

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions.

(i) Which are the two main climatic factors responsible for soil formation?

Answer:

Temperature and rainfall are the two main climatic factors responsible for soil formation. Both these factors promote weathering, that is, breaking down of rocks.

(ii) Write any two reasons for land degradation today.

Answer:

Two reasons for land degradation are:

Large scale destruction of forest cover
Excessive use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers in agricultural lands

(iii) Why is land considered an important resource?

Answer:

Land is considered an important resource because it can be used for various purposes like agriculture, forestry, mining, building houses, roads and setting up of industries. It also serves as a habitat for a variety of flora and fauna.

(iv) Name any two steps that government has taken to conserve plants and animals.

Answer:

Two steps that the government has taken to conserve plants and animals are:

Establishment of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and biosphere reserves to protect our natural vegetation and wildlife. For example, Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand.

Putting a ban on killing of lions, tigers, deer, great Indian bustards and peacocks.

(v) Suggest three ways to conserve water.

Answer:

Water can be conserved by the following three ways:

Rain-water harvesting system should be used to collect the rain water and store it for future use.

The canals used for irrigating fields should be properly lined to minimise losses by water seepage.

Afforestation should be promoted to slow the surface runoff and replenish the ground water.

2. Tick the correct answer.

(i) Which one of the following is NOT a factor of soil formation?

(a) Time

(b) Soil texture

(c) Organic matter

(ii) Which one of the following methods is most appropriate to check soil erosion on steep slopes?

(a) Shelter belts

(b) Mulching

(c) Terrace cultivation

Answer: (c) Terrace cultivation

(iii) Which one of the following is NOT in favour of the conservation of nature?

(a) Switch off the bulb when not in use

(b) Close the tap immediately after using

(c) Dispose polypacks after shopping

Answer: (c) Dispose polypacks after shopping

(i) Land use	(a) Prevent soil erosion
(ii) Humus	(b) Narrow zone of contact between the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere
(iii) Rock dams	(c) Productive use of land
(iv) Biosphere	(d) Organic matter deposited on top soil

Answer:

<p>(i) Land use</p>	<p>(c) Productive use of land</p>
<p>(ii) Humus</p>	<p>(d) Organic matter deposited on top soil</p>
<p>(iii) Rock dams</p>	<p>(a) Prevent soil erosion</p>

4. State whether the given statements are true or false. If true, write the reasons.

(i) Ganga-Brahmaputra plain of India is an overpopulated region.

(ii) Water availability per person in India is declining.

(iii) Rows of trees planted in the coastal areas to check the wind movement is called intercropping.

(iv) Human interference and changes of climate can maintain the ecosystem.

(ii) True, Due to the ever increasing population, wastage of water, pollution of water bodies, deforestation, there is a rapid decrease in the availability of water.

(iii) False, Rows of trees planted in the coastal areas to check the wind movement are called shelter belts whereas intercropping is the process in which different crops are grown in alternate rows and are sown at different times to protect the soil from rain wash.

(iv) False, Human interferences and climatic changes adversely affect the ecosystem.