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**Chapter 17**

**Forests: Our Lifeline**

**1. How can you define a forest?**

Ans. Forest is a system comprising various plants, animals and micro-organisms.

**2. What are creepers?**

Ans. Any plant that grows along the ground, around another plant, or up a wall is referred as creeper.

**3. What is canopy?**

Ans. Branches of the tall trees that looks like a roof over the other plant is called canopy.

**4. Why we can’t see similar type of animals and plants in every forest?**

Ans. It’s because of the different type of climatic conditions there are variations in the types of animals and plants.

**5. What is food chain?**

Ans. A food chain is a network which shows how each living thing gets food, and energy are passed from creature to creature.

**6. Give an example of food chain**.

Ans. Grass 🡪 Insect 🡪 frog 🡪 snake 🡪 eagle

**7. What is humus?**

Ans. Dead or decayed plant and animal tissues convert themselves into a dark colored substance called humus.

**8. In which layer of the soil you can find humus?**

Ans. O Horizon - The top, organic layer of soil

**9. What are decomposers?**

Ans. The micro-organisms which convert the dead plants and animals to humus are known as decomposers.

**10. Why forests are called green lungs?**

Ans. Because plants release oxygen for animal respiration and also maintain the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. That’s why forests are called green lungs.

**11. How forests are useful for tribal people?**

Ans. The forests provides them food, shelter, water and medicine.

**12. How forest officers recognize the presence of animals in the forest?**

Ans. They recognize the presence of animals by their droppings and footprints.

**13. How forest helps in preventing floods?**

Ans. Forest acts as natural absorber of rainwater and maintain the flow of water.

**14. Define soil erosion?**

Ans. The removal of the uppermost layer of the soil is termed as soil erosion.

**15. What do you mean by the term deforestation?**

Ans. Deforestation is the removal of forests in order to make the land available for other uses.

**16. What are the consequences of deforestation?**

Ans. If forests disappears:

1. The amount of carbon dioxide in air will increase, resulting in the increase of earths atmosphere.
2. Plants and animals will not get food and shelter.
3. The soil will not hold water, which will cause floods.