

SOIL

A. Fill in the blanks:-

1. The main agents of weathering are wind , water and climate.
2. The most fertile layer of the soil is called topsoil.
3. The process of conversing soil from being eroded is called soil conservation.
4. Terrace farming on hills lessens soil erosion.

B. State whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Weathering is a very quick process. - **False**
2. Soil erosion increases the fertility of the soil.- **False**
3. Wind and water cause soil erosion. - **True**

4. To conserve soil, fields must be left bare for at least two seasons. - **False**

5. Roots of plants hold soil particles and prevent soil erosion. – **True**

C. Answer the following questions:-

1. What is humus?

Ans- Humus is an organic layer of the soil which is formed of dead and decaying plants and animals. It provides nutrients for plants and increases the soil fertility.



2. What do you mean by weathering of rocks?

Ans- Weathering of rocks is the slow breaking down of rocks into smaller grains and soil by the natural forces as wind, water and sun and human beings.



3. What is soil erosion?

Ans- The removal of the topsoil by the agents as wind water and human activities is called soil erosion. It makes the soil infertile.



4. What can prevent soil erosion from a bare land?

Ans- Growing of plants like grasses on bare land can prevent soil erosion and can also be used as fodder for animals.



5. Where is terrace farming done?

Ans - Terrace farming is done in the hills. It is done to prevent soil erosion.



6. Why is soil important to all living organisms?

Ans - Soil is important to the living organisms in the following ways:-

- It provides essential nutrients for the growth of plants.
- It protects the roots of the plants from the exposure to the hot sun rays.
- It provides shelter to insects, small animals as rats and other micro organisms which help in maintaining the soil fertility.

7. What is soil conservation? List the different ways by which soil can be conserved.

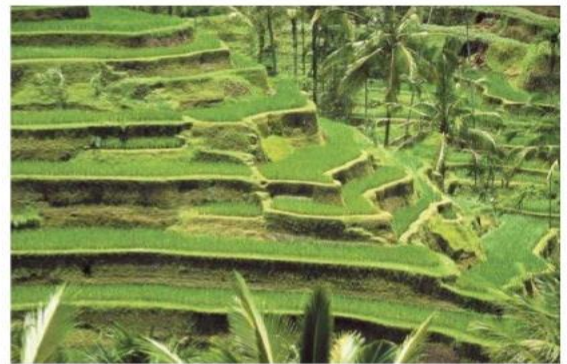
Ans- Soil conservation is the prevention of the soil from getting eroded.

Here are some protective measures:-

- **Afforestation** - Planting trees on a large scale as their roots bind the soil firmly and thus prevent soil erosion.
- **Terrace Farming** - To cut hill slopes into steps which reduces the speed of flowing river water and the soil erosion is decreased.
- **Embankments** - Making embankments on the river bank doesn't allow the river water to flood the nearby land.
- **Wind Breaks** - Growing trees and hedges along the edges of fields to protect the soil from strong winds.



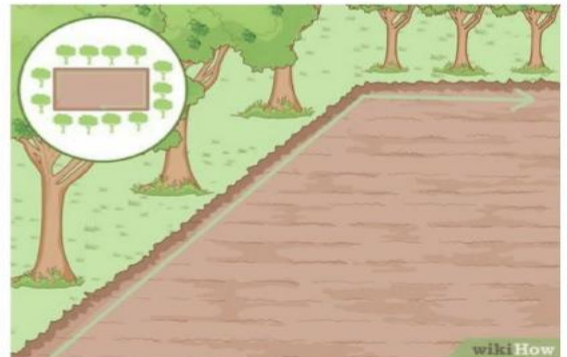
Afforestation



Terrace Farming



Embankments



Wind Breaks

8. What are the causes of soil erosion? Explain.

Ans - Some causes of soil erosion :-

- **Wind** - Strong winds in the areas having less vegetation blows away the humus-rich topsoil and also damages the roots of the plants by exposing them to the hot sun rays.
- **Water** - Running rainwater and floods carry the fertile topsoil with them and makes the land unsuitable for farming.
- **Deforestation** - Due to cutting down of trees, the soil is easily carried away by wind and water as it becomes loose.
- **Over grazing** - Over grazing by animals also removes the plant cover from the soil and causes soil erosion.