

CLASS 7: GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 1: ENVIRONMENT

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Environment

Environment is a basic life support system that provides air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat and the land to live. The term environment is derived from a French words 'environner' which means 'neighbourhood'.

The place ,people, things and nature that surround any living organism is called environment. It is a combination of natural and human made phenomena. For example air, water ,land ,place, things etc. The different components of the environment are shown in the chart given below



Natural Environment

The natural environment comprises of land ,water, air, plant and animal. There are two factors of natural environment biotic and abiotic.

- **Biotic is the world of living organisms. For example plants and animals.**
- **Abiotic is the world of non-living elements. For example land**

Domains of natural environment

There are four domains of natural environment that is

- **Lithosphere**
- **Hydrosphere**
- **Atmosphere ;and**
- **Biosphere**



Lithosphere

It is the outermost solid crust or the hard top layer of the earth. It is an irregular surface made up of Rocks and Minerals and covered by a thin layer of soil. Mountains ,plateaus ,Plains ,valleys etc. are various landforms of lithosphere. Landforms of lithosphere are found over the continents and on the ocean floors and on the ocean floors

Hydrosphere

The domain of water is referred to as Hydrosphere. It comprises various sources of water and different types of water bodies like rivers, lakes, oceans seas. It is essential for all living organisms.

Atmosphere

The atmosphere is a thin layer of air that surrounds the Earth. The gravitational force of the earth holds the atmosphere around it.It protects us

from the harmful rays and scorching heat of the sun. It consists of a number of gases, dust and water vapour. The changes in the atmosphere produce changes in weather and climate.

Biosphere

It is constituted by all living organisms that is plants and animal kingdom together. It is also called the living world. It is narrow zone of the earth where land, water and air interact for supporting of lives .

Ecosystem

The relationship between the living organisms as well as the relation between organisms and their surroundings form an ecosystem. In other words, it is a system which is formed by physical and chemical interaction of living and non-living organisms. They are connected by the transfer of energy and material. Ecosystem can be as huge as a large rainforest, grassland, desert, Ocean mountains and can be as small as a lake or a pond.

Human Environment

Human beings interact with environment and modify it for their adaptation and need. This modified environment is called human environment. Modification in the environment does not take place instantly. Early humans were adapted to natural surroundings leading a simple life. With the passage of timetheir needs grew. Humans learnt new ways to use and change environment. Growing crops and domestication of animals were some of the ways .

Humans learnt to lead a settled life. Wheel was invented, surplus food was produced. Barter system also emerged ,trade started and Commerce developed. Industrial Revolution enabled large scale production. Transportation became faster. Information Revolution made communication easier and speedy across the world.

A perfect balance is necessary between the natural and human environment as both are interrelated. Human beings must learn to live and use their environment in a sustainable and harmonious way.

Very Short Answer Questions:-

1.What do you mean by Lithosphere?

Ans1. Lithosphere is the solid crust or the hard top layer of the earth. It is made up of Rocks and Minerals and covered by a thin layer of soil. It is a domain that provides us forests, grasslands, lands and human settlements..

2.What is barter system?

Ans 2. Barter system is a trade in which goods are exchanged without the use of money.

3.What is atmosphere?

Ans3. The atmosphere is the thin layer of air that surrounds the earth. The gravitational force of the earth holds the atmosphere around it. It protects us from the harmful rays and the scorching heat of the Sun.

4.What does the term biotic mean?

Ans4. Biotic is the world of living organisms for example plants and animals.

5.When is the World Environment Day celebrated?

Ans 5. The World Environment Day is celebrated on 5th June every year.

Short Answer Questions:-

6. What do you mean by natural environment?

Ans6. The natural environment is encircled by the world of living organisms that is plants and animals and the world of non living things like land ,water etc.There are four domains of natural environment:-

- Lithosphere
- Hydrosphere
- Atmosphere ;and
- Biosphere

7.What is biosphere?

Ans 7. Biosphere is called the living world .It is constituted by all living organisms that is plants and animal kingdom together. It is narrow zone of the earth where land, water and air interact with each other to support life.

8.Give four examples of human made environment

Ans8. The four examples of human made environment our are buildings, parks bridges and roads.

Long Answer Questions:-

9. What is an ecosystem? Explain with examples.

Ans 9. The relationship between the living organisms as well as the relation between organisms and their surroundings form an ecosystem. In other words, it is a system which is formed by physical and chemical interaction of living and non-living organisms. They are connected by the transfer of energy and material. Ecosystem can be as huge as a large rainforest, grassland, desert, ocean, mountains and can be as small as a lake or a pond.

10.Man modifies his environment. Explain.

Ans 10. Human beings interact with environment and modify it for their adaptation and need. This modified environment is called human environment. Modification in the environment does not take place instantly. Early humans were adapted to natural surroundings leading a simple life. With the passage of time their needs grew. Humans learnt new ways to use and change environment. Growing crops and domestication of animals were some of the ways .

Humans learnt to lead a settled life. Wheel was invented, surplus food was produced. Barter system also emerged ,trade started and Commerce developed. Industrial Revolution enabled large scale production. Transportation became faster. Information Revolution made communication easier and speedy across the world .

Draw the following diagrams :

1. Components of the Environment
2. Domains of the Earth.

That's all for chapter 1. Thank you. God Bless.