

Ch. 7: Preserving Ecosystems

Study Guide

Chapter 7 Lesson 1 “How do People Affect Ecosystems?”

Humans change their ecosystem as they meet their needs. (Examples: cutting down trees for wood or paper, building a town or road, building dams) These changes make it hard for some other organisms to survive.

Example: Dams are both helpful and harmful to the environment.

Helpful	Harmful
Stop flooding	Prevent nutrients from being added to the soil
Bring water to dry places	
Give water to people in cities	

* **pollutant**-A material that causes pollution.

Pollutants that people add to the environment cause pollution.

* **pollution**-The addition of harmful materials to the environment.

Two types of pollutants are litter and hazardous waste.

* **hazardous waste**-Waste that can pollute the environment even in small amounts.

* Motor oil, paint, insect sprays (pesticides), fertilizers, and bleach are pollutants---hazardous waste

* **litter**-Trash that is not disposed of in a way that prevents harm to ecosystems. It can keep plants from growing and can make animals sick if they eat it.

Chapter 7 Lesson 2 “How Can Ecosystems Be Conserved?”

* **conservation**-*The movement to help preserve (save) animals and plants and their habitats. We can help ecosystems by using biodegradable materials, recycling, and practicing green agriculture*

* **biodegradable material**-Matter that breaks down easily in the environment.

- * Paper, cardboard, and wood are biodegradable.

- * Metals, most plastics, and Styrofoam are **not** biodegradable.

* **green agriculture**-Ways to farm that do not hurt the environment. Helps save water, improve soil, and keep the ecosystem safe. There are 3 kinds of Green Agriculture.

1. **organic farming**-using only things that occur naturally in an ecosystem, does not use harmful fertilizers, and does not use products that kill weeds.

2. **crop rotation**-a different crop is grown in the same place every year, keeps soil rich, and does not need fertilizers.

3. **cover crops**-crops are grown for one year and then mixed into the ground, makes soil rich, and saves water.

* **recycle**-To collect old materials, process them, and make new items.

- * Aluminum, glass, paper, and plastics can be recycled.

* **decomposer**-An organism that breaks down the remains of dead organisms or materials that are made from once-living things.

* **compost**-Decayed material from once-living things that is used to enrich the soil.

Examples of things to put in compost piles: grass clippings, leaves, kitchen scraps, some paper

- * What happens to plant material that is left in a compost pile? The dead plants decay.

* **ecotourism**-Travel to natural habitats that avoids harming them and helps preserve these areas and the living things there.