

B7. Protecting Our Wildlife

A Focus on Clean Water, Air, Health, Governments, and Wildlife

Our environment is a complex web of interconnected systems, each playing a vital role in sustaining life on Earth. As stewards of this planet, we have a responsibility to protect and preserve our environment for current and future generations. In this passage, we will delve into three crucial aspects of environmental conservation: ensuring clean water and air,

promoting a healthy environment, and the role of governments in safeguarding wildlife and their habitats.



Clean Water and Air

Clean water and air are the cornerstones of a healthy environment. They are essential for the well-being of all living organisms, including humans.

1. Clean Water

Clean water is not just a matter of convenience; it is a necessity for survival. Access to safe and clean drinking water is a fundamental

human right. Additionally, clean water is crucial for agriculture and sustaining aquatic ecosystems. Pollution of water bodies, whether through industrial discharges, agricultural runoff, or improper waste disposal, can have severe consequences. Contaminated water can lead to waterborne diseases, harm aquatic life, and disrupt ecosystems.

2. Clean Air

Clean air is equally important for human health and the environment. Air pollution, often caused by the burning of fossil fuels and industrial emissions, can have detrimental effects on respiratory health and contribute to climate change. Particulate matter and harmful gases released into the atmosphere can lead to respiratory illnesses and other health problems. Moreover, air pollution can damage ecosystems, harm wildlife, and impact the quality of soil and water.

Health Environment

A healthy environment directly impacts human health. Clean air reduces the risk of respiratory diseases and ensures that we breathe in oxygen-rich, uncontaminated air. Likewise, access to clean water is essential for preventing waterborne illnesses and maintaining overall health.

Governments and Wildlife

Governments play a pivotal role in environmental conservation, particularly in protecting wildlife and their habitats. They enact and enforce laws and regulations aimed at preserving biodiversity and preventing habitat destruction.



Wildlife Conservation

Biodiversity, the variety of life forms on Earth, is a treasure that must be preserved. Wildlife plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. Governments establish protected areas and wildlife reserves where animals and plants can thrive without human interference. These areas serve as refuges for endangered species and allow scientists to study and monitor

wildlife populations.

Habitat Protection

Governments also work to protect critical habitats, such as wetlands, forests, and marine ecosystems. These habitats provide essential services, such as filtering water, sequestering carbon, and supporting diverse flora and fauna. Conservation efforts help maintain the integrity of these ecosystems and ensure they continue to provide these services.

1. What are the two cornerstones of a healthy environment discussed in the passage?
 - a) Clean water and soil
 - b) Clean air and soil
 - c) Clean water and air
 - d) Clean air and vegetation

2. Why is access to clean water essential for humans?
 - a) It is a luxury.
 - b) It is crucial for agriculture.
 - c) It prevents waterborne diseases.
 - d) It promotes industrial growth.
3. What are the consequences of contaminated water?
 - a) Improved aquatic life
 - b) Harm to ecosystems
 - c) Increased biodiversity
 - d) Enhanced soil quality
4. How does air pollution primarily impact human health?
 - a) It causes waterborne diseases.
 - b) It promotes respiratory health.
 - c) It reduces the risk of illnesses.
 - d) It can lead to respiratory problems.
5. What can air pollution harm in addition to human health?
 - a) The quality of soil
 - b) Water temperature
 - c) Wildlife and ecosystems
 - d) Agricultural productivity
6. What does biodiversity refer to?
 - a) The variety of life forms on Earth
 - b) The number of national parks
 - c) The number of cities in a country
 - d) The rate of deforestation
7. What role do governments play in protecting wildlife?
 - a) They encourage habitat destruction.
 - b) They establish laws and regulations to protect wildlife.
 - c) They prioritize industrial growth over conservation.
 - d) They discourage conservation efforts.

8. What do protected areas and wildlife reserves serve as?
- a) Industrial zones
 - b) Refuges for endangered species
 - c) Agricultural lands
 - d) Pollution centers
9. Why are critical habitats like wetlands and forests important?
- a) They hinder ecological balance.
 - b) They provide essential services like filtering water and sequestering carbon.
 - c) They have no impact on the environment.
 - d) They promote habitat destruction.
10. What do conservation efforts aim to maintain?
- a) Habitat destruction
 - b) Unprotected areas
 - c) The integrity of critical ecosystems
 - d) Industrial emissions

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. c) Clean water and air
 - The passage discusses clean water and air as the cornerstones of a healthy environment.
2. c) It prevents waterborne diseases
 - Access to clean water is essential because it prevents waterborne diseases and maintains overall health.
3. b) Harm to ecosystems
 - Contaminated water can have consequences, including harm to ecosystems.
4. d) It can lead to respiratory problems
 - Air pollution primarily impacts human health by contributing to respiratory problems.
5. c) Wildlife and ecosystems
 - Air pollution can harm wildlife and ecosystems in addition to human health.
6. a) The variety of life forms on Earth
 - Biodiversity refers to the variety of life forms on Earth.
7. b) They establish laws and regulations to protect wildlife
 - Governments play a role in protecting wildlife by establishing laws and regulations.
8. b) Refuges for endangered species
 - Protected areas and wildlife reserves serve as refuges for endangered species.
9. b) They provide essential services like filtering water and sequestering carbon
 - Critical habitats like wetlands and forests are important because they provide essential services like filtering water and sequestering carbon.
- 10.c) The integrity of critical ecosystems
 - Conservation efforts aim to maintain the integrity of critical ecosystems.