

CH: 12 Forests : Our Life-line

I Technical terms:

1. Saprotrophs:

Organisms which derive their food from dead and decaying organisms.

2. Decomposers:

Organisms which decompose the dead remains of plants and animals to simple compounds.

3. Conservation:

Judicious use of natural resources without their wastages.

II Answer the following

1. Mention three consequence of deforestation.

Ans Deforestation would lead to

- * Lesser rainfall
- * Imbalance between the oxygen-carbon dioxide cycle of the nature.
- * Increased soil erosion and air pollution.
- * Danger to wild life.

2. Justify the statement that "A forest has no waste".

Ans i) The decomposers (or microorganisms) of the forest convert dead plant and animals to humus.

ii) The presence of humus ensures that the nutrients of the dead plants and animals are released into the soil.

iii) From there these nutrients are again absorbed by the roots of the living plants.

iv) Animals like vultures, crows, jackals and insects feed on dead animals and recycle the nutrients. So nothing goes waste in a forest.

III HOTS

1. How do trees make the soil fertile?

Ans i) Trees bind the soil and control soil erosion.

ii) They make the soil fertile by recycling the nutrients.

iii) The leaves, flowers, twigs, fruits etc are converted to humus by decomposers.

iv) When it rains, humus released nutrients into the soil and makes it fertile.

2. What will happen if the decomposers are destroyed from the forest?

Ans i) The decomposers convert dead and decaying plants and animals into humus and recycle the nutrients in the soil.

ii) If they are removed from the forest it will affect the fertility of the soil.

iii) The soil fertility will be reduced and the environment will become contaminated.