

Class 11 - English

The Adventure

CBSE NOTES

The Ailing Planet: The Green Movement's Role - Practice Worksheet

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Practice Questions

1. Explain the concept of sustainable development as defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development. Why is it important for future generations?

Hint: Refer to the definition provided in the text.

Solution: Sustainable development is defined as 'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' This concept is vital as it ensures that the natural resources are conserved and available for future generations. By focusing on sustainable practices, we can maintain a balance between economic growth, environmental health, and social equity. For example, using renewable resources like solar energy rather than fossil fuels contributes to long-term ecological health. Additionally, sustainable agriculture helps in preserving soil quality and biodiversity. Therefore, it is crucial to implement practices that protect the earth for the future.

2. Discuss the significance of the phrase 'the world's most dangerous animal' as used in the context of the Green Movement.

Hint: Consider how the text portrays humans in relation to nature.

Solution: The phrase 'the world's most dangerous animal' refers to humans, highlighting their capacity for destruction. It conveys that humans are responsible for significant ecological damage, often prioritizing short-term gains over long-term sustainability. This idea is illustrated by examples such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change. By acknowledging this, the Green Movement emphasizes the need for a shift in human behavior towards stewardship of the earth, promoting a partnership with nature rather than domination. This change is essential for reversing environmental degradation and ensuring a livable planet.

3. What are the primary biological systems mentioned by Lester R. Brown, and how are they being impacted by human activities?

Hint: Look for statistics and examples provided in the text.

Solution: Lester R. Brown identifies four primary biological systems: fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands. These systems are crucial for providing food and resources. Human activities such as overfishing, deforestation, and agriculture practices have led to severe depletion of these systems. For instance, overfishing has caused fish populations to decline significantly, disrupting marine ecosystems. Deforestation for agriculture has resulted in habitat loss and reduced biodiversity. To sustain these biological systems, it is necessary to implement responsible management practices and regulations.

4. Analyze how population growth is contributing to environmental issues, as discussed in the text.

Hint: Consider the examples related to India's population growth.

Solution: The text discusses population growth as a key factor influencing environmental degradation. A significant increase in population leads to higher demand for resources such as water, food, and land. This dilation often results in unsustainable practices, such as over-extraction of resources, increased waste, and habitat destruction. For instance, the rise in population can lead to more vehicles on the road, contributing to air pollution. Moreover, efforts to provide for the growing population can strain agricultural systems, leading to practices that diminish soil health. Therefore, addressing population growth is essential for environmental sustainability.

5. What is the relationship between economic growth and environmental sustainability as presented in the article?

Hint: Reflect on the examples of corporate responsibilities mentioned.

Solution: The article establishes a complex relationship between economic growth and environmental sustainability. While economic growth can provide resources to improve living standards, unchecked growth often leads to environmental degradation. For example, industries that prioritize profit over ecological health can contribute to pollution and resource depletion. The text suggests that sustainable development, which aligns economic practices with environmental stewardship, is crucial. Thus, promoting green technologies and responsible corporate practices can enable economic growth while supporting environmental health.

6. Explore the ethics of environmental stewardship as discussed by the author.

Hint: Refer to the section where the author's view on responsibility is outlined.

Solution: Environmental stewardship is portrayed as an ethical obligation in the text. It emphasizes the responsibility humans have to protect and preserve the planet for future generations. This stems from the understanding that the earth is a living organism. The author argues that turning a blind eye to environmental degradation reflects a failure to honor this ethical duty. Ethical stewardship involves actions such as conservation, sustainable resource use, and advocating for policies that protect the environment.

7. How does the author link individual action with global environmental outcomes?

Hint: Look for examples of individual responsibilities mentioned in the text.

Solution: The author links individual action to global outcomes by illustrating how personal choices collectively impact the environment. For instance, when individuals opt for sustainable products or reduce waste, they contribute to a larger movement that can lead to significant change. The text suggests that awareness and education are critical in fostering responsible attitudes towards the environment. Thus, individual responsibility, such as reducing consumption and supporting green initiatives, can cumulatively lead to positive global environmental outcomes.

8. Assess the significance of laws and regulations in environmental protection as described in the article.

Hint: Pay attention to the examples regarding ineffective enforcement.

Solution: The article underscores the importance of laws and regulations in ensuring environmental protection. While laws such as Article 48A in the Indian Constitution mandate the safeguarding of the environment, the text reveals a gap in enforcement. This lack of enforcement leads to continued degradation of natural resources and ecosystems. Therefore, effective legislation, coupled with strict enforcement and public accountability, is essential to uphold environmental integrity and drive meaningful change.

9. Interpret the concept of 'transcending concern' regarding environmental awareness as addressed by the author.

Hint: Consider examples in the text that illustrate this change in perception.

Solution: The concept of 'transcending concern' refers to the evolution of human awareness from individual survival to a collective responsibility for the planet. The author suggests that this broader view is necessary for the survival of both humanity and the Earth. By recognizing

the interconnectedness of ecological systems and human actions, individuals can develop a sense of urgency and commitment towards environmental stewardship. This shift in awareness reflects a growing understanding that environmental sustainability is integral to human health and future prosperity.

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