

Q & A

A. Tick the correct answer.

1. The wearing off or carrying away of soil by the action of water or wind is called _____.

a) storm

b) flood

c) soil erosion ✓

d) deforestation

2. This may lead to soil erosion.

a) terrace farming

b) growing of crops

c) afforestation

d) deforestation ✓

3. Soil is mostly conserved by _____.

a) afforestation. ✓

b) deforestation.

c) making dams.

d) overgrazing.

4 The Hwang Ho river which changes its course every year, is in

a) Holland

b) China ✓

c) India

d) Sri Lanka

5 Afforestation is a term which means

a) felling of trees

b) overgrazing

c) growing trees ✓

d) making dams

B. Fill in the blanks

1. Running water washes away soil off hill slopes
(hill slopes / plains).
2. Natural _____ (Artificial / Natural) forces like wind, rain and running water help in soil formation.
3. Plants and trees hold the soil together by their Roots
(roots / stems).
4. At places where strong winds blow, Manure
(manure / seeds) too is/are blown away along with top soil.

C. Match the columns.

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1. loss of soil | a. afforestation | 5 |
| 2. Sorrow of china | b. deforestation | 3 |
| 3. cutting down trees | c. Hwang Ho | 2 |
| 4. protection of soil | d. soil erosion | 1 |
| 5. planting more trees | e. soil conservation | 4 |

Answer these questions.

1. Why do we say that soil is the foundation of life?

Ans. Soil support plants which provide food to all living things on this planet. Thus, soil is the foundation of all life on earth.

2. How was soil formed from rocks?

Ans. The sun heated the rocks. The rain made them cold, and wind blew them over. These ~~pieces broke~~ continued for thousands of years. As a result, the rocks broke into pieces. These pieces broke into still smaller pieces. They were carried around by wind and water. They rubbed against each other till they became tiny particles. It took millions of year for these tiny particles to change into loose material which we call soil. Thus soil is formed from ~~rocks~~ rocks.

E Answer these questions.

3. How does water act as ~~an~~ an agent of soil erosion?

Ans Water acts as an agent of soil erosion as they carry away the top layer of soil causing soil erosion. In heavy rain or floods soil gets carried because of water coming in high speeds and heavy forces. Top layer of soil gets carried away which makes soil infertile and causes soil erosion.

4. Why do some rivers change their course?

Ans When ~~the~~ some ~~rivers~~ change their course? a river comes down from the Hill it carries a lot of mud with it. When it reaches the plains, the flow of the river slows down and leaves part of soil on its way. Over a period of time soil accumulates and makes the river change its course.

5. How is man responsible for soil erosion?

Ans Man is responsible for soil erosion in the following ways:

- Deforestation or felling of trees
- Ploughing of hill slopes
- Over grazing by cattle

6. List three ways by which soil can be conserved.

Ans Ways by which soil can be conserved:

- **Afforestation**: Planting trees is known as afforestation. It is very effective in preventing soil erosion.
- **Soil Cover**: The soil can be ~~erode~~ easily eroded by wind and water. To prevent this, farmers ~~use~~ either grow grass or cover the land with dried vegetation.
- **Shelterbelts**: Growing fences or trees along the edge of farmland as wind breakers, ~~it~~ reduce ~~the~~ soil erosion by reducing the speed of the wind.
- **Terrace Farming**: Along the slopes of the hills, farming is done by cutting steps in the slopes. This reduces the speed of water as it flows down, thus reducing soil erosion.
- **Building Embankments**: Rivers constantly erode the soil on their banks. Strong embankments of rocks and soil built along the banks prevent this.