

DEFORESTATION & CONSERVATION

CONTENTS:

WHAT IS DEFORESTATION?

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF
DEFORESTATION?

WHAT CAN WE DO TO
REDUCE DEFORESTATION?

WHAT HAS THE GOVERNMENT DONE
TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION?

DEFORESTATION

- About 11000 ago, before Man learnt to cultivate land for growing his own food, a large part of the Earth was covered with forests. Today, six out of ten forests have been cleared, so that they now cover little more than one-fifth of the land on Earth. Destruction of forested land is called deforestation.
- Deforestation occurs for many reasons: trees or derived charcoal are used as, or sold, for fuel or as a commodity, while cleared land is used as pasture for livestock, plantations of commodities, and settlements.



DEFORESTATION

- The removal of trees without sufficient reforestation has resulted in damage to habitat, biodiversity loss and aridity. It has adverse impacts on biosequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Deforested regions typically incur significant adverse soil erosion and frequently degrade into wasteland. Currently, 12 million hectares of forests are cleared annually.
- ⊕ **Biosequestration** is the capture and storage of the atmospheric greenhouse gas carbon dioxide by biological processes.

DEFORESTATION

- Because of this, merely replanting trees may not help in solving the problem caused by deforestation, for by the time the trees mature, the soil will be totally devoid of essential nutrients. Ultimately, cultivation in this land will also become impossible, resulting in the land becoming useless.



DEFORESTATION

- ◉ **Erosion of Soil:** When forest areas are cleared, the soil is exposed to the sun, making it very dry and eventually, infertile, due to volatile nutrients being lost. In addition, when there is erosion, rainfall washes away the rest of the nutrients, which flow with the rainwater into waterways.

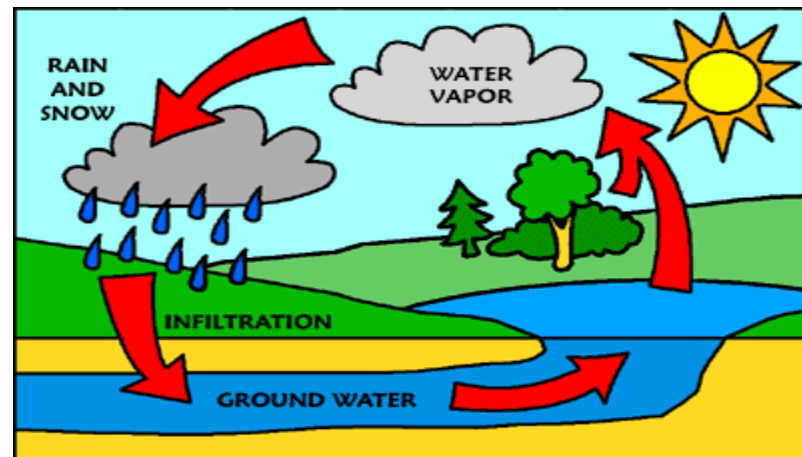


DEFORESTATION

- ◉ **Disruption of the Water Cycle:** Trees contribute in a large way in maintaining the water cycle. They take in water via their roots, which is then released into the atmosphere. A large part of the water that circulates



in the ecosystem of rainforests, for instance, remains inside the plants. When these trees are cut down it results in the climate getting drier in that area.



DEFORESTATION

- ◉ **Loss of Biodiversity:** The unique biodiversity of various geographical areas is being lost on a scale that is quite unprecedented. Even though tropical rainforests make up just 6 percent of the surface area of the Earth, about 85 percent of the entire species of the world exist here. Due to massive deforestation, about 50 to 100 species of animals are being lost each day. This puts the extinction of animals and plants on a massive scale.



DEFORESTATION

○ Flooding and Drought:



One of the vital functions of forests is to absorb and store great amounts of water quickly when there are heavy rains. When forests are cut down, this regulation of the flow of water is disrupted, which leads to

alternating periods of flood and then drought in the affected area.



DEFORESTATION

◉ **Climate Change:** It is well known that global warming is being caused largely due to emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. However, what is not quite known is that deforestation has a direct association with carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. Trees act as a major storage depot for carbon, since they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to photosynthesis to produce glucose which makes up trees. When deforestation occurs, many of the trees are burnt or are left to rot, which results in releasing the carbon that is stored in them as carbon dioxide. This in turn leads to Greater concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION?

- ◉ **Recycling** : we should recycle all the things that are made of wood ex. Paper, bags, furniture, etc. because it leads to the less cutting of trees and also the products of trees will be used wisely.



- ◉ **Wood factories:** we should stop or lessen the production in those factories that cut down trees to make their products ex. paper, furniture, etc.
- ◉ • **People's basic needs:** we all know that the colossal cause of deforestation is people's needs from the forests. Even though we depend on the forests, we should learn to lessen our dependency on the forests and their environment. So we need to use a little of them as possible and wisely.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION?



- ◉ **Paper:** paper is one of the
- ◉ most important things in the world without it we can't do almost anything. We can't study, write, learn and a lot of stuff which is impossible to do without paper, but many of the forests are destroyed just to make paper out of them. So lessen your dependency on the paper and try to use as less as possible and recycle them.
- ◉ **Reforestation:** after cutting down a tree we should plant two because this way there will be a balance of ecosystem and the rate of deforestation will diminish.