

Class X - Social Science

Forest and Wildlife Resources

CBSE NOTES

Forest and Wildlife Resources - Mastery Worksheet

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Mastery Questions

1. Explain the significance of biodiversity for human survival with examples from the chapter.

Hint: Think about the direct and indirect benefits humans derive from biodiversity.

Solution: Biodiversity is crucial for human survival as it maintains the ecological balance and supports life through various ecosystem services. For example, plants, animals, and microorganisms regenerate the air we breathe, purify the water we drink, and enrich the soil that produces our food. Forests, being primary producers, are vital for the survival of all living beings by maintaining these life support systems.

2. Compare and contrast reserved forests and protected forests in India.

Hint: Focus on the level of protection and the percentage of forest area they cover.

Solution: Reserved forests are the most valuable for conservation, covering more than half of India's forest land, and are strictly protected to preserve forest and wildlife resources. Protected forests, covering almost one-third of the forest area, are safeguarded from further depletion but are less strictly conserved than reserved forests. Both aim to conserve biodiversity but differ in their level of protection and management intensity.

3. Describe the role of community participation in forest and wildlife conservation in India with examples.

Hint: Consider examples where local communities have taken active roles in conservation.

Solution: Community participation plays a pivotal role in conservation efforts, as seen in the Chipko Movement and Joint Forest Management (JFM). These initiatives involve local communities in protecting and managing forests, ensuring sustainable use and conservation. For instance, villagers in Rajasthan have protected wildlife by declaring forests as 'Bhairudev Dakav Sonchuri' with their own rules.

4. Analyze the impact of Project Tiger on the conservation of biodiversity in India.

Hint: Think beyond tigers to the broader ecosystem benefits.

Solution: Project Tiger, launched in 1973, has been instrumental in conserving not just tigers but also their habitats, thereby preserving biodiversity. It has led to the establishment of tiger reserves across India, protecting various species and ecosystems. The project emphasizes the importance of conserving biotypes of significant size, contributing to ecological balance and biodiversity conservation.

5. Discuss the traditional methods of nature conservation practiced in India as mentioned in the chapter.

Hint: Recall the examples of sacred groves and tree worship.

Solution: Traditional methods include sacred groves, where patches of forests are left untouched due to religious beliefs, and worship of specific trees like peepal and banyan. These practices have preserved biodiversity by protecting various species and their habitats, showcasing a harmonious relationship between humans and nature.

6. Explain the challenges faced in the conservation of forest and wildlife resources in India.

Hint: Consider human activities and their impact on conservation efforts.

Solution: Challenges include insensitivity towards the environment, leading to habitat destruction, poaching, and illegal trade. Rapid decline in wildlife populations and deforestation due to human activities like mining and agriculture expansion also pose significant threats. Effective conservation requires addressing these issues through stricter laws and community involvement.

7. How does the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 contribute to wildlife conservation?

Hint: Focus on the legal measures and their outcomes.

Solution: The Act provides legal protection to habitats, bans hunting of endangered species, and restricts wildlife trade. It has led to the establishment of national parks and sanctuaries, and

projects for specific animals like tigers and rhinoceroses, significantly contributing to wildlife conservation in India.

8. Describe the distribution of forest and wildlife resources in India.

Hint: Look at the classification and geographical distribution.

Solution: Forest and wildlife resources in India are distributed across reserved, protected, and unclassed forests. Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under permanent forests, while states like Jammu and Kashmir and Kerala have significant reserved forests. North-eastern states and parts of Gujarat have high percentages of unclassed forests managed by local communities.

9. Evaluate the success of Joint Forest Management (JFM) in India.

Hint: Consider the partnership between government and local communities.

Solution: JFM has been successful in involving local communities in the management and restoration of degraded forests. Since its inception in 1988, it has fostered a collaborative approach between the forest department and villagers, leading to improved forest conservation and providing benefits like non-timber forest products to the communities.

10. What lessons can be learned from the dynamics of environmental destruction and reconstruction in India?

Hint: Reflect on the role of community participation and sustainable practices.

Solution: The key lesson is the importance of involving local communities in natural resource management. Sustainable development requires activities that are people-centric, environmentally friendly, and economically rewarding, ensuring long-term conservation and livelihood security.

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