

- Write on both sides of the paper.
- Avoid wastage of paper.
- Recycle paper.

Paper can be recycled five to seven times for use. Recycling helps to save energy and water needed to manufacture paper. Moreover, the use of harmful chemicals in making paper is also reduced.

Reforestation: *Planting of new trees where forests have been destroyed is called reforestation.* If the destroyed forest area is left undisturbed, natural reforestation takes place. In natural reforestation, there is no role of human beings.

In India, the following Acts deal with the conservation of forests.

1. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
2. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

The two main aims of these Acts are:

- (i) to preserve and conserve forests and
- (ii) to meet the basic needs of the people living in or near the forests.

Although the government is making efforts to save the forests, yet deforestation goes on illegally. It is our duty to help the government to save our forest wealth.

Classroom Discussion

Recycled paper can be used in many ways. Discuss.

Epidemic

Van Mahotsav is a programme of planting saplings of different species of trees. Lakhs of saplings are planted with the involvement of forest department throughout the country in the first week of July every year.



Planting trees in Van Mahotsav

Answer Orally

1. Define the following terms.

(a) Conservation	(b) Biodiversity
(c) Deforestation	(d) Desertification
(e) Reforestation	
2. Name the Acts which deal with the conservation of forests.

6.6 FLORA AND FAUNA

*The term **flora** is used to indicate the different plants growing in a particular area. The animals found in that area form the **fauna**.*

For example, let us assume that the following living organisms are present in a particular area: mango, jamun, sunflower, pea, cow, elephant, dog, crow and bull.

Wildlife

Wildlife is the term is used to describe the organisms (both plants and animals) living in their natural habitats.

Flora of the given particular area is represented by mango, jamun, sunflower and pea plants, while cow, elephant, dog, crow and bull constitute the fauna of that area.

Activity 6.1

(List information.)

Make a list of the plants (flora) and animals (fauna) found in your neighbourhood park.

Biosphere: *Biosphere is that part of the earth which supports life or where living organisms exist. It includes land (lithosphere), water (hydrosphere) and air (atmosphere).*

Ecosystem: *The term **ecosystem** includes all the living organisms (plants, animals and microorganisms) along with the non-living components such as climate, soil, carbon dioxide, oxygen, nitrogen, etc. of an area.*

6.7 ENDEMIC SPECIES

Species of plants and animals which are found exclusively in a particular geographical area and nowhere else in the world are called **endemic species** (Fig. 6.6).

Giant panda is an endemic animal found in the mountains of southeast China [Fig. 6.6(a)].

Asiatic lion (in Gir National Park, Gujarat), Nilgiri tahr (in Nilgiri Hills) and lion-tailed macaque (in southwest India) are some endemic species [Fig. 6.6(b) and (c)].

Factors which lead to the formation of endemic species are:

Destruction of habitats

Increasing population of the species and introduction of new species which compete with them

6.8 EXTINCT AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Species of plants and animals which have been lost forever are called **extinct species** (Fig. 6.7).

You would have heard of dinosaurs, the animals which once dominated the earth [Fig. 6.7(a)]. Dinosaurs became extinct as they could not adapt to climatic changes.

The bird Dodo [Fig. 6.7(b)] became extinct due to excessive hunting by humans.

Amongst plants, Nilgiri Holly and Cry Pansy have become extinct.

Species which are at high risk of becoming extinct are called **endangered species** (Fig. 6.8). Such species are not likely to survive if the causal factors continue to operate.

Examples of endangered animals are Indian rhinoceros [Fig. 6.8(a)], Asiatic lions, crocodiles and blue whales [Fig. 6.8(b)].

Activity 6.3

(Collect information.)

From the internet, collect more information on dinosaurs. Prepare a report.

6.8.1 Red Data Book

Red Data Book is a source book which gives a record of all the endangered animals and plants. This is published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), now known as the World Conservation Union (WCU). The main aim of IUCN is to focus the attention of conservationists towards species that are endangered and are at high risk of extinction.

According to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), **protected areas** are the areas dedicated to protection and maintenance of biodiversity along with natural and cultural resources.

Protected areas include national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and biosphere reserves.

National Park: An area which is strictly reserved for protection of wildlife is called a **national park**. A national park preserves flora, fauna, landscape (natural environment), historic objects of an area. Activities like grazing, hunting, forestry and cultivation are banned here. No private ownership is allowed.

Wildlife Sanctuary: Wildlife sanctuaries are areas reserved for the protection of animals only. Killing (poaching) and capturing of animals is strictly prohibited.

In a sanctuary, the following activities are allowed to an extent that these do not affect the wildlife:

- Harvesting of timber
- Collection of minor forest products

Animals are also protected in the zoos. The protection in the zoos is not as adequate and comparable to the protection given in sanctuaries.

In a zoo, animals are kept for public exhibition. They live in artificial environments and are given food at specific times of the day. In a sanctuary, animals live in their natural habitats and obtain food from their habitat on their own.

Biosphere Reserve: A **biosphere reserve** is a large multipurpose protected area for conservation of wildlife, plant and animal resources. People are an important component of a reserve.

Biosphere reserves are developed to:

For more

1. De
- (a
- (e
2. E

D

-
-
-