

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. Why do animals become extinct?

Ans. a. Several species become extinct due to natural causes like change in climate of a particular region.

b. The plants or animals on which the species lived could have died out because of the change in the weather.

c. Human activities such as hunting or the destruction of the places where animals live.

Q. 2. Explain methods of conservation of biodiversity.

Ans. Some of the methods for conservation of biodiversity are:

- a. **Reforestation:** This is the planting of trees on large scale.
- b. Protection of forests from forest fires.
- c. Protection of trees and plants from pests and insects.
- d. Minimum use of wood/timber as a firewood; alternatives of these should be used.
- e. Excessive grazing in and near forests should be stopped. The government should make strict rules and laws for protection of forests. We all have a role to play in conservation of forests.
- f. To protect the flora and fauna, protected areas like biosphere reserves, national parks, sanctuaries have been earmarked.
- g. Conserve paper and avoid usage of materials made from skins and furs of animals.
- h. Strict rules and regulations have been made by the Government banning the hunting of endangered species.

Q. 3. Explain consequences of deforestation.

Ans. Large scale deforestation has resulted in many problems for mankind.

Increase in carbon dioxide, temperature and pollution levels on the earth, resulting in global warming.

Decrease in the oxygen level.

Cutting down of trees on large scale has resulted in depletion of water vapour in the atmosphere which has in turn affected cloud formation, thus, resulting in less rainfall. This can even cause droughts.

The decrease in rainfall is leading to desertification, as trees and plants die. Fewer trees result in more soil erosion. The top fertile soil is carried away, exposing the lower, hard and rocky layers which is less fertile. Over a period of time, fertile land gets converted into deserts, this is called desertification.

Deforestation decreases the water holding capacity of soil and decreases the infiltration rate of water into the ground.

Animals become homeless.