

Chapter-5

Soils of India

I. Oral Questions:-

1. Give two points for the prevention of soil erosion.

Ans- Two points for the prevention of soil erosion are-

- a. Plant more trees and stop deforestation.
- b. Stop overgrazing.

2. How do farmers make the red soil fertile?

Ans- To make the red soil fertile, farmers add fertilizers to it.

II. Write short answers:-

1. Why is soil called a natural resource?

Ans- a. Soil is called a natural resource because it is made of pieces of rocks, silt, sand, clay and the remains of plants and animals.

b. This layer is formed by a natural process.

2. How does the quality of soil decide the produce of the place?

Ans- a. All soils are not equally fertile because they are composed of different types of materials.

b. Climate, vegetation and availability of water also affect the fertility of soil.

3. Why is black soil considered the best for growing cotton and sugar cane?

Ans- Black soil can hold large amount of water so it is considered the best for growing cotton and sugar cane.

4. Define mountain soil. Name three crops grown in it.

Ans- 1. Mountain Soil-

a. Mountain soil is found in hilly areas.

b. It is rich in humus.

2. Wheat, barley and maize grow well in mountain soil.

5. Which plants normally grow in desert soil?

Ans- Cactus, bushes or shrubs normally grow in the desert soil.

III. Answer the following questions:-

1. How is the top layer of soil formed?

Ans- The top layer of the soil is formed by the pieces of rocks, silt, sand, clay and the remains of plants and animals.

2. Write the short note on alluvial soil.

Ans- Alluvial Soil-

a. It is very fertile.

- b. It is found in the northern and the coastal plains.
- c. It is made of fine sand and silt.
- d. It is good for growing crops such as rice, wheat, maize, sugar cane, fruits, etc.

3. How is the laterite soil formed? How is it used?

Ans- Laterite soil is formed due to leaching in places of heavy rainfall.

- a. It is used to make bricks.
- b. After adding fertilizers it is good for growing millets and groundnuts.

4. What causes soil erosion?

Ans- Causes of soil erosion-

- a. Overgrazing by animals.
- b. Cutting down of trees.
- c. Heavy rainfall and strong winds.

5. How can you prevent soil erosion?

Ans- Prevention of soil erosion-

- a. Planting more trees.
- b. Practice terrace farming in hilly areas.
- c. Stop overgrazing.
- d. Hill slopes should be covered with vegetation.

6. The soil gives life to plants. It takes nothing from them.

How important is 'giving to friends' for you?

Ans- 'Giving to friend" is very important to me. I believe that giving is an important value which should be imbibed and practiced by everyone. Just as the soil gives life to plants and Sun gives us heat and light to survive, in the same way, we should also give something to help the needy in our life.

7. What is soil erosion?

Ans- When the upper layer of soil is removed by the action of wind or water is called soil erosion.

IV. HOTS:-

1. Why do you think desert soil supports the growth of cactus, bushes and shrubs?

Ans- Desert soil supports the growth of cactus, bushes and shrubs because these plants can grow in little or no rainfall.