

Chapter- 19

Our Environment

STUDY NOTES

- The word 'environment' means to encircle or surround. So, everything that surrounds us forms our environment.
- There are people, plants, animals, buildings, cars, roads and so many other things.
- People, plants and animals are **living** things. Roads, buildings, cars, chairs and tables are **non-living** things.
- Both living and non-living things together make up our us-both environments.

SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIVING AND NON-LIVING THINGS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living things grow.• Living things can move.• Living things need food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-living things do not grow.• Non-living things cannot move on their own.• Non-living things do not need food.
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Natural and human-made environment

- Our **natural environment** includes all those things made by nature, like soil, water, air, plants and animals.
- Buildings, roads, cars, computers and clothes are part of the **human-made environment**.

Our Needs and Wants

- We need air to breath, water to drink, food to eat, a house to live in and clothes to wear.
- Air, water, food and shelter are our basic needs. We cannot stay alive without these.
- But do we need a computer, a television, a mobile or a car to stay alive?
- No, because these are not our needs. These are our wants, and we can stay alive without them.
- Our wants are unending and far exceed our needs. But from where and how do satisfy our wants? We can do it only from our natural environment.
- With the increasing population and these increasing wants, our natural resources are getting used up very fast.
- Forests are being cut down to create more farmlands, housing colonies and factories.

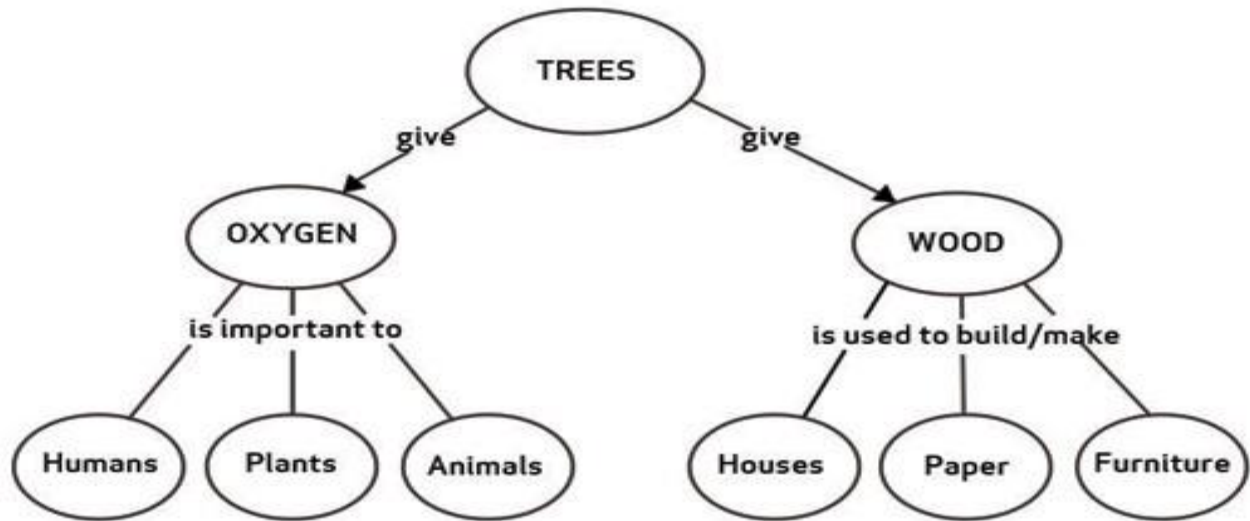
- Trees are cut down to make furniture and paper.
- Animals are killed for their fur, which is used to make clothes. More cars mean more petrol.

Pollution

- Pollution happens when something harmful enters the environment and spoils it.
- Things that do not decay, like plastics, pollute the environment.
- Our greed for more and more things is polluting the environment.
- We want more cars; but smoke from cars is polluting the air.
- We want more clothes and computers, but waste from the factories producing these goods is polluting our rivers and seas.
- Farmers are polluting the soil by using chemical fertilizers to grow more crops.
- Gandhiji has said, 'This world contains enough for everyone's needs, but not for everyone's greed.'
- So, we need to control our wants and our greedy demands for MORE.

Saving our Environment

- We need to save our environment. But how can we do that? Here are some ways we can adopt:
- We can stop wasting paper as wasting paper means cutting down more and more trees. In fact, we should plant more trees.
- We can stop buying things, which are made by killing animals illegally, like things made from fur and ivory.
- We can cycle or walk to nearby places instead of taking a car or bus, to save on fuel and control air pollution.
- We can switch off lights and fans when they are not needed to save electricity.
- We can shut taps when not in use to save water.
- We can refuse to use polythene bags. Instead, we can take a cloth bag every time we go shopping.
- The World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June. On this day, let us pledge to save the environment from pollution and destruction.



Let's know more

Mark the following sentences as True or False. Correct the ones that are false.

1. There are only living things in our environment.
2. Human beings pollute the environment.
3. Glass cannot be recycled.
4. Using buses instead of cars protects the environment.

Let's Do

A. Match the columns.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. pollution | a. paper |
| 2. animals | b. petrol |
| 3. trees | c. need |
| 4. cars | d. natural environment |
| 5. air | e. harming the environment |

B. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the things that make up your environment?
2. List three of your needs and three of your wants.
3. Mention three differences between living and non-living things. Give examples.
4. What is pollution? Give three examples of pollution.

5. How can we take care of the environment?

Teacher's Note

Collect articles from newspapers and magazines on pollution and paste them in your project record.

Improve Your GK

- Soil gets polluted in two kinds of wastes biodegradable and non-biodegradable.
- Noise pollution causes hearing loss, sleep disturbances, irritation etc.
- Global warming – increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere caused by increase of particular gases.

Answer key

1.e

2. d

3. a

4. b

5. c

B. Answer the following questions.

1. The word 'environment' refers to the surroundings in which we live. It includes natural features and human-made things. It includes landforms trees, animals and birds, people, buildings, vehicles and factories.
2. Our needs are food, water, air, and shelter and wants are computer, a television, a mobile.
3. The difference between living and Non-living things are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living things grow. • Living things can move. • Living things need food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-living things do not grow. Non-living things cannot move on their own. Non-living things do not need food.
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4. When we dirty the environment by adding harmful substances to air, soil or water, it is called pollution. The three main types of pollution are land pollution, water pollution and air pollution.
5. The following are some things that we can do to protect the environment:
 - Use garbage bins to throw waste.
 - Use both sides of paper. Do not waste paper.

- Do not throw away waste paper, glass and plastic. These can be usually reused and recycled.
- Give away old clothes to people who need them.

