are not completely safe for wild animals because people who live near or adjacent to forests use resources from forests to fulfil their own requirements. In this process, wild animals are killed and sold for lucrative amounts of money.

(c) Some tribals depend on the jungle. How?

Answer:

Tribals gather food, fodder, and fallen branches of trees from forests. Hence, they depend on forests for their daily requirements.

(d) What are the causes and consequences of deforestation?

Answer:

The main cause of deforestation is growing urbanization and industrialization. Need for more land and resources have led to the cutting down of forests.

Consequences of deforestation are as follows:

- Soil erosion
- Depletion of groundwater
- Flash flood
- Global warming

(e) What is Red Data Book?

Answer:

Red Data Book is a source book that maintains an international list of all endangered animal and plant species.

(f) What do you understand by the term migration?

Answer:

Migration refers to the movement of an organism or a group of organisms from its natural habitat to another place at a particular time every year.

6. In order to meet the ever-increasing demand in factories and for shelter, trees are being continually cut. Is it justified to cut trees for such projects? Discuss and prepare a brief report.

Answer:

No. It is not at all justified to cut trees to meet the ever increasing demands of human population. Forests are the habitat of several organisms including wild animals. They provide us with good quality air as they give out  $O_2$  and absorb the harmful  $CO_2$  gas from the atmosphere. In the process, they prevent the excessive heating of the atmosphere. They prevent soil erosion and natural calamities such as floods and droughts. They increase the fertility of the soil and help conserve biodiversity. The cutting of forests to meet the demands of growing human population will lead to global warming, soil erosion, greenhouse effect, droughts, floods, and many more problems. The destruction of forests will disturb the balance of nature. Hence, forests must be conserved.

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