

CLASS 8 SOCIAL SCIENCE GEOGRAPHY

LESSON 2 LAND, SOIL, WATER, NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE RESOURCES(MODULE:1)

Welcome students. Welcome to the distant e- learning programme launched by AEES. This is for class 8.

Today we are going to learn the 2nd lesson geography. In the first lesson you studied about resources and types of resources. What are the three types of resources?

- 1.Natural resources
- 2.Human made resources and
3. Human resources

What are natural resources?

Resources that are drawn from nature and used without much modification are called natural resources.

Today we are going to learn about five types of natural resources. They are land, soil, water, natural vegetation and wildlife resources. Let's start with the first one.

Land

You have already studied that 70 % of our earth is covered with water. Land covers only 30 % of the earth's surface. In this 30 percentage, most of the land is not habitable.

For example, desert areas, mountain region, forested areas are thinly populated whereas plains and river valleys are thickly populated. These areas are very fertile and used for agriculture.

Let's see **the uses of land**

land is used for different purposes like agriculture, forestry, mining building houses, roads and setting up of industry. This is known as land use.

Factors determining the use of land

The use of Land is determined by two factors namely physical and human factors

The physical factors are topography, climate, minerals, availability of water. Human factors are population and technology

Types of land

on the basis of ownership of land, land is divided into two. They are private land and community land.

Private land is owned and operated by individuals.

Community land is owned by the community.

If you buy land for construction of a building it is private land. Park is an example of community land. Community land is also known as common property resources.

People and their demands are ever-growing, but the availability of land is limited. Land degradation, landslides, soil erosion, desertification are the major threats to the environment because of the expansion of agriculture and construction activities.

Conservation of Land Resources

Growing population and their ever growing demand has led to a large scale destruction of forest cover and arable land. Therefore, the present rate of degradation of land must be checked.

Methods used to conserve land resources are
Afforestation,
land reclamation,
regulated use of chemical pesticide and fertilisers
and checks on overgrazing

Landslides

Landslides are simply defined as the mass movement of rock, debris or earth down a slope. They often take place in conjunction with earthquakes, floods and volcanoes. A prolonged spell of rainfall can cause heavy landslide that can block the flow of river for quite some time.

Mitigation mechanism

- 1)** Hazard mapping to locate areas prone to landslides. Hence, such areas can be avoided for building settlements.
- 2)** Construction of retention wall to stop land from slipping.
- 3)** Increase the vegetation cover.
- 4)** The surface drainage control works to control the movement of landslide along with rainwater and spring flows.