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CIE IGCSE ENV. MGMT. 0680

SUMMARISED NOTES ON THE SYLLABUS

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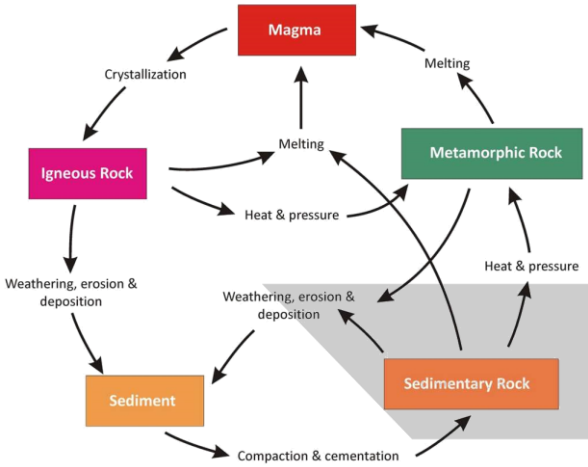
NOTES

1. ROCKS AND MINERALS AND THEIR EXPLOITATION

1.1 Formation of rocks

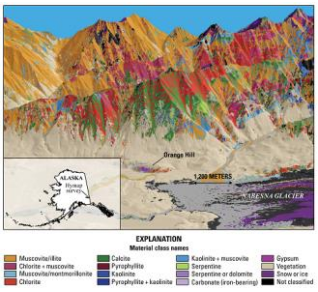
- **The rock cycle:** a representation of the changes between the three rock types and the processes causing them.



- **Types of rocks:**
  - **Igneous rocks:**
    - Made when liquid magma cools to form solid rock.
    - Molten rock below the surface is called magma, and lava when it reaches the surface.
    - **Extrusive igneous rock**: if the rock cools quickly, small crystals are formed e.g. basalt.
    - **Intrusive igneous rock**: if the rock cools slowly, large crystals are formed e.g. granite.
  - **Sedimentary rocks:**
    - Formed by the weathering of existing rocks at the Earth's surface.
    - Fossils may be present.
    - Sediments (small particles of rocks) accumulate into layers and get pressurised due to the newer deposits above them.
    - The sediments are transported by water and wind (erosion).
    - Particles like clays, silts, sands, gravels and small boulders are found in sediments.
    - **Examples**: limestone, sandstone and shale.
  - **Metamorphic rocks:**
    - Formed from existing rock when heat and/or pressure causes changes in the rock crystals without melting it.
    - The changes can be physical, chemical or both.
    - **Examples**: marble and slate.

1.2 Extraction of rocks and minerals from the Earth

- **Exploring for minerals:**
  - **Prospecting**: a process of searching for minerals by examining the surface of the rocks.
  - **Remote sensing**: a process in which information is gathered about the Earth's surface from above.
    - Photographs of the area are taken from air.
    - The images are carefully analysed for mineral presence.
    - Aerial photography can cover more ground than a person on the surface.
  - **Radiation detection:**
    - Mineral deposits are weathered at the Earth's surface, forming mineral oxides.
    - They can be detected by their unique radiation pattern (recorded by a satellite and downloaded to a computer for analysis).
  - **Satellite signals:**
    - Some satellites send signals to the Earth's surface and collect the reflected signals, indicating the presence of minerals.
    - The system works in all weather conditions.
  - **Satellite images:**
    - Computers are used to process the data from a region of interest to check for mineral presence.
    - Geologists confirm the presence of the mineral by visiting the location (recorded by the satellite's positioning system).
    - Geologists can further check the availability of the mineral in nearby areas.



    - Using satellites saves time and costs less.
  - **Geochemical analysis**: analysing the chemical properties of rocks (by taking samples).
    - The samples can be taken from stream sediments, soil or rocks (using shallow drilling).
    - The location of the sample points can be accurately found using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

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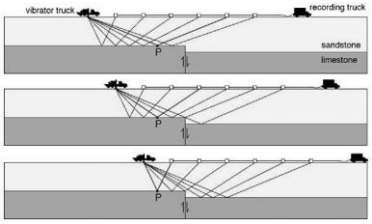
- **Geophysics:** method to identify mineral ores present in rocks using their physical properties.
  - A series of vibrations (seismic waves) are sent through the Earth's surface.
  - Several sensors are placed at different distances from the source of vibrations on the surface.



  - The vibrations create shock waves that travel down into the rock layers.
  - They are reflected back to the sensors on the surface.
  - The shock waves record different patterns depending on the mineral present in the rock layers.

- **Methods of extraction:**
  - **Surface mining**: includes open-cast (open-pit, open-cut) and strip mining.

    - Open-pit mining is used when a valuable deposit is located near the surface.
    - The vegetation is cleared and topsoil removed.
    - The rocks are broken up and loosened with explosives.
    - The loose rock is removed using diggers.
    - The rock or mineral is tipped into trucks or railway wagons.

    - Building materials such as sand, gravel and stone are removed from open pits called quarries.
    - Strip mining is used to mine a seam of mineral.
    - The overburden (overlying rock and soil) is removed as a thin strip.
    - It is mainly used to mine coal.

  - **Sub-surface mining:** includes deep and shaft mining.
    - A vertical shaft is sunk down to the rock layer containing minerals.
    - A horizontal tunnel is made, following the mineral layer.
    - The minerals are extracted by digging (by machines and miners).

    - The loose rock is brought from the mine and piled up on waste heaps on the surface.
    - The minerals are brought to the surface and transported in trucks or trains.

- **Factors that affect the decision to extract rocks and minerals:**
  - **The costs of exploration and extraction:**
    - Probable cost of extracting one tonne is calculated.
    - There are fewer technical difficulties of mining on a large scale using open-pit mining as there'd be low extraction costs per tonne.
    - Shaft mining is costlier to set up and maintain as the cost per tonne will be higher. So, only deposits of higher value can be mined in this way.
  - **Geology**:
    - High-grade ores yield more of the required chemical elements than low-grade ores.
    - Small deposits of high-grade ore are worth mining.
    - Small deposits of low-grade ore that cannot be mined at a profit are left as reserves.
  - **Accessibility**:
    - Transporting the ore from the mine to processing plants can be difficult and expensive.
    - The cost of building road or rail links to the processing plant or to the nearest port for export has to be considered.
    - Carrying out some processing at the mine reduces transport costs.
    - The mining company must be given a licence before extracting a deposit.
    - A long-term agreement between the government and mining company must be reached to avoid rapid rises in the tax, which makes the mining unprofitable.

- **Environmental impact assessment:**
  - For a licence application to be approved, the company must have a plan to keep the loss of habitat minimal, followed by the restoration of land proceeding the completion of mining.
  - The choice of site for mine waste should also be considered.
- **Supply and demand:** the relation between how much of a commodity is available and how much is needed or wanted by the consumers.
  - Increase in world demand for any mineral ore will elevate the prices.
  - The profit from a working mine depends on changes in supply and demand.
  - If the demand is too high, mines that were not profitable before become worth mining.
  - If the demand falls, working mines may get into a loss due to the transport and extraction expenses.

1.3 Impact of rock and mineral extraction

- **Environmental impacts:**
  - **Ecological impacts:**
    - Loss of habitat as the vegetation is cleared ∴ plants do not have a place to grow, so the animals depending on them for food and shelter are affected.
    - After deep mining has been working for several years, more habitats will be destroyed due to the increased overburden aboveground.
  - **Pollution:**
    - **Noise pollution:** due to machinery and explosives ∴ disturbs the behaviour of animal species and causes hearing problems for people.
    - **Water pollution**: water supplies may also be polluted, making it unsafe for people to drink.
    - The water may become acidic and dissolve toxic metal ions-this combination kills many aquatic organisms.
    - **Bioaccumulation**: organisms absorb the ions and retain them in their body, reaching concentration higher than that in water.
    - **Biomagnification**: the concentrations increase higher up in the food chain and cause the death of top consumers.
    - **Land pollution**: toxic nature of the waste doesn't allow plant growth even years after the mining is stopped.
    - **Air pollution**: dust particles settle on the vegetation, not allowing sunlight to reach the leaves and thus, reducing the rate of photosynthesis.
    - Breathing in dust that remains in the lungs can cause serious lung diseases.
    - **Visual pollution**: landscape is damaged.
  - **Waste management**: (refer to section 1.4 Managing the impact of rock and mineral extraction)
- **Economic impacts:**
  - Provides employment for people and taxes for the government.
    - Jobs are created directly to extract the mineral;
    - Further jobs are created to supply transport and mining equipment;
    - More jobs are created when the mineral is refined to make products;
    - If all these activities occur in the same country, it will generate the most income;
    - Earn foreign exchange.
  - The income earned can be used for buying goods and services and investing in infrastructure projects.
    - Improvements to transport;
    - Improvements to services, like healthcare and education;
    - These services can be helpful for miners and their families too;
    - Investing in infrastructure projects can help the country in building more well-designed communities.

1.4 Managing the impact of rock and mineral extraction

- **Safe disposal of mining waste:**
  - Mine waste must be stored to prevent collapse.
  - Site of the mine must prevent the chances of water pollution.
  - The waste must be monitored to detect any movement or further pollution.
- **Land restoration:**
  - **Soil improvement:**
    - After (sanitary) landfilling, mine waste can be covered by a layer of soil, that can be enriched with fertilisers.

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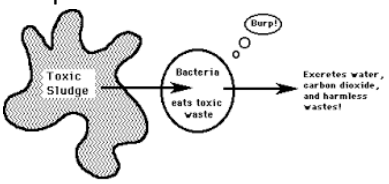
- **Tree planting:**
  - After improving the soil fertility, plants and trees can be grown in that area, helping an ecosystem to be reborn.

- **Bioremediation:** a process of removing pollutants from waste using living organisms.
  - **In situ treatment**: treatment of contaminated waste where it's left.
  - **Ex situ treatment:** removal of contaminated waste from a site to a treatment plant.
  - Often happens slowly (can be sped up by providing oxygen and nitrogen).



  - Microorganisms, like bacteria, can absorb pollutants and metabolise them into less harmful substances.
  - Some plants have the ability to bioaccumulate toxic metals.
  - After these plants grows for a while, the parts of the plants aboveground are removed so the waste in the ground becomes less toxic.
- **Making lakes and natural reserves:**
  - Several tree and herb species are introduced.
  - As their populations grow, they create habitats for many species.
  - These nature reserves become valuable green spaces for human recreation and help in maintaining biodiversity.
  - If the rock lining the hole (created by the extraction) is non-toxic and impervious to water, it can be filled with water to form a reservoir or lake.
  - It is used for irrigating farmland or processed to provide clean, safe drinking water for humans.
- **Using as landfill sites:**
  - **Landfilling:** the waste is tipped into a hole; from time to time it is levelled off and compacted.
  - **Sanitary landfilling:** As in landfilling, the waste is used to fill the hole, but alternating layers of waste and sand are used.

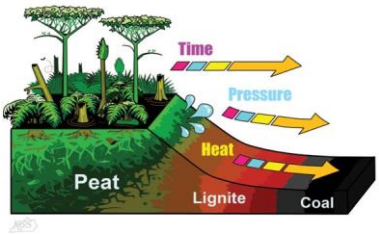
1.5 Sustainable use of rocks and minerals

- **Sustainable resource:** a resource that can be continuously replenished e.g. agriculture, forestry, etc.
- **Sustainable development:** development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **Strategies for the sustainable use of rocks and minerals:**
  - **Increasing the efficiency of the extraction of rocks and minerals:**
    - Mine wastes must be processed for the second time.
    - This allows the valuable minerals to be recovered and reduces the risk of pollution due to mine waste.
    - Chemical treatment of the waste and biological treatment (using microorganisms) extracts much of the valuable mineral still within it.
    - Improvements in the performance of the machines used in mining and processing.
    - Greater use of data analysis by computers (to predict geological conditions).
  - **Increasing the efficiency of the use of rocks and minerals:**
    - Engineering solutions e.g. design steel beams with same strength but using less steel.
  - **The need to recycle rocks and minerals:**
    - Recycling uses less energy than processing the ores.
    - Recycling also produces less waste and thus, reduces the risk of pollution.
  - **Legislation:**
    - The governments pass laws that require manufacturers to become responsible for recycling and reuse.

2. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

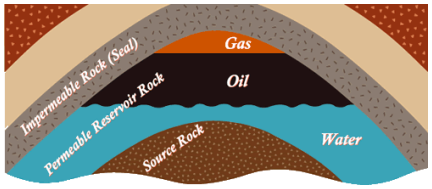
2.1 Fossil fuel formation

- **Fossil fuels:** carbon-based fuels, formed over many millions of years ago from the decay of living matter.
- **Coal:** formed from plants.
- **Oil and natural gas:** formed from sea creatures.
- **Formation of coal:**
  - Huge forests grew millions of years ago covering most of the Earth.
  - The vegetation died and formed peat.
  - The peat was compressed between layers of sediments to form lignite (low-grade coal).



  - Further compression formed coal.

- **Formation of oil and natural gas:**
  - Small animals and plants die and fall to the bottom of the sea.
  - Their remains are covered by sediments.
  - As the sediments start forming layers, they start to change into sandstone as the temperature and pressure increase.
  - The heat and pressure turn the remains into crude oil and natural gas.



  - They separate and rise through the sandstone, filling in the pores.
  - The rock above the oil and gas is **impervious** (non-porous).
  - So, they get trapped underneath it.

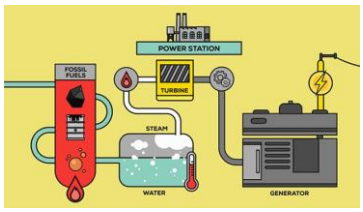
2.2 Energy resources and the generation of electricity

- **The demand for energy is increasing worldwide due to:**
  - Increasing population size.
  - Increasing industrialisation and urbanisation.
  - Improvements in standards of living and expectations.
- **Types of energy sources:**

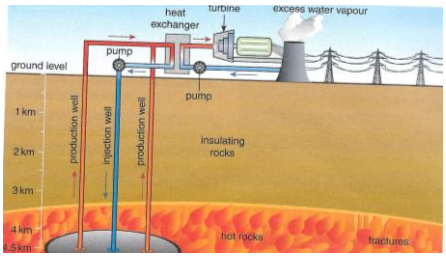
NON-RENEWABLE	RENEWABLE
• Limited. • Take millions of years to get replenished.	• Can be used over and over again. • Can be replenished in a short period of time.
• Fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas); • Nuclear power (using uranium).	• Geothermal power; • Hydro-electric power; • Tidal power; • Wave power; • Wind power; • Solar power; • Biofuels e.g. bioethanol, biogas and wood.

  - Nuclear fuels last for centuries and are a good replacement for fossil fuels, but the source material (uranium) is limited.
  - Biofuels may become limited, but it can be renewed by replacing the cut-down trees with new ones to obtain bioethanol and wood.
    - Biogas can be obtained by recycling waste products.

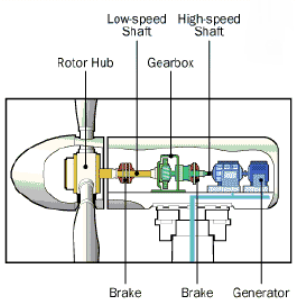
- **How energy sources are used to generate electricity:**
  - **Turbine**: a machine, often containing fins, that is made to revolve by gas, steam or air (it is connected to a generator).
  - **Generator**: a machine that converts mechanical energy into electrical energy.
  - **Fossil fuels and biofuels:**
    - These produce a massive amount of energy during combustion that is used to heat water and convert it into steam, which thereby drives the turbines.



  - **Nuclear power:**
    - Uranium, a radioactive element, releases huge amounts of energy when nuclear fission (splitting of the atom) occurs.
    - This energy is used to heat the water, produce steam, and rotate the turbines.
  - **Geothermal power:**
    - Cold water is pumped under pressure into a layer of hot rocks.

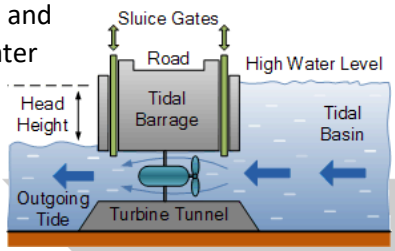


    - The rocks heat the water.
    - The hot water returns to the surface under pressure and heats the second supply of water using a heat exchanger.
    - The steam produced in the second supply moves the turbine, generating electricity.
  - **Wind power:**
    - Wind turbines have shafts (blades) that rotate due to wind.
    - Gearbox maximises the rotation of the shaft.
    - Brakes slow down or stop the rotor in very windy conditions, preventing damage to the blade.
    - As the turbine rotates, the generator produces electricity.

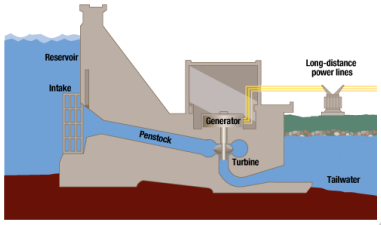


- **Solar power:**
  - Uses photovoltaic cells that produce a small electric charge when exposed to light.
  - A bank of cells organised into solar panels produce a significant amount of electricity.

- **Tidal power:**
  - Uses the natural rise and fall in the level of water in an area.
  - When the levels drop, water is held back by a tidal barrage (a small dam that releases water back through a turbine).



- **Wave power:**
  - Also uses turbine and generator.
  - Uses the smaller differences in water levels that are caused by wind.
- **Hydro-electric power:**



  - Uses a dam on a river to store water in a reservoir.
  - Water is released from the reservoir that flows through the turbine, rotating it.
  - The turbine then activates a generator that generates electricity.

- **Advantages and disadvantages of:**
  - **Fossil fuels:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Plentiful supply;	• Carbon dioxide and toxic gases are released when burnt ∴ contributes to global warming;
• Provides job opportunities (mining and processing);	• Damages local area;
• The technology used is well-known and the methods of extraction are well-practised.	• Limited supply (non-renewable).

  - **Biofuels:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Renewable source;	• Carbon dioxide and toxic gases are released when burnt;
• Growing more plants uses carbon dioxide;	• Lot of land needed. • Shortage of land for agriculture ∴ increase in food prices;
• Plentiful supply.	• Removal of natural ecosystems ∴ reduction in biodiversity.

  - **Nuclear power:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Does not produce carbon dioxide;	• Risk of radiation leakage;
• Large amount of energy is produced with a small amount of fuel;	• Radioactive waste cannot be recycled since it is active for centuries;
• Provides job opportunities.	• Limited supply (non-renewable).

  - **Geothermal power:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Does not produce carbon dioxide ∴ doesn't contribute to global warming;	• Expensive to install;
• Unlimited supply (renewable).	• Only certain areas have suitable conditions.

  - **Wind power:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Does not produce carbon dioxide ∴ doesn't contribute to global warming;	• Only certain locations are suitable;
• Renewable.	• Generation of electricity is weather-dependent; • Visual impact; • Uses a large area.

- **Solar power:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Does not produce carbon dioxide ∴ doesn't contribute to global warming.	• Weather-dependent.

- **Tidal power:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Does not produce carbon dioxide ∴ doesn't contribute to global warming.	• Limited to specific coastal areas.
• Tidal movements are not weather-dependent.	• Impact on tourism and local fishermen.

- **Wave power:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Does not produce carbon dioxide ∴ doesn't contribute to global warming.	• Limited to specific areas.
• Renewable.	• Not very efficient at present.

- **Hydro-electric power:**

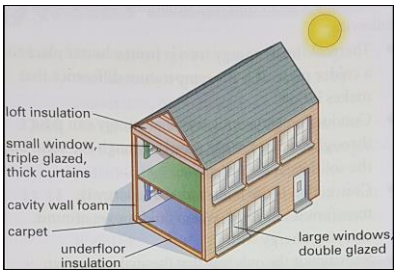
ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Does not produce carbon dioxide ∴ doesn't contribute to global warming.	• Dams impact the natural flow of water.
• Water can be reused.	• Villages and ecosystems may be destroyed.

2.3 Energy demand

- **Domestic demand:**
  - Created by affordability, availability and social status.
  - Most of the purchases that are considered as necessities now increase the demand for energy supplies, notably electricity.
  - **Example:**
    - Fruits and vegetables, that aren't naturally available in the season locally, are produced in glasshouse or in areas with a favourable climate and are then transported.
    - In both the scenarios (glasshouse operation and transport), the energy cost is significant.
- **Industrial demand:**
  - Manufacturing requires the use of large amounts of energy throughout the production e.g. iron and steel production.
  - Advanced manufacturing techniques made the products, that were once luxury items, cheaper.
    - So, more people want to buy them.
    - The demand for the product increases.
    - The demand for energy (needed for production) also increases.
- **Transport:**
  - Manufacturers supply customers across the globe.
  - This decreases production costs in countries that import, but increases the transport costs as they require large amounts of fossil fuels to operate.
- **Personal and national wealth:**
  - **If economic conditions are good:**
    - Higher employment;
    - More money to spend on luxury items;
    - Increase in demand for the product;
    - Increase in demand for energy (for production).
  - **If economic conditions are poor:**
    - Families have less money to spend on luxury items;
    - Need to make savings;
    - Reduce the use of fuel;
    - Reduce the purchase and use of electrical items;
    - Decrease in the demand for energy.
  - **Decline in the economy of one country can have a global impact.**
  - **Reduction in the economy of China meant a worldwide:**
    - Reduction in production of steel.
    - Decrease in the amount of manufactured goods (transported by ships).
    - Decrease in the price of oil (energy source).
- **Climate:**
  - The demand for energy with regard to climate depends on the country.
  - People living in a temperate climate are likely to experience colder winters, so the energy demand for heating would be far higher.
    - They also experience fewer hours of daylight.
    - This increases the usage of electrical lighting.
  - Climate change (excessive heat or cold) increased the energy consumption (particularly in urban areas).
    - Need for additional heating.
    - Installation and operation of air-conditioning units.

2.4 Conservation and management of energy sources

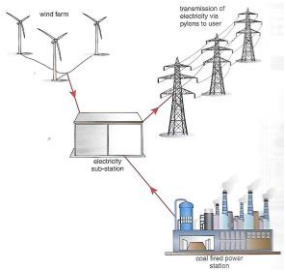
- **Strategies for the efficient management of energy resources:**
  - **Reducing consumption:**
    - Reducing the amount of energy used to heat a building.



    - **Insulation**: constructing using material with good insulation properties prevents loss of heat.
    - **Loft insulation**: adding an insulation layer into the roof space.
    - **Underfloor insulation**: adding an insulation layer on the floor e.g. carpet.
    - **Cavity wall insulation**: a gap between inside and outside walls is filled with an insulating material, causing the heat to pass through more slowly.
    - **Double glazing:** two panes of glass with a gap in the middle to act as an insulator.
    - This sealed gap is usually filled with air or an inert gas e.g. argon.
    - Triple glazing can also be used, but it is too expensive.
    - Electrical devices must be turned off when not in use.
    - Devices can be left in 'standby' mode and can be accessed rapidly.
    - More energy-efficient devices must be bought.
    - Developing alternative fuels for vehicles and further development in engine technology.
    - **'Scrappage' schemes:** remove inefficient machines from use (electrical appliances or vehicles).
  - **Energy from waste:**
    - Reusing existing materials to extract energy from them before they are disposed.
    - **Anaerobic digestion:** breaking down of organic matter (waste food and vegetation) using bacteria.
    - This process takes place in a sealed container and releases methane (a flammable gas) that can be used for heating purposes.
    - The composted waste can be used as organic matter to improve soil structure.
    - Household rubbish can be incinerated (burnt) to produce heat, that can be used to generate electricity;

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Waste from burning (ash) is small in volume. Thus, it doesn't take up much space.	• Produces poisonous gases during combustion.

    - Vegetable oils, once used, should be disposed;
    - These oils can be collected and recycled into biofuels suitable for running vehicles;
    - It can be used exclusively or as an additive.
  - **Education:**
    - Benefits of the technology must be communicated to others;
    - Promote new ways of thinking;
    - The message must be that significant savings in energy bills can be made over the longer term, reducing energy use;
    - Energy-efficiency ratings must be provided for new products to compare with the old ones.
    - **Laws passed by the government to make changes rapidly:**
    - **Stricter building regulations**: new constructions must be more energy efficient.
    - Preventing the sales of inefficient types of electrical devices.
    - **Incentives to encourage the purchase of more efficient technologies:**
    - Insulating older houses that are energy efficient;
    - Replacing older, inefficient electrical devices;
    - Scrapping older, inefficient cars, that emit more pollutants.
  - **Exploiting existing energy resources:**
    - The type of energy source used depends on social, environmental and economic factors.
    - The current solution is to use a renewable resource as a primary energy source when possible and have a fossil-fuel (or biofuel) powered station available as a backup when weather conditions are not suitable.



    - This is a reliable source for industry and households and reduces the amount of fossil fuels used.

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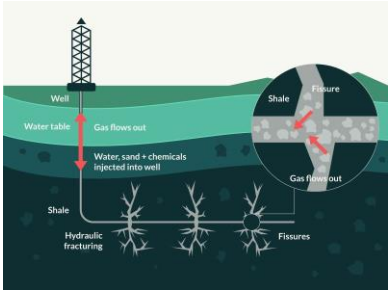
- **Transport policies:**
  - Regulations regarding the quality of exhaust gases from vehicles;
  - Check on the fuel efficiency;
  - Restrictions on where vehicles may go;
  - Taxation on fuels;
  - Surcharges for travelling to certain places at peak times;
  - Improving public transport so it is easier and cheaper than using cars;
  - Improving routes for cyclists and pedestrians;
  - Encouraging car-sharing;
  - Restricting when cars can be used e.g. odd even rule in Delhi;
  - Providing incentives to buy more fuel-efficient vehicles and for vehicles using cleaner technology.
- **Development of new resources:**
  - **Fracking**: obtaining oil or gas from shale rock by splitting them open using water, sand and chemicals.
  - A vertical hole (2-3 km deep) is drilled to reach the fuel-rich rocks (shale rocks).



  - Water, sand and chemicals are pumped down into the shale rock layer.
  - This causes the rock to fracture, releasing oil and natural gas, which are forced back to the surface and collected.
  - **Purpose of the three components:**
    - **Water**: easy to handle (in high pressure).
    - **Chemicals**: stop the blockage of pipes.
    - **Sand**: keeps the cracks in the rock open.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Access to more oil and gas;	• Risk of toxins entering the water table;
• Less pollution than burning coal;	• Chemicals are toxic and may affect local residents;
• The need to import reduces;	• Uses a lot of water; may cause water scarcity;
• Provide many jobs locally.	• Noise pollution; • Natural areas damaged; • May cause additional Earth tremors.

2.5 Impact of oil pollution

- **Main causes of marine oil spills:**
  - **Offshore oil extraction**: leakage from the rigs.
  - **Oil pipelines**: leaks in the oil pipework.
  - **Shipping**: risk of collision or damage to oil tankers.
- **Effects of an oil spill:**

ORGANISM OR HABITAT	IMPACT OF OIL
PHYTOPLANKTON	• Oil floats on the surface of the water and blocks the sunlight from entering. ○ The phytoplankton can't photosynthesise, so they die.

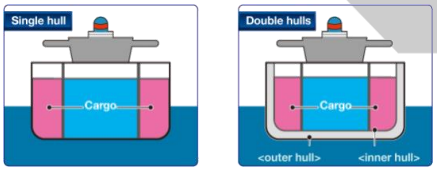
FISH	• Shortage of food; reduction in phytoplankton.
	• Oil floating on the surface prevents gas exchange.
	  ○ Fish become short of oxygen and die;
	  ○ Direct contact of the fish with oil affects their gills.

BIRDS	• Shortage of food as fish and other creatures die; • May consume oil when eating fish (toxic); • When hunting for food, feathers get covered with oil, affecting their ability to fly.
MAMMALS	• Food sources are depleted; • Mammals may also swallow oil while feeding (toxic); • Coating of oil will affect their skin.
REEFS	• Complete devastation of the reef due to lack of oxygen (species die); • Areas may be covered in oil.
BEACHES	• Oil (washed by tides) coats rocks; • Organisms in shallow water and rock pools may die due to toxic effects of the oil; • Animal food sources and tourism are affected.

NOTES

2.6 Management of oil pollution

- **Reducing oil spills in marine environments:**
  - **MARPOL (Marine Pollution):** International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.
  - **Regulations of the MARPOL:**
    - Supervise the transport of oil at sea;
    - All tankers must be certificated to show they have appropriate systems in use;
    - Else, it can result in a heavy fine or the ship may not be permitted to leave port.
  - **Tanker design:**
    - Oil spill can be caused by damage to the hull (a hole in the hull of the boat causes its contents to leak).
    - **Increase in the number of compartments within the hull of the ship:** if one of the compartment's damaged, the contents of the whole ship aren't lost.
    - **Double-hulled tankers:** if the outer layer's damaged, the contents are still secure by the inner plate.



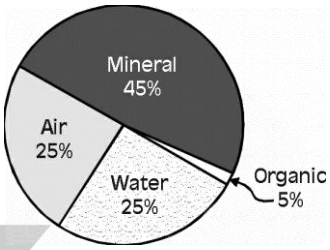
    - Though double-hulled tankers cost more than single-hulled, the risks of oil spill are far less.
  - **Minimising the impact of oil spills:**
    - **Floating booms:** a floating barrier is used to surround the oil slick, preventing it from spreading.
    - This process works well when the spill covers a relatively small area and the sea is calm.
    - **Detergent sprays:** detergents help break down the oil slick into smaller droplets, that eventually degrade, and disperse it.
    - They are effective on smaller spills, but cause damage to the coral reefs themselves as they're not tolerant to detergents.
    - **Skimmers:** clean the water using a material that oil easily attaches to.
    - The skimmer drags oil off the seawater surface, that is then scrapped off into a container.

    - This system is used when oil slick is contained within a boom and the sea is calm.
    - When the oil reaches beaches, it can only be removed by hand (difficult and time-consuming).

3. Agriculture and the Environment

3.1 Soil composition

- **Mineral particles**: combination of rock fragments and other inorganic substances.
  - They are formed due to physical, chemical and biological weathering of the parent rock.
- **Organic content**: mixture of living plants, animals, microorganisms and their dead remains.
- **Air**: held within the pore spaces (between the mineral particles and organic content).
  - Air enters the soil by diffusion.



- **Water**: held within the pore spaces (water that is available for plant growth).
  - Water enters the soil when there's precipitation or when the soil is irrigated.
- **The proportion of these components depends on:**
  - Type of soil;
  - Way it has been managed;
  - Local climatic conditions;
  - Size of the mineral particles.
- **Soil can be classified into three groups:**

TYPE	SIZE	TEXTURE
SAND	2.0-0.02 mm	• Gritty.
SILT	0.02-0.002 mm	• Silky or soapy.
CLAY	<0.002 mm	• Sticky when wet; • Hard when dried.

3.2 Soils for plant growth

- Soil is the cheapest and most abundant medium in which water, mineral nutrients, anchorage and oxygen can be supplied to a plant.
- Plants require a supply of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and a range of other elements to construct proteins and carry out life processes.

ELEMENT	SUPPLIED AS
NITROGEN	Nitrate ions (NO_3^-)
PHOSPHORUS	Phosphate ions (PO_4^{3-})
POTASSIUM	Potassium ions (K^+)

- **Organic content:** decomposers that produce humus (rich in nutrients):
  - **Earthworms**: break down vegetation; mix the soil; aerate the soil; spread organic matter through the soil.
  - **Fungi**: feed directly on dead matter; digest hard woody items; aid plants to take up nutrients through their roots.
  - **Bacteria**: work on organic matter; convert waste products to simple chemicals; some convert nitrogen to nitrates ∴ important in nitrogen cycle.
- **High levels of organic matter:**
  - Increase the water-holding capacity (like a sponge);
  - Increase air spaces in the soil;
  - Increase no. of decomposers, tunnels and burrows in the soil, providing additional drainage and less compaction;
  - Prevent the loss of mineral nutrients (humus holds on to mineral nutrients).
- **Soil pH:**
  - Depends on the type of parent rock and pH of water that flows into the area;
  - Affects the uptake of nutrients by plant roots;
  - Affects the availability of nutrients;
  - Farmers can try changing the pH of the soil either to acidify it (using fertilisers that have an acidic effect) or make it alkaline (adding ground limestone).

SAND	CLAY
• Larger air spaces;	• Poor air spaces;
• Drains well;	• Poor drainage;
• Poor retention of humus;	• Retains humus;
• Easier to cultivate.	• Hard to cultivate.

- **Drainage**: capacity of the soil to drain water must be medium (no water loss; no surplus amount of water).
- **Ease of cultivation**: how easily the soil can be ploughed.

3.3 Agriculture types

SUBSISTENCE	COMMERCIAL
• Cultivation of food to meet the needs of the farmers and their families;	• Cultivation of food with the main aim of selling them for cash;
• Surplus is bartered for other goods (or cash).	• Some food may be used by the farmers.
• **Examples**: wheat and rice.	• **Examples:** tea, coffee, cocoa, sugarcane, cotton, rice, wheat and corn.

ARABLE	PASTORAL
• Production of plants for consumption by humans.	• Production of animals or animal-related products.
• **Examples**: rice, wheat, maize and soybeans.	• **Examples**: grass/grain (to feed the animals), milk, wool eggs.

MIXED

- Farms that grow crops for food and rear animals.

3.4 Increasing agricultural yields

- **Crop rotation**: the principle of growing different types of plants in different plots each year.
  - **Legumes**: have nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their root nodules.
  - **Leafy crops**: vegetables that are required for their leaves (require a lot of nitrogen left by legumes).
  - **Root crops**: have deep root systems.
  - **Fallow**: the land is ploughed but left barren for a period to restore soil fertility and to avoid surplus production.
  - **Advantages of crop rotation:**
    - Diseases in the soil affecting the plant are left behind;
    - Pests need to find a new site ∴ their population is reduced;
    - The soil in the new plot is likely to have the essential nutrients;
    - Crops ready to harvest at different times ∴ less potential waste, less labour and machinery needed.

- **Fertilisers**: contain minerals such as nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. Add on to the nutrients available in the soil.

TYPE	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
ORGANIC	• Uses natural resources.; • Supplies organic matter.	• Unpleasant to handle.; • Harder to transport; • Variable in composition.
INORGANIC	• Meet a particular need; • Easier to store.	• Cost of manufacture; • Transportation costs.
QUICK ACTING	• Deficiency problems are dealt with swiftly.	• Easily leach out in heavy rain.
SLOW ACTING	• No need to reapply.	• Little immediate impact.

- **Irrigation**: supplying water to the crops.
  - Large percentage of a plant is made up of water;
  - Essential for cell activity;
  - Used in photosynthesis;
  - Mineral nutrient uptake requires water in the soil;
  - The water must be free from pollution and low in salt.
  - **Common water application methods:**

OVERHEAD SPRINKLERS

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Easy to setup; • Can cover a large area from one sprinkler; • No need to attach pipes to each plant.	• Large droplets may cap the soil; • Small droplets may be blown away by wind; • Water lands on leaves and soil, which evaporates quickly.

CLAY POT IRRIGATION SYSTEM

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Simple technology; • Easy to check the amount of water; • High efficiency.	• Only suitable for permanent plants; • Large labour cost.

TRICKLE DRIP SYSTEM

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Water placed directly at the base of the plant; • Automated and controlled via computer; • Water is used very efficiently.	• Expensive to install; complex to maintain. • Grit can block tubes; • Inflexible; cannot be moved easily.

FLOOD IRRIGATION

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Inexpensive; • Can cover large areas quickly.	• Inefficient use of water; • Damages soil structure.

- **Pest**: an animal that attacks or feeds upon a crop plant.
- **Pesticide**: used to control pests.
- **Weed control**: weed-killing chemicals are known as herbicides.
  - **They must be controlled because they:**
    - Compete with crops for light, water and nutrients;
    - Reduce the quality of a seed or grain crop;
    - Might be poisonous;
    - Make cultivation difficult;
    - Can block drainage systems with excessive growth;
    - Can be a source of pests and diseases;
    - Can look untidy (impact on tourism areas).
  - **Advantages of herbicides:**
    - Easier to manage;
    - Alternatives may be less effective;
    - Cheaper;
    - Results are more predictable;
    - Less labour needed;
    - Effect is more rapid.
  - **Alternatives to herbicides are cultural controls:**
    - Hand weeding and hoeing;
    - Weed barriers;
    - Flame guns.
- **A crop disease is caused by fungi, bacteria or viruses (pathogens).**
  - The most common are fungal diseases and are controlled by fungicides.

NOTES

- **Insect control**: insect-controlling chemicals are called insecticides.

Alternative to insecticides:

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: FIND NATURAL PREDATORS

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• No chemical residues; • No impact of sprays; • No need of reapplication; • The predators will die naturally when the pests are controlled.	• Not as instant as chemical control; • Pests may breed faster than the predator; • Predator may feed on an unintended plant.

- **Mechanisation**:
  - Larger area can be cultivated;
  - Reduces labour cost;
  - Ploughing can be done even when soil is heavy
  - Additional attachments can be done to apply fertilisers and pesticides.
- **Selective breeding:**
  - Choose parents that exhibit the desired characteristics of the species;
  - Raise the offspring from these parents;
  - Select the best offspring that shows the desired characteristics;
  - Repeat the process.
  - **Examples**: beef cattle, dairy cattle, wheat and rice.
  - **Drawbacks**: slow process; less success rate.
- **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO):** the DNA of one organism is inserted into another.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Disease and pest-resistance may increase; • Nutritional value may increase; • Crops can be grown in inhospitable areas; • Herbicide resistance may increase; • Crops with longer storage lives.	• Unknown impact of the new characteristics on human health; • Products are not natural; • Genes might get into wild plants if they interbreed with GMOs ∴ reducing biodiversity; • Reduction in the gene pool.

- **Controlled environments:**
  - **Greenhouse**: used to manage the environment for plant growth.

GROWTH FACTOR	HOW TO INCREASE	HOW TO DECREASE
TEMPERATURE	Operate heating system (e.g. insulation).	Open roof ventilators.
LIGHT	Supplementary lighting.	Shading material in the roof.
HUMIDITY	Misting units.	Open roof ventilators.
DAY LENGTH	Supplementary lighting.	Shading material and curtains.
WATER	Sprinkler or irrigation.	Drainage material underneath.

  - **Hydroponics**: growing plants without soil, with the nutrients the plant needs dissolved in water.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• No need for soil; • Can be used anywhere; • Easy to harvest; • Exact nutrients needed are provided; • Water is recycled; • Pollutant are not released into the environment.	• Expensive to set up; • Suitable for small production areas; • Technical knowledge required; • Disease, if present, may spread rapidly; • Plants can die quickly if conditions are not maintained.

3.5 Impact of agriculture

- **Overuse of herbicides and insecticides:**
  - Regular use of one insecticide can cause resistance within the pest population.
    Solution: use a range of different pesticides.
  - **Unintended environmental damage**: beneficial insects like bees are also affected and food web is disturbed.
  - **Spray drift**: herbicides stay longer in the soil and may affect the next crop.
    - Heavy rainfall can cause leaching of the chemicals into nearby lakes.

- **Overuse of fertilisers:**
  - Addition of extra mineral nutrients is waste of money and resources if the soil has reached its maximum level;
  - Heavy rain can dissolve the nutrients and cause leaching;
  - Excess water containing dissolved fertilisers drain into nearby lakes and rivers, leading to eutrophication;
  - Nitrates from fertilisers if consumed can cause diseases such as blue-baby syndrome;
  - Large quantities can affect the pH of the soil and in turn, the availability of minerals;
  - Too much of trace elements can be toxic to the plant.
  - Too much fertiliser dehydrates the plant (scorching);
  - Imbalance of nutrient makes the plant produce lots of foliage, but no flower.
  - **Solution**: strict limits on where, when and how the fertilisers must be applied; can replace with organic fertilisers.
- **Mismanagement of irrigation causing salinisation and water logging:**
  - Damage to soil structure ∴ soil is compacted;
  - Death of plant roots as waterlogged soils prevent plant roots from getting enough oxygen;
  - Loss of nutrients as they are dissolved and washed away with water;
  - High levels of run off ∴ soil erosion.
  - **Soil capping**: surface of the soil becomes hard.
  - **Salinisation**: salt content of the soil can increase.
    - Irrigation water soaks into the soil to a great depth;
    - Salts dissolve in the water at a great depth;
    - Water evaporates from the field;
    - Water and salts are drawn up to the surface;
    - Salt remains at the surface and kills plant roots.
  - Prevents soil cultivation as it's difficult to cultivate soil with a high-water content.
- **Overproduction and waste:**
  - **Waste from overproduction**: the unsold proportion of the crop.
  - **Waste of storage space**: may take longer to sell a crop; some crops need special conditions.
  - **Waste of transportation**: to sell a crop, a farmer may need to travel longer distances.
  - **Waste of quality products**: low quality means less demand.
  - **Waste of labour**: not an efficient use of time and labour if too much is produced.
- **Exhaustion of mineral ion content:**
  - The farmers use the soil over and over again with little to no rest which leaves the soil depleted of nutrients and minerals.
  - **Solution:** crop rotation, mixed cropping and leaving the land fallow.
- **Soil erosion:**
  - **Overcultivation:** soils that are cultivated regularly lose soil structure and are more vulnerable to erosion as they break down to smaller particles.
- **Cash crops replacing food crops:**
  - Most commercial farmers prefer to grow crops that generate more cash. This causes a decline in the staple food available.

3.6 Causes and impacts of soil erosion

- **Causes of soil erosion:**
  - **Removal of natural vegetation**: no more roots to bind the soil together or slow down the torrents of water, so flash flooding and rainwater run-off pick the soil and carry it away.
  - **Overcultivation:** ploughing breaks the soil into smaller and lighter particles. These are more easily carried away by wind.
  - **Overgrazing:** livestock reduces the vegetation to nearly ground level, sometimes leaving no roots to hold the soil.
    - Animals trample down the plants and their hoofs compact the ground.
  - **Wind erosion:** deforestation (due to need for space, excessive grazing, increase in development of arable crops) increases the chance of soil getting eroded by wind.
  - **Water erosion:** heavy rainfall carries the particles away.
    - Excess run-off water that can't be absorbed by soil transports the soil from that area;
    - Soil compaction reduces infiltration;
    - Gully erosion (volume of water erodes local soil further) forms deeper and deeper crevices.

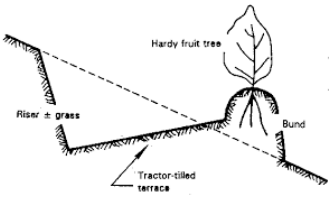
- **Impacts of soil erosion:**
  - **Topsoil is removed:** the most productive layer is absent (subsoil lacks in nutrients ad air spaces).
  - **Organisms living in the topsoil lose their habitat:** impact on the entire ecosystem.
  - **Silting up of water courses:** flooding occurs as water bodies can't hold excess water (space taken up by silt).
  - **Silt deposits can form lagoons:** providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
    - Silt affects the quality and availability of water for drinking.
  - **Aquatic organisms are buried under the silty layer**: preventing light from reaching the underwater plants (low oxygen levels in ecosystem ∴ no photosynthesis).
  - **Desertification:** the process by which fertile land becomes desert.
    - Severe droughts lead to migration of the whole community.
    - Risk of famine and malnutrition, leading to lesser food source.

3.7 Managing soil erosion

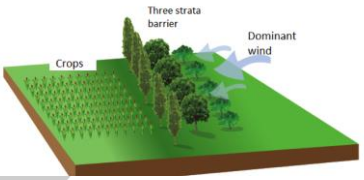
- **Terracing:** prevents the erosion of soil by rainwater on steep slopes.
  - **In a natural slope**: water runs down, increasing in speed and volume, carrying soil in the run-off.
  - **In a terraced slope**: water is held in the flat terraced areas, causing less risk of run-off and more chance of infiltration.

  - Often used for cultivation of rice.
- **Contour ploughing:** ploughing of land along the contour in a parallel way.
  - Ridges and troughs (furrows) run along the contour.
  - Each furrow holds water and prevents large torrents of water running down the slope, preventing the formation of gullies and run-off of topsoil.
  - Useful for all gradients of slopes.

- **Bunds:** artificial banks at the edges of growing spaces to hold back water.
  - Useful for crops that require moist soils e.g. rice.
  - The water is retained on the terrace.



  - Increases the quantity and fertility of the soil.
- **Windbreaks:** a permeable barrier used to reduce the impact of wind on an area.
  - Without windbreaks, the soil is eroded away.
  - Solid structures, like walls, force the wind into smaller spaces, increasing wind speed and causing eddy currents.



  - Permeable structures, like vegetation, allow some wind to pass through, decreasing its speed and thus, the amount of wind erosion.
  - **Advantages**: additional habitats for beneficial insects; roots of the windbreak prevent erosion due to run-off.
- **Maintaining vegetation cover:**
  - Sowing legumes immediately after a crop has been harvested prevents soil erosion.
  - It also provides more nitrogen to the soil, increasing its fertility, for the next major crop.
  - When cultivating, the legumes can be simply ploughed.
- **'No dig' method:**
  - Existing vegetation is left until the new crop is grown.
  - Rather than cultivating the soil, herbicides are applied to kill the weeds.
  - Roots of the existing vegetation bind the soil until the major plant is established.
  - **Risks:** herbicide residues build up. If the control of the cover vegetation is ineffective, it may compete with the main crop as a weed.

NOTES

- **Addition of organic matter to improve soil structure:**
  - Provides additional air gaps in the soil ∴ improves soil structure;
  - Increases decomposers in the soil as they feed on the matter;
  - Adds nutrients to the soil after decomposition.
  - Acts like a sponge, holding the extra water, preventing dehydration of the soil;
  - Reduces soil erosion as the organic matter acts like a base to smaller particles.
- **Planting trees:**
  - Row of trees acts as windbreak;
  - Tree canopy can provide shade for smaller plants that don't thrive for sunlight;
  - Provide a natural habitat for animals, that feed on pests;
  - Tree leaves fall to the ground and add on to the organic matter.
- **Mixed cropping:** growing more than one type plant in the same area.
  - Resources in the soil, like nutrients, are used more efficiently.

- **Intercropping:** rows of a different crop are grown between the rows of the main crop. This maximises the use of space and other resources.
- **Crop rotation:** (refer to section 3.4 Increasing agricultural yields; Crop Rotation).

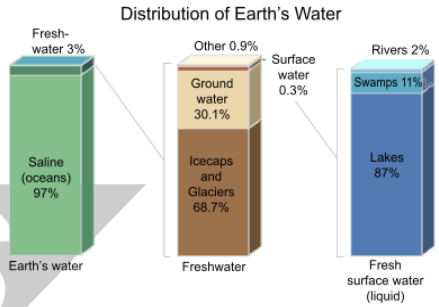
3.8 Sustainable agriculture

- **Aims of sustainable agriculture:**
  - Meeting the needs of the population for agricultural products;
  - Making efficient use of non-renewable resources;
  - Supporting the natural ecosystem by following natural processes with farming techniques;
  - Sustaining the economic independence of farmers.
- **Organic fertilisers:**
  - Are slow acting ∴ reduces the risk of eutrophication;
  - Are a waste product ∴ using them saves on disposal costs;
  - Are already present on many farms ∴ minimal transport costs;
  - Do not require energy for their manufacture;
  - Also improve soil structure.
- **Managed grazing:**
  - Prevention of overgrazing;
  - Ensure sufficient grazing;
  - Maintaining appropriate soil fertility by animal waste;
  - Maintaining good drainage prevents compaction of the soil.
- **Crop rotation:** (refer to section 3.4 Increasing agricultural yields; Crop rotation).
- **Use of pest-resistant varieties of crops:** reduces pesticide use.
- **Use of drought-resistant varieties of crops:** reduces water usage for irrigation.
- **Use of herbicide-resistant varieties of crops:** reduces herbicide use.
- **Trickle drip irrigation:** (Refer to section 3.4 Increasing agricultural yields; Irrigation).
- **Rainwater harvesting:** the collection of rainwater, for example from the roofs of buildings, and its storage in a tank or reservoir for later use.

4. WATER AND ITS MANAGEMENT

4.1 Global water distribution

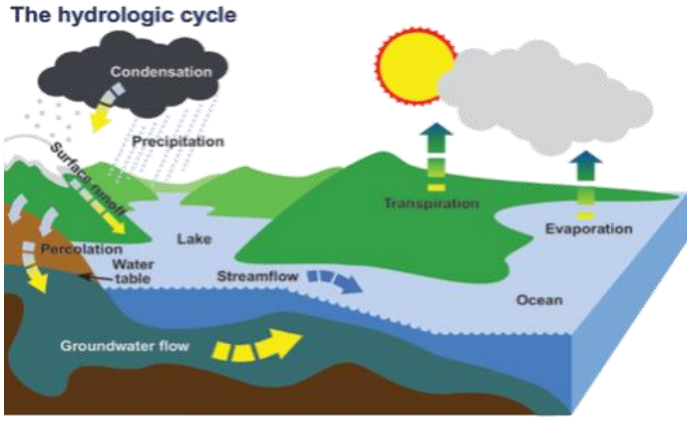
- Oceans cover 71% of the Earth's surface.
- Oceans and seas contain 97% of all the Earth's water.
- Only 3% of water on Earth is fresh-water.



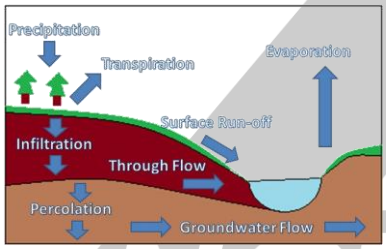
- Nearly two thirds (65%) of this 3% fresh-water is in the 'deep freeze' in the ice sheets.

NOTES

4.2 The Water Cycle



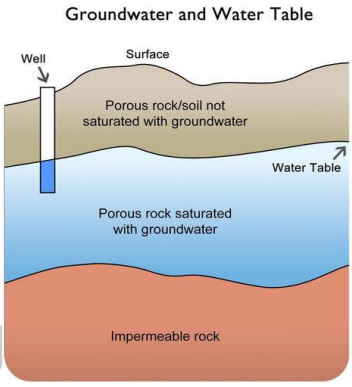
- **Precipitation:** moisture that reaches the surface in the form of rain, sleet, snow, or hail.
  - Rain is the most common type.
- **Surface run-off:** precipitation that flows over the ground surface, eventually finding its way into streams and rivers.
- **Interception:** precipitation that doesn't reach the Earth's surface due to being obstructed by trees and plants.
- **Infiltration:** precipitation soaks into sub-surface soils and moves into rocks through cracks and pore spaces.
- **Through-flow:** downslope movement of water through the soil, roughly parallel to the ground surface.

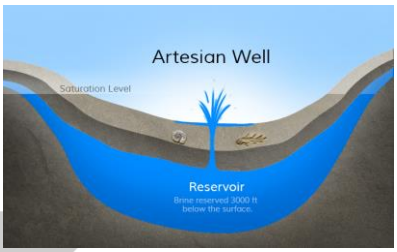


- **Ground water flow:** slow horizontal movement of water through rock.
- **Evaporation:** water from oceans, seas and other water bodies is changed from water droplets to water vapour (invisible gas) in the atmosphere due to heat.
- **Transpiration:** evaporation or diffusion of water from plant leaves.
- **Condensation:** water vapour converted back into liquid (water droplets) or solid (particles of ice) due to a decrease in temperature with increasing height by air currents, e.g. clouds.

4.3 Water supply

- **Surface water:** water in lakes, rivers and swamps.
- **Ground water:** water in the soil, and in rocks under the surface of the ground.
- **Aquifers:** water stored in porous rocks under the ground.
  - Alternating layers of permeable and impermeable rocks trap the water in permeable rock;
  - Folded layers of rock so water accumulates the most in the down fold;
  - Permeable rocks outcropping on the surface receive new supplies of rainwater;
  - Water is stored in the limestone and sandstone (porous) rocks below the water table;
  - Mechanical pumps, or human labour are used to raise water to the surface.
    - **Artesian aquifer:** an aquifer in which the water is under pressure.
    - Water from a well sunk into an artesian aquifer will rise to the surface without the need for a pump.

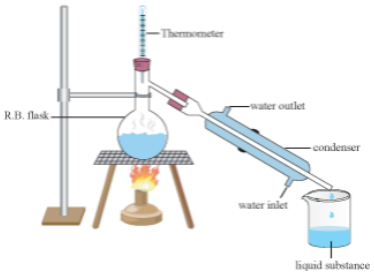




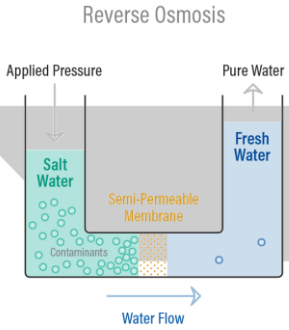
- **Potable:** safe to drink.
- **Reservoirs:** an artificial lake used as a source of water supply, usually created behind a dam or by the side of a river (bank-side reservoir).
  - **Service reservoir:** a reservoir where potable water is stored e.g. Water tower and Cistern.
- **Wells:** a hole bored or dug into rock to reach the water stored in them.
- **Rivers:** a large, natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river.
  - They provide surface transfers of water to low-land areas where farms, villages, towns and cities are concentrated.

NOTES

- **Desalination:** removal of salt from seawater by:
  - **Distillation:** water is boiled and released as vapour, leaving salt behind.
    - The vapour is then condensed as liquid water and can be used.
    - 10-30% efficient and uses a lot of energy.
    - Provision of energy and salt water (brine) is a source of pollution.



  - **Reverse osmosis:** pumping water at high pressure through a fine membrane.
    - 30-50% efficient and requires lesser energy than distillation.



4.4 Water usage

DOMESTIC	INDUSTRIAL	AGRICULTURAL
• At home for drinking and cooking (3% of domestic water) ○ **MEDCs:** ▪ Washing and flushing the toilet (50%); ▪ Washing clothes (20%); ▪ Gardening; ▪ Washing cars; ▪ Lost in leaks.	• In factories for: ○ Cooling; ○ Mixing and making products such as dyes and paints; ○ Bottling and canning in food and drink industries; ○ Power generation.	• Mainly for irrigation (plants need water for transporting minerals, for photosynthesis, and for the prevention of wilting); • For domestic animals.

4.5 Water quality and availability

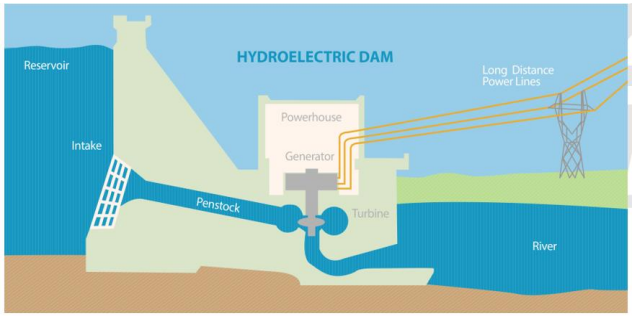
- **Water-rich countries:** countries with plentiful fresh water supplies:
  - Some are large countries with plenty of land for rain to fall on e.g. Russia, Canada, China, and some with the world's greatest rivers flowing through them e.g. Amazon, Yangtze, Mississippi.
  - However, big areas do not ensure water availability e.g. Australia, Argentina, Sudan, due to containing substantial areas of desert within its borders.
- **Water-poor countries:** countries with scarce fresh water supplies:
  - Dominated by desert countries.
  - Except Singapore and Mauritius since they receive high precipitation totals, but are tiny island states that have only small areas for rain to fall on.
- **Water conflict:** conflict between countries, states, or groups over an access to water resources.
- **Physical water scarcity:** not enough water to meet both human demands and those of ecosystems to function effectively.
  - Arid regions frequently suffer from physical water scarcity.
  - It also occurs where water seems abundant, but resources are over-committed.
- **Economic water scarcity:** caused by a lack of investment in water infrastructure or insufficient human capacity to satisfy the demand of water in areas where the population cannot afford to use an adequate source of water.
- **Unlike Rural areas, Urban areas have higher access to safe drinking water because:**
  - Cities are more wealthy places with factories and offices;
  - On average, people's incomes are higher;
  - Easier to put pressure on the politicians or leaders to make improvements;
  - Wealthy people are more likely to live in cities;
  - Water pipes are easier and cheaper to build when a lot of people live close together.

4.6 Multipurpose dam projects

- **Example:** the Ramganga Dam, Uttarakhand, India.
- **Choice of site:**
  - High precipitation to provide sufficient water;
  - Low temperature to prevent evaporation;
  - Built on strong impermeable rock so water doesn't drain and has a good foundation;
  - Built high up in order to have good potential for hydro-electric power;
  - Narrow, steep sided valley for economic reasons;
  - Rivers and lakes nearby to provide water;
  - Away from developed areas to reduce the risk of pollution in reservoirs;
  - Easily accessible;

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
• Generation of electricity in hydro-electric power plants; • Flood control; • Irrigation; • Creates recreational land for tourism and leisure; • Provision of water; • Creation of habitat for wetland species; • Access by boat to otherwise inaccessible areas; • Renewable source of energy; • Doesn't produce greenhouse gases; • Reduces fossil fuel consumption; • Creates more jobs.	• Relocating people; • Flooding land; • Disrupting the life cycles of fish and other aquatic organisms; • Dam may become redundant due to sediment build up; • Very expensive to build. • Requires maintenance; • Reduces jobs for farmers if natural fisheries are affected; • Altering water supply for people downstream the dam; • Reducing soil enrichment downstream of the dam.

  - Maximises water storage capacity.



- **Sustainability of dams:**
  - Alternative for burning of fossil fuels as no greenhouse gases are produced.
- **Unsustainability of dams:**
  - Reservoir can become silted due to material carried into it by rivers;
  - Dam structure under a lot of pressure can deteriorate and eventually fail;
  - Have negative effects on the environment and fish population.

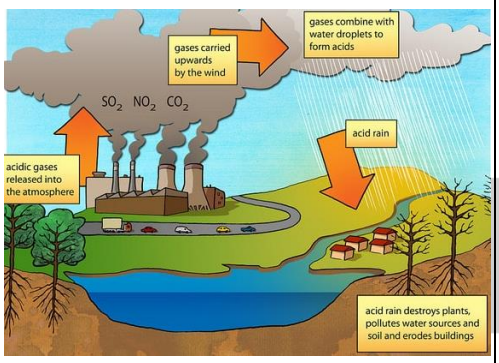
4.7 Water pollution and its sources

- **Sewage:** waste matter that is rich in organic matter, thus microbial organisms can thrive in it.
  - It is usually disposed in water bodies, and thus has to be treated.
- **Domestic waste:** sewage from rural and urban settlements carry many pathogenic micro-organisms, increasing the content of nitrates and phosphates in rivers.
  - Detergents, metals and other manufactured products contain traces of toxic chemicals.
- **Industrial processes:** use of chemicals, the processing of metal ores, and the leaching of metals from waste heaps and dumps cause the presence of metals in rivers (e.g. manganese, mercury, copper).
  - Gases from industrial chimneys enter the atmosphere, where they dissolve in water and form acid rain.
- **Agricultural practices:** surpluses of phosphorous and nitrogen not absorbed by the plants are washed from the land or percolate into the ground water.
  - On farms, animal manure, synthetic fertiliser, and chemical pesticides are main sources.
  - **Agrochemicals:** pesticides, herbicides and fertiliser.

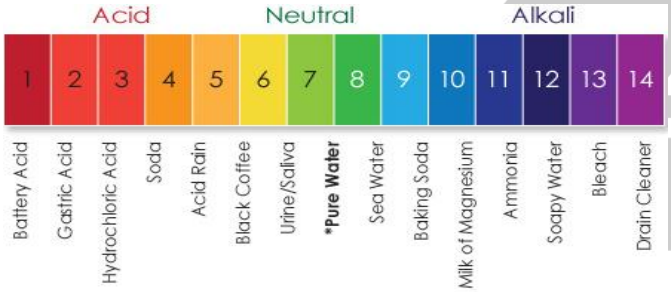
4.8 Impact of water pollution

- **Global inequalities in sewage and water treatment:** developing countries have difficulty treating water and sewage compared to developed countries as people aren't educated and can't put pressure on the government.
- **Risk of infectious bacterial diseases, typhoid and cholera:** water-borne diseases are caused by drinking contaminated water.

- **Accumulation of toxic substances from industrial processes in lakes and rivers:** reduces oxygen in lakes and rivers, causing reduction in photosynthesis and death of fish and insect larvae.
- **Biomagnification of toxic substances in food chains:** increases concentration of a toxic substance (e.g. mercury and pesticides) in the tissues of organisms at successively higher levels in a food chain, causing illness.
  - **Bioaccumulation:** accumulation of a toxic chemical in the tissue of a particular organism.
- **Formation of acid rain:** burning fossil fuels such as coal and oil produce sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) that are blown long distances and react with water in the atmosphere.



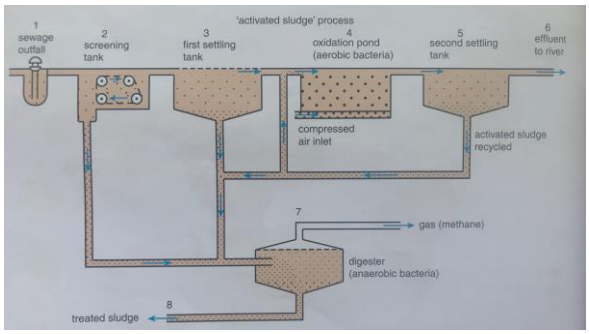
  - SO_2 dissolves in water to form sulfuric acid, and NO_x dissolves to form nitric acid that fall in the form of rain.
  - **pH:** measured by acidity or alkalinity.
    - Ranges from very acidic, 1, to very alkaline, 14.
    - 7 is neutral.



- **The effect of acid rain on organisms in rivers and lakes:**
  - Lower pH makes the environment intolerable for aquatic life;
  - Fish egg-laying is reduced, and young fish are malformed;
  - Leaching of heavy metals such as aluminum, lead and mercury from the soil into the water;
  - Aluminum clogs fish gills and causes suffocation;
  - Minerals essential for life, notably calcium and potassium, are washed out of the lake or river, reducing algae growth and leaving less food for fish and other animals.
- **Nutrient enrichment leading to eutrophication:**
  - Increase in nutrients, such as nitrates and phosphates, in a water body causes algae bloom (rapid growth of algae).
  - Death of algae causes an increase in organic matter that acts as food for bacteria as they decompose the dead algae.
  - Bacteria use up oxygen, reducing oxygen content in the water and causing the death of organisms.

4.9 Managing pollution of fresh water

- **Improve sanitation:** separates human excreta from contact with humans, achieved by toilets and latrines.
  Waste can be removed by:
  - Connection to a system of sewer pipes or sewerage, that collects human faeces, urine and waste water.
  - Connection to a septic system, which consists of an underground, sealed settling tank.
  - **Flush toilet:** uses a holding tank for flushing water, and a water seal that prevents smells.
  - **Pour toilet:** has a water seal but uses water poured by hand for flushing.
  - **Pit latrine:** type of toilet that collects human faeces in a hole in the ground that is sometimes ventilated to take away smells.
  - **Composting toilet:** dry toilet in which vegetable waste, straw, grass, sawdust, and ash are added to the human waste to produce compost.
- **Treatment of sewage:** aims to reduce the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) of the sewage.
  - **Sewage outfall:** waste water from homes and industries is taken to a sewage treatment plant in sewers.

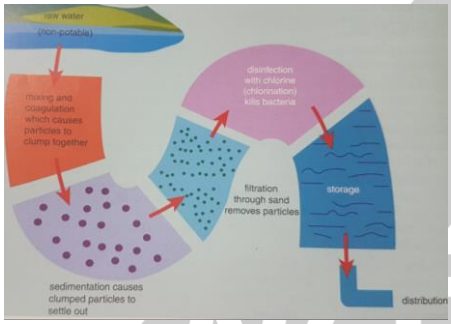


  - **Screening tank:** large objects are removed from the waste using a coarse grid.
  - **Primary treatment, first settling tank:** solid organic matter, mainly human waste, settles at the bottom of the tank (sludge), which is treated in a sludge-digester.

- Clean water then overflows the sides of the tank and is taken to the next stage.

- **Secondary treatment, oxidation:** water is pumped into a tank where oxygen is bubbled through it.
  - This encourages the growth of bacteria and other microbes that break down organic matter, which cause BOD.
- **Secondary treatment, second settling tank:** water enters, where bacteria settle to the bottom, forming more sludge.
  - This cleaner water overflows the sides of the tank as effluent, usually discharged into a river.
- **Sludge digester:** oxygen-free conditions are created that encourage the growth of bacteria which can break down the sludge, releasing methane, that can be burnt.
  - Treated sludge can be dried in sludge lagoons and used as organic fertiliser on farmland.
- **Tertiary treatment:** further filtering out of its effluent or its chlorination which produces even cleaner effluent that protects the habitat in which it is released.

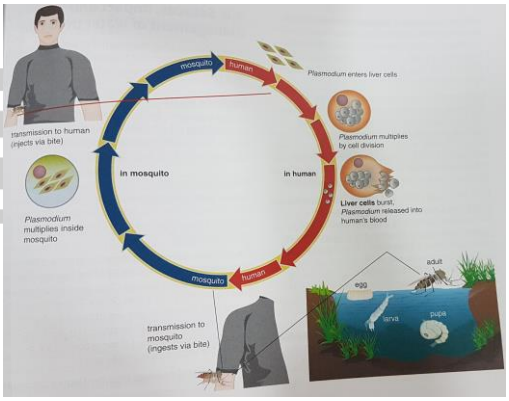
- **Water treatment:** Water is made potable by undergoing coagulation treatment, being filtered and disinfected.



  - **Coagulation:** Particles in the water are stuck together and settle to the bottom of the container.
  - Water is then filtered through sand.
  - **Chlorination:** to kill remaining pathogens, chlorine is added as a disinfectant.
- **Pollution control and legislation:** puts pressure on polluters to find ways to reduce pollutants.
  - Industries are required to monitor the pollution they cause and keep it within set level.
  - **Bi-national Great lakes water quality agreement (GLWQA):** a loading limit of phosphorus was set at 11000 metric tonnes year^{-1} in response to eutrophication issues in the Great Lakes of USA and Canada.
  - Fines for exceeding set limits.
  - Companies may be prosecuted and in extreme cases, forced to shut down.
  - Companies may need government agreement on strategic plans to reduce pollution levels.
  - Incentives may be used to encourage companies to take part, such as grants or tax relief, for those that do achieve a reduction in pollution.

4.10 Managing water-related disease

- **Water-borne disease:** spread by consuming contaminated water due to poor sanitation and untreated sewage, or by washing food, pots and pans, or hands and face in dirty water.
  - **Examples**: cholera and typhoid.
- **Cholera:** intestinal infection that causes severe diarrhea that may lead to dehydration and eventually death.
  - **Causes:** poor sanitation, contamination of water and food, disruption of piped water supplies after a natural disaster occurrence.
- **Water-bred disease:** the carrier breeds in water and spreads the disease by biting its victims.
  - **Example**: malaria.
- **Malaria:** a life-threatening disease which is transmitted through the bite of an infected Anopheles mosquito (vector) that carries the Plasmodium parasite. Once bitten, the parasite reaches your bloodstream.
  - **Symptoms:** high temperature and fever, diarrhea, dehydration and feeling weak.
- **Life cycle of the malaria parasite:**



- **Strategies to control malaria:**
  - Sleeping under mosquito nets and using antimalarial drugs in and around homes;
  - Draining marshes and stagnant pools to eliminate breeding grounds;
  - Put kerosene over the tops of pools to choke the larvae;
  - Spray antimalarial drugs on stagnant areas of water to kill the larvae;

- Use vaccinations;
- Educate people on the risks of malaria by setting up campaigns and programmes.

- **Strategies to control cholera:**
  - Ensure that sewage and drinking water are kept separate;
  - Sewage removed directly into a treatment works;
  - Water being treated before it's delivered into homes;
  - Do not use contaminated water to wash food;
  - Hands should be washed after contact with any faecal material;
  - Boiling water and chlorination.

5. OCEANS AND FISHERIES

5.1 Oceans as a resource

- **Food:** fish that includes true fish, finfish, shellfish and other sea animals that can be eaten.
- **Chemicals and building materials:** many materials in the oceans have been eroded from the land, where rain and wind break down rocks, and are carried into the oceans via rivers.
  - Some substances can be extracted directly e.g. salt, magnesium, tin, gold, titanium, diamonds.
  - **Salt:** seawater that is left behind over many weeks in the hot sun.
  - **Diamonds:** found in greater numbers in ocean floor than on land.
    - Much harder to mine ocean floor as it must be dredged, then the sediment silted.
  - **Sand, gravel and crushed rock:** mined for the construction industry.
    - Physical damage can be caused to seabed and associated habitats if care is not taken.
    - Fine particle clouds that are produced resettle and interfere with photosynthesis, they also act as a source of heavy metals that can enter food chains.
  - **Oil:** chemical that is extracted by offshore drilling rigs.
- **Wave energy:** an enormous amount of energy in the waves is estimated to produce twice the present world energy production if harnessed.
- **Tidal energy:** due to varying gravitational pull of the sun and moon, water in the sea moves up and down on a twice-daily basis.
  - This causes it to come onto land and later recede, which can be harnessed to generate electricity.
- **Tourism:** seaside is a major tourist attraction. People of MEDCs are attracted to marine sites of great natural beauty, especially coral reefs.
  - Diving, snorkeling, windsurfing, jet skiing and deep-sea fishing or simply sunbathing on the beach are some adventurous activities.
  - There's business in boat trips to view sea creatures, especially whales and dolphins.
- **Transport:** ships are important to transport people and goods; however, shipping is less common to transport people now due to the advent of aviation.
  - Pleasure cruises are still an important economic sector and bulk freight is best transported from country to country on ships.
  - **Types of merchant (goods carrying) ships:**

SHIP TYPE	LOAD OR PURPOSE
Bulk carriers	• Transport of food such as rice and wheat.
Container ships	• Entire load is carried in lorry-sized containers, known as containerisation.
Tankers	• Transport of fluids, especially liquified petroleum gas and liquified natural gas. • Transport of vegetable oils and wine.
Refrigerated ships	• Transport of perishable items such as vegetables, fruits, fish and dairy products.
Roll-on/roll-off ships	• Transport of vehicles, together with their loads, that can be driven on and off the ship.
Coastal trading vessels	• Used for trade between places that are close together, especially in island groups.
Ferries	• Used for mainly for the movement of foot passengers, sometimes with their cars, mainly between islands or between mainland and islands.
Cruise ships	• Used for pleasure voyages where the facilities on the ship are a crucial part of the trip.
Ocean liner	• Used to transport people from one port to another.

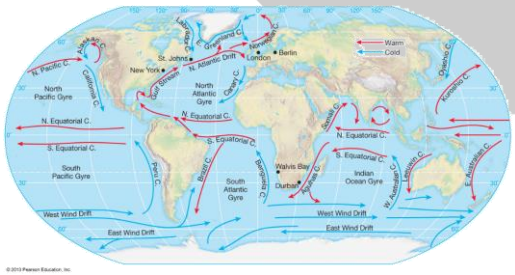
- **Potential for safe drinking water:** only small proportion of water is safe to drink.
  - Salty water is unsafe as your body must remove the salt, requiring more water.

NOTES

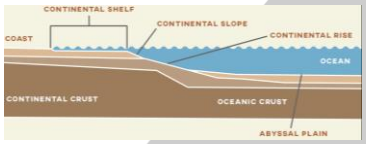
- Purification of water is possible by desalination (Refer to section 4.3 Water Supply; Desalination).

5.2 World fisheries

- **Distribution of major ocean currents:**
  - **Surface currents:** movement of the surface water of the sea in a constant direction.
  - **Prevailing wind:** the direction from which the wind nearly always blows in a particular area.
  - Currents in the southern hemisphere are generally anticlockwise as the winds blow from the south-east and force the western Australian, Benguela, and Peruvian current northwards.
    - **Cold currents:** come from the poles.
    - **Warm currents:** come from the tropics or either side of the equator.

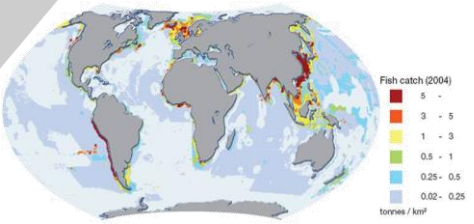


- **Distribution of major marine fish populations:**
  - Main fisheries are located on continental shelves where water is shallow (<150m below sea level), allowing light to penetrate with plentiful oxygen than further below.

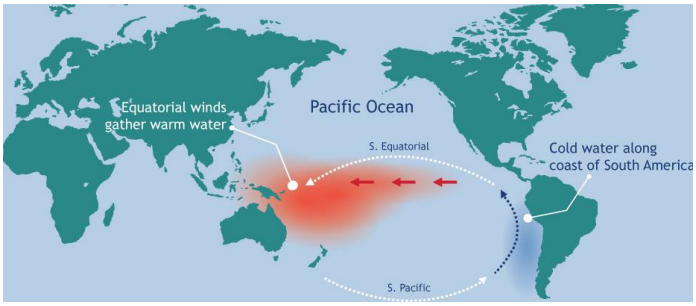


  - Herbivorous fish rely on primary producers, mainly green algae called phytoplankton. Carnivorous fish eat the herbivorous ones or other carnivores.
    - They're part of the food web, starting with the phytoplankton. Thus, fish are found where there are plentiful phytoplankton.
    - Phytoplankton produce their own food by photosynthesis which requires light, water and carbon dioxide (CO2).
    - Water is abundant in the oceans and CO2 dissolves in the water from the atmosphere, therefore light is likely to be the limiting factor for photosynthesis.
    - **Limiting factor:** of all the factors that might affect a process, that one is in shortest supply.

    - Most ocean water has absorbed all the sunlight by a depth of only 200m. This 200m deep zone is called the euphotic zone, below which photosynthesis will not take place.
- **Not all areas with continental shelves have significant fisheries because:**
  - Phytoplankton need not just light, CO_2 and water, which allow it to make carbohydrates such as sugars, but they also require mineral nutrients to make proteins.
    - Making proteins requires a source of nitrogen and sulfur.
    - Nucleic acids, which form the genes of living things, also require phosphorus.

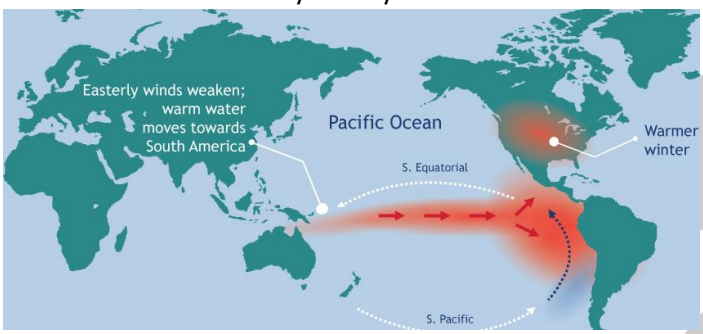


    - The green pigment chlorophyll, which is essential for photosynthesis, requires magnesium.
  - The most important fisheries of the world are where the current system stirs up decaying material from the seabed, which is rich in nutrients.
- **Upwelling:** areas where minerals at the ocean floor are brought up to the surface by currents.
  - An example is the Peruvian anchovy off the west coast of South America.



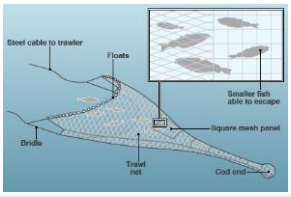
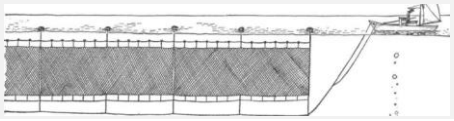
- **Overfishing:** when the number of fish that is caught is greater than the rate at which the fish reproduce, leading to a fall in fish numbers in an area.

- **El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO):** the change in the prevailing winds that leads to change in the pattern of currents in the oceans of the South Pacific.
  - Warm nutrient-poor water comes into the region from the equator.
  - Results in no upwelling of the cold, nutrient rich water that supports the anchovy fishery.
  - No nutrients mean the phytoplankton do not grow well, so there's less food for the fish.
  - Much of the production of the anchovy fishery was used for fishmeal which is used to feed farmed fish, thus countries where this is important, are affected by a crash in the anchovy fishery.



5.3 Impact of exploitation of the oceans

- **Causes of overfishing of marine fish species:**
  - Demand for fish as food due to increasing world population;
  - Much bigger boats, which can work a long way from a port for many weeks;
  - Finding fish easily by using SONAR and detailed weather data;
  - Creation of huge nets that scoop up everything in an area, often half of which is discarded as bycatch (animals caught by fishers that are not the intended target of their fishing effort).
- **Impact of overfishing of marine fish species:**
  - Lack of growth in fish caught globally since 1990s, leading to loss of job and reduction in food supply;
  - Size of fish gets progressively smaller, increasing demand for food;
  - Harvest of untargeted/protected/endangered marine species that are discarded at the sea or shore;
  - Reduction in marine biodiversity, causing a disruption in food chain.

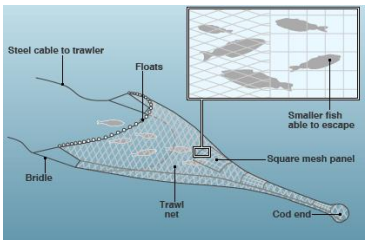
TRAWL NET (INCLUDING BOTTOM TRAWL NETS)	• Catch all types of unwanted species and damage the seabed during their use. 
DRIFT NET	• Drift with the current and are not anchored. • Often used in coastal waters. 
SEINE NET (INCLUDING PURSE SEINE)	• Hang like a curtain in the water. • A variant called the surrounding net is often used.  
DREDGE NET	• Dragged along the seabed, mainly to catch shellfish and other types of fish living in the mud. • Thus, they dig into the seabed with teeth or water jets. 

- **Farming marine species (Mariculture) reduces the exploitation of fisheries:**
  - Due to the increasing human population, the increase in demand for fish as food is above the production capacity of oceans and seas;
  - Overexploitation of the fisheries leads to a decline in wild fish populations;
  - So, fish are farmed in controlled environments.
  - **Aquaculture:** farming fresh water fish.
    - **Mariculture**: aquaculture practised in marine environments e.g. closed section of an ocean, tanks, ponds and raceways filled with seawater.
    - It reduces the pressure on wild population, allowing their population to increase;
    - Production is constant;
    - No bycatch, as non-interest species are unlikely to be present in the farm;
    - No erosion of seabed, that is usually caused by trawl nets.

NOTES

5.4 Management of the harvesting of marine species

- **Net types and mesh size:**
  - If mesh size is too small, juvenile fish will be caught.
    - Reduces the number of fish that grow to maturity and reproduce.



  - A diamond-shaped mesh catches fish more easily, thus a square mesh panel is often included in an otherwise diamond net.
- **Other species-specific methods:**
  - Many fishers use fish aggregation devices (FADs) for tuna fisheries.
    - Includes the usage of a log suspended below the surface of the sea from a buoy.
    - This attracts the tuna together with other species, including tuna predators.

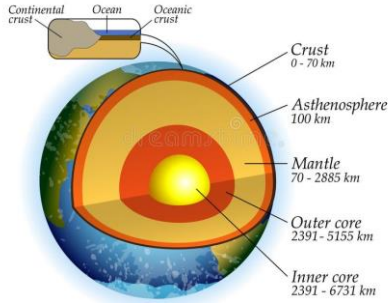
    - Once a good aggregation of fish is collected, they are gathered in a giant net.
    - This will take all other species and younger tuna fish with it, leading to a large bycatch.
  - **Solution:** Use pole and line method for catching the tuna. Done right, this method is highly selective with very little or no bycatch.
- **Quotas:**
  - Legislators e.g. government set limits on how many and what type of fish can be caught;
  - The limits are set according to the information gathered from networks across the world about fish populations;
  - These limits ensure enough fish are left to reproduce and replenish the fishery for the following season.
- **Closed seasons:**
  - Governments and other legislation bodies can pass laws that can close fisheries down for part of the year, most commonly in the breeding season.
- **Protected areas and reserves:** some fisheries are protected by preventing fishing in certain areas, often where the target species is known to breed.
- **International agreements (implementing and monitoring):**
  - **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:**
    - Main law governing marine fisheries in the USA;
    - It aims to control the country's terrestrial waters, conserve fishery resources, enforce international fishing agreements, develop underused fisheries and protect fish habitats.
  - **Economic exclusion zone:**
    - Every country with a coastline has a zone of 200 nautical miles around it inside which the country responsible must attempt to manage its fisheries so that they're sustainable.
  - **International agreements**: needed to regulate fisheries in international waters, leading to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
    - Such an agreement is needed in the Mediterranean where a 200 nautical mile exclusion zone has no meaning.
  - **Monitoring:** a model system is operated by the African country of Namibia.
    - Larger vessels in its waters have onboard observers and air patrols detect and deter unlicensed vessels;
    - All landings are monitored at the country's two fishing ports;
    - In addition, all vessels in the exclusion zone must keep daily logs of their catches.
  - **Effectiveness of these strategies:**
    - Because of the vastness of the oceans, it is difficult to monitor fishery laws and agreements;
    - Monitoring organisations based in ports have more success;
    - Due to fishing being important for both income and food for many people, there is a huge incentive for illegal activities;
    - Quotas can easily be avoided by simply not declaring how many fish are being caught;
    - Overstretched authorities may not be able to check every boat, and fishers may be willing to risk under-declaring the size of their catch and not being checked;
    - Usage of net with an illegally small mesh size, and in areas where patrols are inadequate;
    - Fishers frequently trespass in areas where they are not supposed to fish.

NOTES

6. MANAGING NATURAL HAZARDS

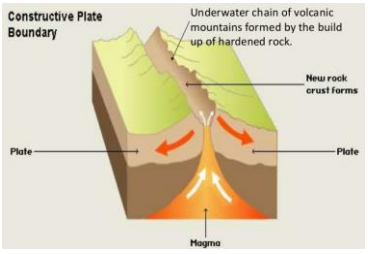
6.1 Earthquakes and volcanoes

- **The structure of the Earth:**

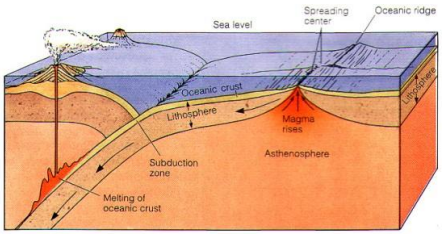


LAYER	TEMP (°C)	STATE	MATERIAL
INNER CORE	• 5000 – 6000	• Solid (intense pressure from overlying rocks).	• Iron and nickel.
OUTER CORE	• 4000 – 5000	• Liquid.	• Iron and nickel.
MANTLE	• 1000 – 1200	• Liquid (flows slowly due to conventional currents from core).	• Mainly silicate minerals.

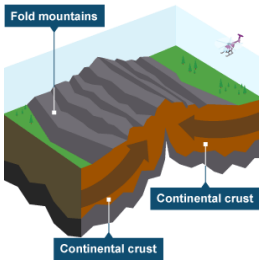
  - **Tectonic plate:** a piece of lithosphere that moves slowly. It is made of crust and upper mantle.
  - Where the convention currents rise to the surface, the plants move away from each other (and vice-versa).
- **Plate boundaries:** where two or more plates meet.
  - **Constructive (divergent) plate boundary:**
    - Two plates move **away** from each other.
    - When **two oceanic plates** move away, magma rises to the surface (convention current) and solidifies when it comes in contact with cold ocean water.
    - The magma turns to lava and forms new basaltic ocean crust.
    - They can also form shield or basic volcanoes (submarine) and have non-explosive eruptions.



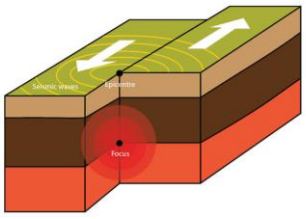
    - This is known as sea-floor spreading or ridge push.
    - Small Earthquakes are triggered.
    - If **two continental plates** move away from each other, a rift valley may form.
  - **Destructive (converging) plate boundary:**
    - Two plates move **towards** each other.
    - When **an oceanic plate and continental plate** move towards each other, the denser (oceanic) plate is forced down (subducted) under the lighter (continental) plate.



    - This happens in the subduction zone and an ocean trench is formed.
    - The friction between the plates triggers Earthquakes.
    - The heat produced due to friction turns the descending plate into magma.
    - The magma starts to rise and erupt (due to pressure) through a weakness in the crust as an explosive composite volcano.
    - Fold mountains are also formed.
    - The magma that erupts at the surface forms a chain of volcanic islands called an island arc.
    - If **two continental plates** move towards each other, the sediments between the two plates are compressed (collision zone) and pushed upwards to form fold mountains.



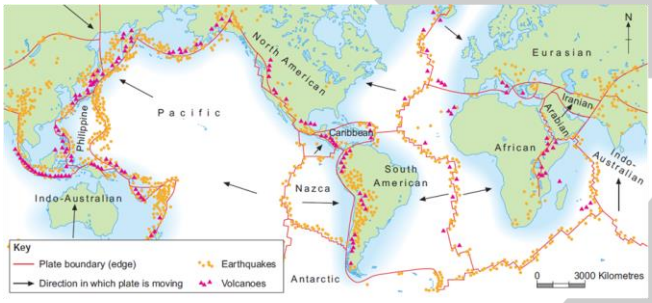
    - Earthquakes occur, but no volcanic activity as there's no subduction of oceanic plate.
  - **Conservative plate boundary:**
    - Two plates **slide past** each other.
    - They move in different speeds.
    - The plates get locked together and pressure builds up until it is released as an Earthquake.



- The magnitude (strength) of an Earthquake is measured using a seismometer on the Richter scale.

Richter Magnitude	Earthquake effects
0-2	Not felt by people
2-3	Felt little by people
3-4	Ceiling lights swing
4-5	Walls crack
5-6	Furniture moves
6-7	Some buildings collapse
7-8	Many buildings destroyed
8-Up	Total destruction of buildings, bridges and roads

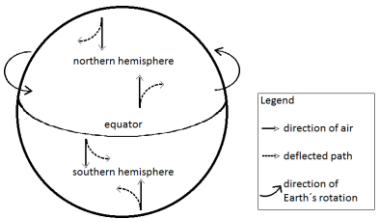
- **Distribution and causes of volcanoes:**
  - Caused due to the tectonic activity (refer to 6.1; Plate boundaries).
  - Found on constructive and destructive plate boundaries and hotspots.



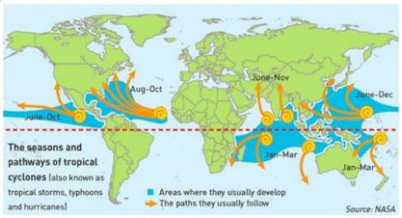
- **Distribution and causes of Earthquakes:**
  - Caused due to the tectonic activity (refer to 6.1; Plate boundaries).
  - Occur mostly on the destructive and conservative plate boundaries (and sometimes on the constructive plate boundaries).
- **Earthquakes**:
  - **Focus**: where the Earthquake begins underground.
  - **Epicentre**: point on the surface above the focus.
  - **Seismometer**: an instrument used to measure the magnitude of an Earthquake (on the Richter scale).
  - **Factors that affect the impact of an Earthquake:**
    - Location of the epicentre;
    - Time of the Earthquake;
    - Geology of the area;
    - Relief of the area;
    - Severity of aftershocks;
    - Level of development of human settlement;
    - Population density;
    - Building density and strength.

6.2 Tropical cyclones

- **Causes of tropical cyclones:**
  - Ocean surface temperature of at least 27°C.
    - Warm water provides the energy to evaporate more water, that rises, condenses, releasing huge amounts of energy.
  - Ocean depth of at least 60m deep.
  - These conditions occurring between 5° and 20° north and south to have sufficient Coriolis effect, making the air spin.



  - Very little wind shear (change in wind speed or direction).
    - Allows the vertical development of the storm.
- **Distribution of tropical cyclones:**
  - Between 5° and 20° north and south.
  - They do not form on the equator because the Coriolis effect there is 0.
    - The air at the equator tends to flow straight from high pressure to low pressure, without any rotation.



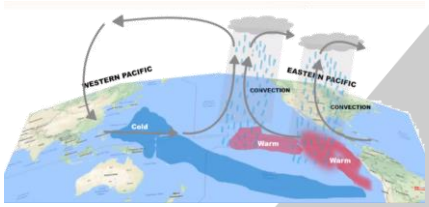
6.3 Flooding

PHYSICAL CAUSE	IMPACT
HEAVY RAINFALL	• Reduces the infiltration capacity of the soil; • Increase in overland flow.
PROLONGED RAINFALL	• Saturates the soil; • Causes the water table to rise, reducing infiltration capacity.
SNOWMELT	• Overland flow occurs due to rapid snowmelt.
LAND RELIEF	• Steeper gradients lead to faster overland flow ∴ water has little time to infiltrate.
SATURATED SOIL	• The more saturated the soil is (before the rainfall), lesser infiltration and more overland flow.
STORM SURGES, TSUNAMIS	• Flooding of low-lying coastal areas.

HUMAN CAUSE	IMPACT
DEFORESTATION	• Reduces interception and infiltration.
CULTIVATION	• Ploughing down rather than across slopes increases the water flow.
URBANISATION	• Concrete and tarmac are impermeable surfaces (no infiltration ∴ high overland flow).
CLIMATE CHANGE	• Global warming may lead to rise in sea levels and more rainfall in some areas.

6.4 Drought

- **Causes of drought:**
  - **Lack of rain caused by prolonged high pressure:**
    - Air in a high-pressure system sinks and doesn't form rain clouds.
  - **Effect of El Niño Southern Oscillation and La Niña:**
    - El Niño causes the surface water in the Pacific Ocean along South America to be warmer.



    - These warmer waters alter storm patterns and can cause droughts in Australia.
    - Whereas, La Niña causes the temperature of the water along South America to decrease.

    - The cooler conditions cause drought in parts of North and South America.
    - (refer to Section 5.2 World Fisheries; El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO))
  - **Effect of climate change:**
    - Warmer worldwide temperatures cause the rainfall to decrease in some parts of the world, leading to drought.

6.5 The impacts of natural hazards

- **Impacts of tectonic events:**
  - Damage to buildings and infrastructure;
  - Fires from ruptures of gas pipes;
  - Tsunamis hit coastlines;
  - Landslides cover buildings and roads;
  - Destruction of farmland, leading to starvation;
  - Loss of wildlife habitats;
  - Water-related diseases because victims are in temporary accommodation with no sanitation or clean water;
    - Water is also contaminated by broken sewage pipes or untreated sewage.
  - Loss of life;
  - Trauma, poor mental health;
  - Financial losses when repairing the damage.
- **Impacts of tropical cyclones:**
  - Flooding from storm surges and heavy rainfall;
  - Loss of life;
  - Damage to buildings and infrastructure;
  - Disruption of electricity, transport and water supply;
  - Water-borne diseases;
  - Economic loss as production is halted;
  - Damage to crops, food shortages and loss of export earnings;
  - Loss of wildlife habitats.
- **Impacts of flooding:**
  - Loss of life;
  - Damage to buildings and infrastructure;
  - Contamination of water supplies leading to disease;
  - Loss of crops and livestock leading to food shortages;
  - Deposition of silt from the flood waters;
  - Recharge of groundwater stores;
  - Rivers may change course;
  - Financial losses when repairing the damage.

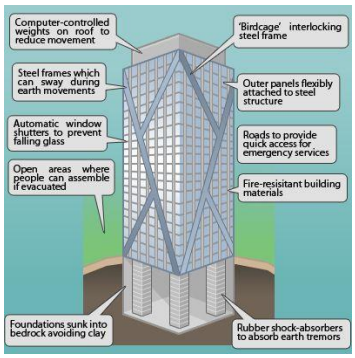
NOTES

- **Impacts of droughts:**
  - Water sources dry up, forcing people to travel long distances to fetch water;
  - Decline in crop yields;
  - Loss of crops, livestock, plants and wildlife;
  - Decrease in land prices as production declines and farmers lose money;
  - Migration from rural to urban areas;
  - Unemployment;
  - Increase in food prices;
  - Health problems due to malnutrition;
  - Soil erosion, leading to desertification;
  - Increased risk of wildfires and poor air quality;
  - Conflicts over water usage and food.

6.6 Managing the impacts of natural hazards

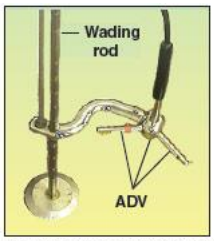
- **Volcanoes:**
  - **Prediction:**
    - Seismometers can be used to monitor tremors caused by rising magma;
    - Satellites using heat-seeking cameras can be used to monitor increasing ground temperatures;
    - Tiltmeters (measure very subtle changes in the surface of the Earth as magma accumulates) and GPS can be used to monitor changes in volcano shape;

    - Emissions of steam and gas (sulfur dioxide) can be monitored.
  - **Preparation and protection:**
    - Volcano hazard map (study past eruptions);
    - Lava diversion channels and lava barriers ;
    - Spraying lava with water;
    - Halting lava advance by dropping concrete slabs into the flow;
    - Building reinforcements (sloping roofs to protect against ashfall).
- **Earthquakes**:
  - **Prediction**:
    - Monitor tremors (using seismometers), groundwater levels and radon gas;
    - Epicentres and frequencies of past events can be mapped to check if a pattern is developing;
    - Measurement of local magnetic fields;
    - Hazard zone map can be drawn (geological info and ground stability);
    - Unusual animal behaviour.
  - **Preparation and protection:**
    - Earthquake-proof or aseismic buildings. Older buildings can be modernised;
    - Smart meters to switch off gas supplies, preventing fires;



    - **Land-use planning**: important services (schools, hospitals) must be built in low-risk areas.
- **Tropical cyclones:**
  - **Prediction:**
    - Tracked using satellites.
  - **Preparation and protection:**
    - Cyclone shelters;
    - Embankments along the coast;
    - Preserve mangrove swamps to absorb the energy of storm surges.

- **Flooding:**
  - **Prediction**:
    - Monitoring the amount of rainfall and river discharge using an ADV;
    - Using the features of the drainage basin and type of storm to determine the severity of the flood.



Acoustic Doppler Velocimeter (ADV) mounted on a rod.

  - **Preparation and protection:**
    - Hard engineering projects (levees, flood barriers and dams);

    - Soft engineering projects (afforestation and storage basins);
    - Increasing the river channel (clearing vegetation);
    - Land-use planning to restrict development on floodplains;
    - Use of sandbags and pumps;
    - Adapt houses to position power sockets 1.5 m above ground level to prevent electrocution.

NOTES

- **Droughts:**
  - **Prediction:**
    - Monitoring precipitation and temperature.
  - **Preparation and protection:**
    - Increase water supplies (dams, reservoirs, wells, percolation ponds, aquifers, pumps, water transfer by pipeline and desalination);

    - Water conservation (storage tanks, spray irrigation, drought-tolerant crops, recycling water and reducing deforestation);
    - Agricultural improvements (shelterbelts to decrease wind and evaporation, bunds to increase infiltration and fencing to control overgrazing);
    - Government stockpiling supplies of water, food and medicine.

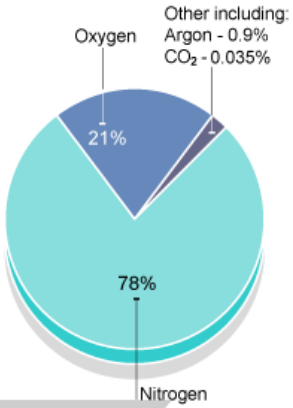
6.7 Opportunities presented by natural hazards

- Individuals may want to be near family and friends.
- Confidence in prediction, preparation and protection.
- Employment opportunities e.g. tourism.
- No choice in moving if there is pressure on land or if it is too expensive to move.
- After a volcanic eruption, fertile soils are created that produce high crop yields.
  - The scenery can be spectacular;
  - Geothermal energy can be obtained easily;
  - Possibility of mining minerals such as sulfur, diamonds and gold.
- Living near rivers may provide a source of food, water for drinking and irrigation.
  - Communications may be easier;
  - Flat land on either side is available for building on.

7. THE ATMOSPHERE AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES

7.1 The atmosphere

- **The composition of the atmosphere:**

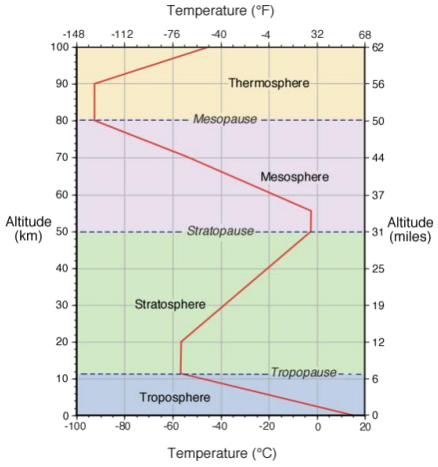


COMPONENT	% IN ATMOSPHERE	IMPORTANCE TO LIFE ON EARTH
NITROGEN (N_2)	78.09	• Growth of plants.
OXYGEN (O_2)	20.95	• Produced by photosynthesis; • Used in respiration.
WATER VAPOUR (H_2O)	0.2-4	• Source for precipitation; • Provides most of the natural greenhouse gases; • Vital for existence of life.
CARBON DIOXIDE (CO_2)	0.03	• Used by plants in photosynthesis; • Greenhouse gas.
ARGON (Ar) HELIUM (He), NEON (Ne), KRYPTON (Kr)	0.93 Trace	• Can create an inert atmosphere that protects materials from reacting with oxygen or other gases.

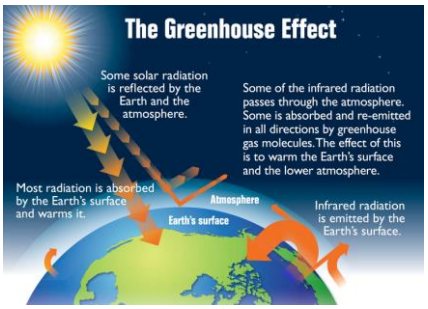
NOTES

- **The structure of the atmosphere:**
  - The atmospheric pressure decreases as the height increases, in all layers of the atmosphere.
  - Based on temperature changes, the atmosphere is divided into four layers:

  - **Troposphere**:
    - Temperature decreases with height as conduction and convection of heat from the Earth's surface decrease.
    - The top of this layer is called the **tropopause**, where temperatures remain fairly constant.
    - This is the upper limit to the Earth's weather and climate.
  - **Stratosphere:**
    - Temperature increases slightly with height.
    - This is called **temperature inversion.**
    - This is caused by the concentration of ozone that absorbs the incoming ultraviolet radiation from the Sun.
    - This layer also acts as a shield against incoming meteorites.
    - The top of this layer is called the **stratopause**.
  - **Mesosphere:**
    - Temperatures rise rapidly because of the absorption of ultraviolet radiation by atomic oxygen.
    - The upper limit of this layer is called the **mesopause**.
  - **Thermosphere:**
    - Temperatures rise rapidly because of the absorption of ultraviolet radiation by atomic oxygen.
    - The upper limit of this layer is called the **thermopause**.



- **The natural greenhouse effect:** a process that helps keep the Earth's surface and atmosphere warm.
  - The Earth receives incoming short-wave radiation from the Sun.
    - Half of this radiation is absorbed by the Earth's surface.
    - Around 20% is absorbed by the atmosphere.
    - Around 30% is reflected by clouds and the Earth's surface, back into space.



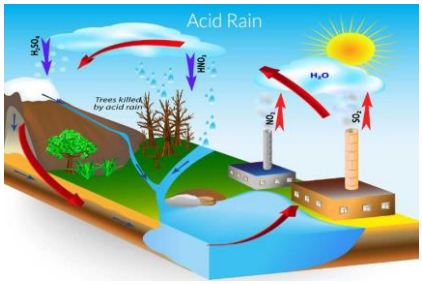
  - As the Earth's surface warms, outgoing long-wave radiation (infrared radiation) is emitted back into the atmosphere.
  - Greenhouse gases absorb some of this radiation and deflect it back to the Earth's surface.
  - **Examples of greenhouse gases:**
    - **Natural**: water vapour, carbon dioxide, ozone, methane and nitrous oxides.
    - **Artificial**: Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).
  - The more the concentration of the greenhouse gases, the more effectively they return radiation back to Earth.

GREENHOUSE GAS	% CONTRIBUTION TO THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT	NO. OF YEARS GAS STAYS IN THE ATMOSPHERE
CARBON DIOXIDE	65	200
METHANE	17	12
CFCs	12	1000
NITROUS OXIDES	6	114

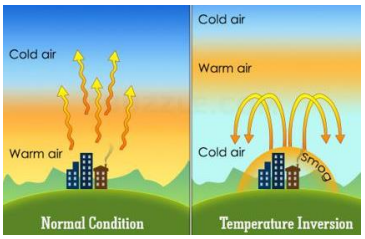
NOTES

7.2 Atmospheric pollution and its causes

- **Acid rain:** precipitation with a pH value of less than 7.
  - Burning of fossil fuels in factories and power stations release sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.
  - Vehicle emissions add further nitrogen oxides.
  - When these gases mix and react with the water vapour in the atmosphere, they form weak solutions of nitric and sulfuric acid.



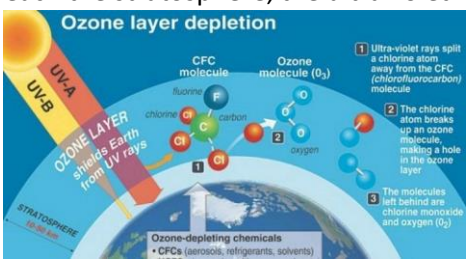
  - They are carried by prevailing winds.
  - They eventually fall to Earth as acid rain.
- **Smog:**
  - Burning of fossil fuels in industry, homes and vehicles provides particles like smoke and dust for fog to form around.
  - **Photochemical smog:**
    - Involves chemical reactions induced by sunlight on certain pollutants.
    - These reactions convert them into harmful substances, like ground-level or tropospheric ozone ('bad' ozone).
  - **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):**
    - Chemicals that easily enter the atmosphere as gases, mainly from evaporation.
    - **Examples**: hydrocarbons (like methane), ammonium nitrate, carbon monoxide (incomplete combustion), etc.
  - **Temperature inversion**: a weather condition when the air temperature increases with altitude, rather than decreasing.



    - During the day, the surfaces is heated due to longwave radiation.
    - On calm and clear nights, the Earth surface cools very quickly, emitting radiation, cooling the air above it.
    - At higher altitude, the air doesn't cool as quickly, so this air becomes warmer than the air below it.
    - This layer of warm air is the inversion layer, that disrupts the regular convection currents.
    - The concentration of smog (pollutants) increases, often in valleys surrounded by steep-sided hills.
- **Enhanced greenhouse effect:** created by addition of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere through human activities.
  - More heat retained in the atmosphere.
  - Increased temperature of the Earth's surface, leading to global warming and climate change.

GREENHOUSE GAS	HUMAN ACTIVITIES THAT INCREASE THEIR ABUNDANCE
CARBON DIOXIDE	• Burning of fossil fuels; • Deforestation.
METHANE	• Cattle and rice production; • Coal mine ventilation; • Deforestation; • Decomposition of waste (landfill sites).
CFCs	• Aerosol sprays; • Fire extinguishers; • Refrigeration; • Air conditioning.
NITROGEN OXIDES	• Vehicle exhausts; • Chemical fertilisers.
TROPOSPHERIC OZONE	• Chemical reactions involving nitrogen oxides and unburnt fuel vapours.

- **Ozone layer depletion:**
  - Ozone layer protects the Earth from the Sun's harmful radiation.
  - It is formed when oxygen (O_2) filters from the top of the troposphere and reacts under the influence of ultraviolet radiation to form ozone (O_3).
  - It is continually formed, destroyed and replaced naturally, creating a dynamic balance, that is disturbed by human activities.
    - When CFCs reach the stratosphere, the ultraviolet radiation breaks them down, releasing chlorine.



    - Chlorine reacts with oxygen in a destructive process, breaking down the ozone molecules to chlorine monoxide and oxygen, depleting the layer and forming a hole.

- This hole allows harmful radiation to enter the Earth's atmosphere.

7.3 Impact of atmospheric pollution

POLLUTANT	IMPACT
SMOG	• Irritation of eyes and throat; • Respiratory diseases, like asthma; • Fine particles carried into lungs, leading to lung cancer, strokes and heart attacks; • Breathing difficulties.
ACID RAIN	• Acidification of ground water, making the water undrinkable; • Can cause diarrhoea and stomach upset if the water is consumed; • Aluminium leached from the soil to groundwater; • Acidification of groundwater damages tree roots; • Crop yields decline; • Nutrients like calcium are leached out of the soil; • Fish die as acidity levels increase; • Limestone buildings are chemically weathered.
OZONE DEPLETION	• Higher levels of ultraviolet radiation cause sun burn, skin cancers, retina damage and cataracts; • Extra ultraviolet radiation limits the reproduction of phytoplankton, affecting the entire food webs; • Changes in biochemical composition of some plant leaves make them less attractive as food.
CLIMATE CHANGE	• Melting of ice sheets, glaciers and permafrost cause a rise in sea-levels; • Damage to low-lying countries from flooding; • Forced migration as people lose their homes and farmland from rising sea-levels; • Loss of biodiversity, habitat or extinction if animals and plants can't adapt; • Increased droughts could lead to desertification and famine; • Sea-level rise leads to the loss of coastal land and increased erosion.

7.4 Managing atmospheric pollution

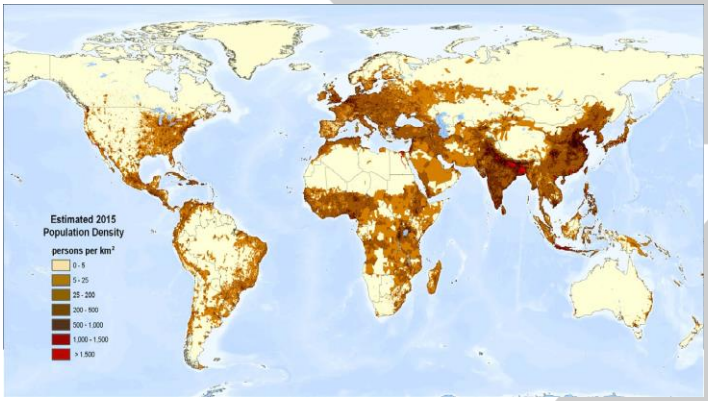
- **Reduction of carbon footprint:**
  - **Carbon footprint:** a measure of the impact of our activities on the environment.
- **Reduced use of fossil fuels:**
  - Low sulfur coal can be used;
  - Increased use of renewable energy.
- **Energy efficiency:**
  - Using energy efficient appliances.
- **Carbon capture and storage:**
  - Waste carbon dioxide from power stations can be transported via pipelines to storage sites.
- **Transport policies:**
  - Creation of cycle lanes, bus lanes, metro systems and trams;
  - Electric or hybrid cars can be encouraged;
  - Biofuels can be used;
  - Vehicles can be banned from certain parts of city by pedestrianisation;
  - Public transport and residential parking can be made free.
- **International agreement and policies:**
  - Policies such as Montreal Protocol, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Climate Conference can be passed on worldwide;
  - An international cooperation is required.
- **CFC replacement:**
  - Reduction in the use of CFCs;
  - Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) can be used as an alternative;
  - Safe disposal of items containing CFCs.
- **Taxation**:
  - Higher road tax to decrease car ownership.
- **Catalytic converters:**
  - Catalytic converters in vehicles reduce sulfur dioxide emissions;
  - They also convert nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide and nitrogen;
  - Low-sulfur vehicle fuels can also be used.
- **Flue-gas desulfurisation:**
  - Scrubbers can be used to remove 95% of sulfur dioxide emissions;
  - Lining chimneys with lime also reduce the emissions.

- **Reforestation and afforestation:**
  - **Reforestation**: replanting an area with trees;
  - **Afforestation**: planting trees in a barren land.

8. HUMAN POPULATION

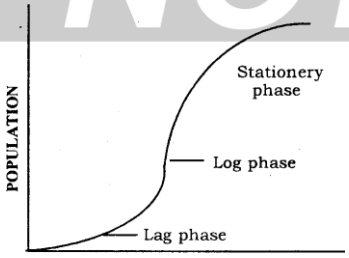
8.1 Human population distribution and density

- **Population density:** population per area (figures providing an average value).
- **Population distribution:** how the population is spread over an area.
  - **Example**: very few or no people live in deserts and mountains, whereas populations are very high in coastal areas due to availability of fresh water.

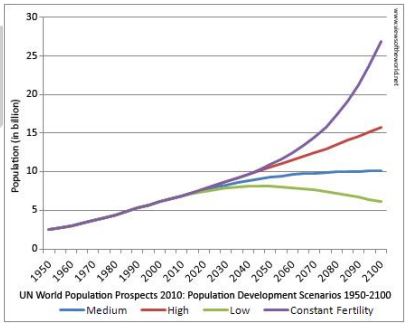


8.2 Changes in population size

- **Population:** all the organisms of one species living in a defined area at the same time.
- **Lag phase:** the period of time in population growth when an organism is adapting to its new environment and the growth is slow.
- **Log/exponential phase:** when the growth rate of a population increases overtime as all requirements are in superabundance.



- **Stationary phase:** when the growth rate of a population has slowed down to zero as the carrying capacity is reached.
- **Carrying capacity:** the maximum size of a population that an environment can support in terms of food, water and other resources.
- **History of human population:** about 10000 years ago, there were about 5 million people living as hunter-gatherers. **Significant points in the growth of the human population since then are:**
  - About 6000 years ago, humans started growing crops and rearing animals, which provided more food and allowed the population to begin to grow;
  - By the time the modern system of counting years started, the population was about 250 million;
  - It then took another 1800 years to reach 1 billion;
  - After this, the growth become very rapid;
  - By 1930, it was 2 billion;
  - By 1975, it was 4 billion;
  - By 2016, it was over 7 billion, a rise of 3 billion in just 37 years.
  - **UN predictions for the human population in 2100 based on evidence:**



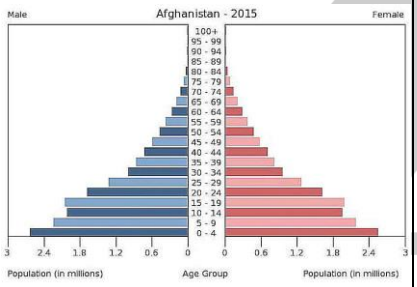
- **Birth rate:** the number of live births per thousand of population per year.
- **Death rate:** the number of deaths per thousand of population per year.
- **Natural increase:** the difference between birth rate and death rate.
- **Factors effecting birth rate:**
  - In countries with a high death rate for the very young (high infant mortality), birth rates are also high.
  - In farming economies of many LEDCs, more people are needed for manual labour ∴ families tend to be larger.
  - In MEDCs, it is expensive to have children and pensions are provided by the state.
    - As pensions are provided, they do not need children to take care of them in their old age.
  - Many social and political factors result in low use of birth control in LEDCs, whereas in MEDCs birth control is widely used, so both birth and death rates are lower.
- **Migration:** the movement of people into (immigration) or out of (emigration) a region, country or an area.
  - Most common worldwide movement is from rural to urban areas in LEDCs.
  - Sometimes urban to rural migrations also occur, mostly in MEDCs.
- **Population growth:** (birth rate + immigration) – (death rate + emigration)

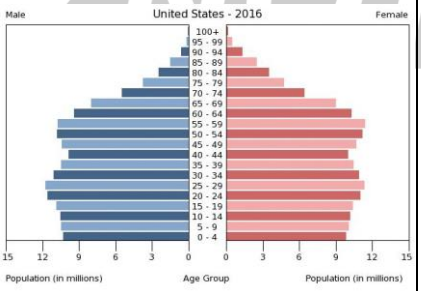
NOTES

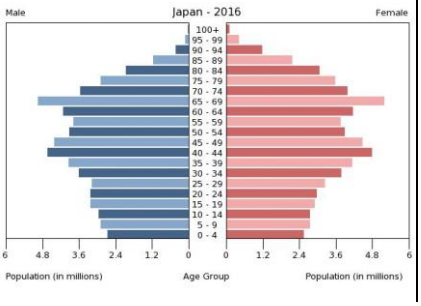
PUSH FACTORS: factors that encourage people to move away from an area.	**PULL FACTORS:** factors that encourage people to move into an area.
Drought/famine;	Good supplies of food whatever the weather;
Poverty;	Well-paid jobs;
Poor links with outside world;	Good roads;
Poor services;	Hospitals, schools, water, electricity;
Work on the land only, subsistence;	Factory, shops, office work for a wage.
Desertification;	No comparable pull factors
Sea-level rise;	
Seasonal weather events.	

8.3 Population structure

- **Population/age pyramid:** a diagram that shows the proportion of the population that is male and female in different age groups (usually 5-year interval).
- **Expanding (young) populations (Afghanistan 2015):** a typical pyramid for LEDCs with high proportion of young people due to high birth rate.
- **Stationary populations (USA 2016):** population that is almost stationary, with a rectangular shape, except at the top when old people die.
- **Contracting (old) populations (Japan 2016):** population is declining because of low birth rates, and its pyramid is top-heavy because of low death rates.







- **Dependant:** those people in the population who are not economically active (working) i.e. the young (<16) and old (65+) and thus rely on those who are working for their needs.
- **Independent:** those people in the population who are economically active (working) i.e. the middle-aged (between 17 and 65).
- **Taxes from the independent population is used for:**
  - Education for the youngsters and provision of school places for the children yet to reach school age.
  - Creating care-home places and hospitals for the ageing population.

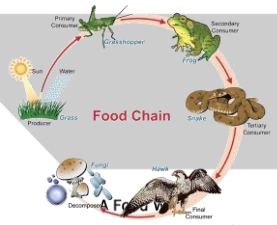
8.4 Managing human population size

- **Family planning:** methods used by couples to decide the number of children to have and when, which is mostly encouraged by governments
- **Contraception:** used to prevent pregnancy.
- **Improved health and education:** makes people more aware of methods to limit family size.
  - Educated women may plan a career as well as having children, the former frequently limiting how many children are born.
  - Education can also lead to a tendency for later marriages and thus later child bearing.
  - High infant mortality causes couples to have more children. When it is reduced by better healthcare and sanitation, the trend is reversed.
- **National population policies:**
  - **Pronatalist policy:** a national or regional policy that aims to encourage couples to have children.
    - In countries like France, couples were encouraged to have more than 2 children.
    - Parents are paid the equivalent of the minimum wage for a year after they have a third child.
    - They enjoy subsidised train fares, pay less tax the more children they have, and subsidised day care.
  - **Antinatalist policy:** a national or regional policy that aims to discourage couples to have children.
    - In LEDCs, population increases too fast, and these policies can form in weak measures such as the provision of family planning, contraceptives and education, to laws encouraging couples to have only one child.
    - Some countries have no population policies at all and usually have high birth rates.

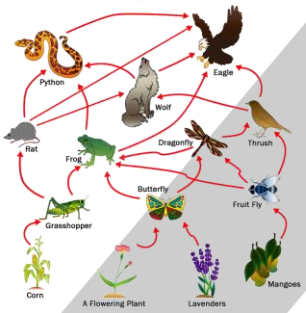
9. NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES

9.1 Ecosystems

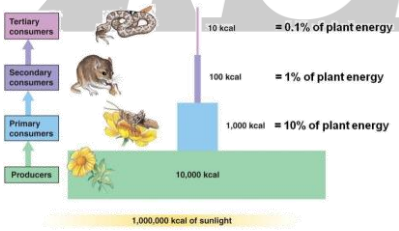
- **Ecosystem:** all the living things (biotic components) together with all the non-living things (abiotic components) in an area.
- **Population:** all the organisms of one species living in a defined area at the same time.
- **Community:** a group of populations of different species that live together in an area and interact with each other.
- **Habitat:** the place within an ecosystem where an organism lives.
- **Niche:** the role of a species within the ecosystem.
- **Food chain:** a diagram showing the relationship between a single producer and primary, secondary and tertiary consumers.



- **Food web:** a diagram showing the relationship between all (or most) of the producers, primary, secondary and tertiary consumers in an ecosystem.

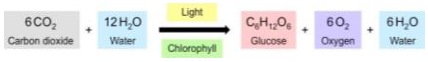


- **Trophic level:** a feeding level within a food chain or food web.
- **Pyramid of numbers:** a diagram that represents the number of organisms at each trophic level in an ecosystem by a horizontal bar whose length is proportional to the numbers at that level.
  - The pyramid shape reflects the loss of energy at each trophic level.



  - **Energy is:**
    - Lost during transfer as heat to the environment;
    - Used for cellular respiration;
    - Used for growth;
    - Lost as faeces;
    - Lost by incomplete digestion by higher trophic level.
    - ∴ Food chains cannot have more than 4 or 5 trophic levels as there's not enough energy to pass on.

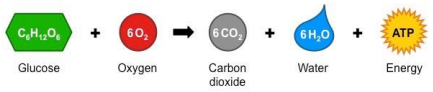
- **Biotic factors:**
  - **Producers:** organisms within an ecosystem that can carry out photosynthesis.
  - **Primary consumers:** organisms within an ecosystem that derive their food from producers.
  - **Secondary consumers:** organisms within an ecosystem that derive their food from primary consumers.
  - **Tertiary consumers:** organisms within an ecosystem that derive their food from secondary consumers.
  - **Decomposers:** organisms within an ecosystem that derive their food from the bodies of dead organisms.
- **Abiotic factors:**
  - **Temperature:** usually expressed in °C. Living things have a range of temperatures within which they can survive.
  - **Humidity:** a measure of how damp the air is; how much water vapour it holds.
    - Usually expressed as relative humidity (RH) – RH expresses the humidity as a % of the amount of water vapour the air could hold if fully saturated.
  - **Water:** essential for all life as it's a raw material for photosynthesis and a medium for chemical reactions.
    - Plants obtain water from the soil and water content of soil is an important factor in determining where exactly a plant species lives.
  - **Oxygen:** nearly 21% in the air; decreases with increasing altitude.
    - Usually expressed as parts per million (ppm) in water.
    - Not very soluble in water so all aquatic organisms have adaptations to get enough e.g. gills in fish.
  - **Salinity:** how salty something is, measured as ppm or parts per thousand (ppt) or concentration e.g. milligrams/litre)
    - **Brackish water:** water that is salty (>0ppt) but not as salty as seawater (<35ppt).
  - **Light:** essential for photosynthesis; expressed as lumens.
  - **pH:** (refer to section 4.8 Impact of water pollution; pH).
- **Photosynthesis:**



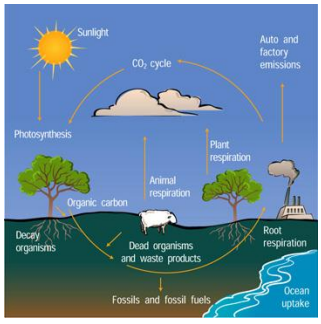
  - Plants trap light energy with the help of chlorophyll.
    - This green pigment splits water into hydrogen and oxygen.
    - The hydrogen is added to CO_2 to make glucose.
    - The oxygen not used in respiration is given off to the atmosphere.

- Plants obtain CO_2 from the atmosphere through their stomata in the leaves and water from the soil through their roots.
- Glucose is used by plants in respiration to release energy and is converted to substances the plant needs eg starch, cellulose, proteins etc.
- Nitrogen is needed to form some substances such as proteins, but in every case, chemical energy remains stored in the substance.

- **Respiration:** the process by which living things release energy from food to carry out the process of life, such as movement.



- **Biotic interactions:**
  - **Competition:** living things need a range of resources from the environment.
    - Many more young are produced than will survive, so there is often competition of resources.
    - Individuals least adapted to the current conditions will either die or fail to reproduce.
  - **Predation:** when one animal eats another.
  - **Pollination:** the transfer of pollen grains (male gametes) from the anther to the stigma for it to fuse with the ovule (female gamete).
    - In plants, male sex cells are found in pollen grain, made in the anther.
    - Pollen grains are either blown by wind or carried by insects.
    - The anther is in the flower, attracting the animals with bright colours, scent and the production of nectar.
    - The pollen grain lands on the stigma of another flower and sends out a tube that grows down to where the ovule is.
    - The ovule is then fertilised to form an embryo in a seed that grows into a plant.
- **The carbon cycle:**



9.2 Ecosystems under threat

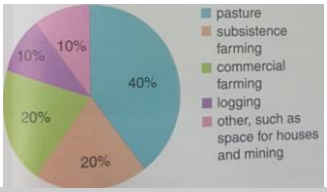
- **Importance of wetlands:**
  - Shoreline protection;
  - Maintenance of water quality;
  - Flood control;
  - Recharging of aquifers;
  - Biological productivity;
  - Provide habitats;
  - Source of variety of products eg fish, fuel and fibres.
- **Causes of habitat loss:**
  - **The drainage of wetlands:**
    - Drainage for agriculture, forestry and mosquito control;
    - Dredging for flood protection;
    - Use for disposal of waste created by road construction;
    - Discharge of pollutants;
    - Peat removal;
    - Removal of groundwater.
  - **Intensive agricultural practices:** wetlands are drained and other land is occupied to provide for intensive agricultural practices, resulting in habitat loss.
    - Overcultivation of soil leads to soil erosion, causing habitat loss for decomposers living in the soil.
  - **Deforestation:** Clearance of climax communities that would otherwise provide habitat for a wide range of tree and ground dwelling species.
    - **Climax community:** An ecological community in which populations of plants or animals remain stable and exist in balance with each other and their environment.
- **Impacts of habitat loss:**
  - **Extinction:** the process by which a species or other named group ceases to exist on Earth or other named area.
  - **Loss of biodiversity**: various species die or relocate when their habitat is destroyed.
  - **Genetic depletion:** the loss of species containing potentially useful genes.
    - Species and genetic diversity that exist in the wild may have many currently unknown uses e.g. medicinal, drought-resistant, etc.
    - These characteristics of modern crop plants may prove useful in the future e.g. due to climate change, drought-resistant strains are needed.

NOTES

- These useful, ancient strains (genes) of important crop plants should be retained.
- However, due to habitat destruction, genetic diversity is reducing, leading to species becoming extinct, making the genetic loss irretrievable.
- Modern strain of crop plants may not be able to adapt to future changes.

9.3 Deforestation

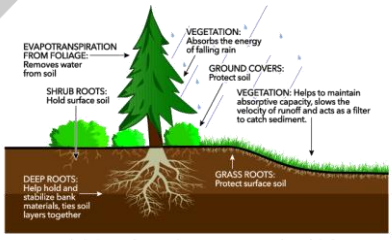
- **Causes of deforestation:**
  - Timber is needed in MEDCs for products ranging from luxury furniture to paper, or as a source of energy.



  - Lumber (planks and boards).
  - **Clear land for:**
    - Farming;
    - Roads and settlements (logging tends to be selective as only a few species create timber, however building roads for transporting logs is the most damaging process.)
  - Rock and mineral extraction.
- **Impacts of deforestation:**
  - **Habitat loss:** biodiversity is lost when habitats are lost.
    - Tropical rainforests are centers of great biodiversity, so loss of habitat here is serious.
    - Huge volume of trees acts as massive carbon stores that's also home for rare species which may be useful to us.
  - **Soil erosion and desertification:**
    - Forests reduce the impact of heavy rainfall on the ground, reducing soil erosion.
    - Tree roots bind the soil in place and the layer of fallen leaves and branches protect the soil.
    - Overtime, after deforestation, the area that once supported luxuriant growth may become a desert, because of desertification.
    - (refer to section 3.6 Causes and impacts of soil erosion).
  - **Climate change:**
    - Changes caused in the levels of various greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
    - CO_2 and methane are rising and so are atmospheric temperatures.
    - **Greenhouse gas:** gas that stops energy in the form of heat from being lost from the atmosphere.
    - **Rise in CO_2:** due to the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, industries.
    - If the rate of trees photosynthesising and respiring were equal, removal of trees would have no effect.
    - However, permanent removal of trees leads to large quantities of CO_2 when burnt or decomposed.
    - Moreover, the machinery of burning fossil fuels releases more CO_2.
- **Loss of biodiversity and genetic depletion:** (refer to Section 9.2 Ecosystems under threat; Loss of biodiversity and genetic depletion)

9.4 Managing forests

- **Carbon sinks:** a vegetated area where the intake of CO_2 from the atmosphere in photosynthesis exceeds its output from respiration, so the net flow of carbon is from the atmosphere into plants.
- **Carbon store:** a mature vegetated area where the intake of CO_2 from the atmosphere by photosynthesis equals its output from respiration, so the mature plants store carbon.
- **Role in water cycle:** forests add water to the atmosphere during transpiration, leading to formation of clouds, eventually releasing it by precipitation.
  - During deforestation, this process is reduced and local droughts are caused in the area.
  - Forests generate moisture in the atmosphere that can affect rainfall around the world.
- **Prevention of soil erosion:**
  - By intercepting rain, forests reduce heavy rainfall on the forest floor.
  - Debris such as tree leaves on the floor of the forest slows run-off.
  - Roots of trees hold soil in place.



EFFECTS OF VEGETATION IN MINIMIZING EROSION

  - Forests on the coast reduce erosion by absorbing energy from storms.
  - (refer to section 3.7 Managing soil erosion).
- **Ecotourism:** responsible travel to a natural area that promotes conservation of the environment.
  - Visitors travel with the main aim of appreciating its natural beauty.
  - Ecotourism is both a reason to manage forests sustainably and a method by which this can be achieved.

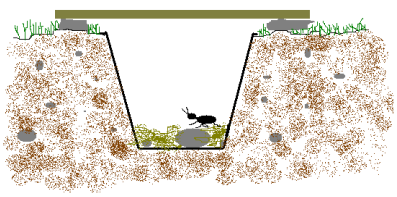
NOTES

- It may be mainly economic in focus, with success measured by income, or focused on sustainability, with success measured by a limit on numbers of visitors.

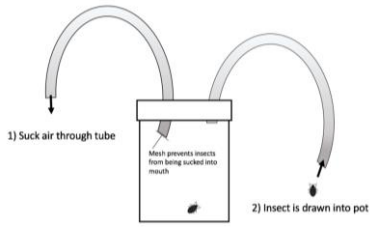
9.5 Measuring and managing biodiversity

- **Measuring biodiversity:**
  - **Types of sampling:**
    - **Random sampling**: a sampling method in which the sampling device is placed using random tables or the roll of dice.
    - Used when two areas are to be compared e.g. number of insects in wet and dry areas.
    - **Systematic sampling:** a sampling method in which the sampling device is placed along a line or a pre-determined pattern, usually a transect.
    - Used to check how the species change along a gradient in the environment e.g. from the shade of a woodland to an open field.
  - **Quadrat:** a frame of known area placed on a part of the site to be sampled.
    - Used to sample sedentary organisms e.g. plants.
    - The number of organisms of the species is then counted.

    - Sometimes, the percentage cover of the organism in the quadrat is calculated.
  - **Transect**: a sampling method in which sampling devices are laid out along a line already placed across an area.
    - Used to sample sedentary organisms.
    - An example of systematic sampling.
  - **Pitfall traps:**
    - Used to sample non-sedentary organisms (insects).
    - Consists of a jar sunk up to its rim in the soil.
    - The jar may or may not be covered (depending on the predicted likelihood of rainfall).
    - Traps should be inspected and emptied regularly.



    - Can be used randomly or systematically.
    - **Drawback**: measures the activity and number of the species.
  - **Pooter:**
    - Used to sample non-sedentary organisms e.g. insects.
    - Insects in short vegetation or on trees are usually trapped in a net.
    - A pooter is used to transport the organisms, from the nets or traps to a laboratory, for example.



METHOD	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
QUADRATS	• Quick; • Inexpensive; • Portable.	• Not always very accurate; • Unless many quadrats are placed, the sample can be unintentionally biased.
TRANSECTS	• Quick; • Inexpensive; • Portable.	• Often used in inappropriate situations.
PITFALL TRAPS	• Inexpensive; • Easy to set up and use.	• Often kill the organisms captured; • May oversample or undersample.

- **Sustainable harvesting of wild plant and animal species** (refer to section 5.4 Management of the harvesting of marine species)**:**
  - Many plants have medicinal properties because of the secondary metabolites they produce.
    - **Secondary metabolites**: organic compounds produced by bacteria, fungi, or plants which are not directly involved in the normal growth, development, or reproduction of the organism.
  - Wild plants are preferred source as cultivated varieties only produce small or none of the chemicals to be used.
  - **Management plan to control harvesting of wild-grown medicinal plants:**
    - Assessing the abundance of the plant (refer to section 9.5 Measuring and managing biodiversity).
    - Investigate species' growth rate, reproductive biology and impact of harvesting.

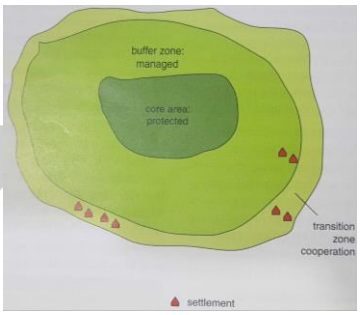
NOTES

- Assess the yield that can be sustained by the wild population.
- Details of how the harvesting should be monitored.

- **Sustainable forestry:**
  - **Selective logging:** removal of only mature trees of species that are valuable. Other species and immature trees of value species are left, allowing the forest to repair overtime.
    - Non-valued trees still provide habitat for many species and immature valued trees can be used years later.
  - **Agroforestry:** land management system in which crops are grown around trees.

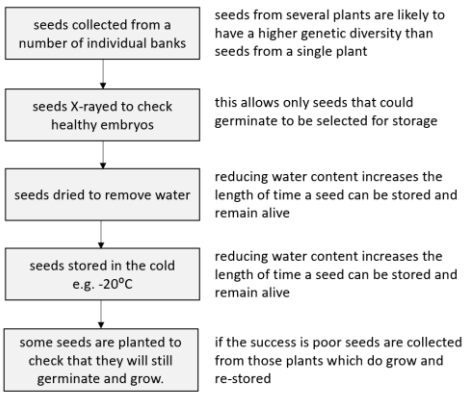
    - Trees enrich the soil when the leaves fall, provide food for animals, firewood for people, and sometimes medicine.
    - Tree roots bind soil together, and in some cases, fix nitrogen, further enriching the soil.
    - Farmers obtain food and milk from the farm, and their animals enrich the soil with manure.
    - **Alley cropping:** planting rows of trees at wide spacings with a companion crop grown in the alleyways between the rows.
    - Trees are pruned and the prunings are used to improve the soil and provide minerals to the crop. (if the tree is a legume, these minerals would include nitrates)
    - Mineral recycling and the suppression of weeds by the trees are combined with cropping on the same land, these thereby allow the long-term survival of farmland.
- **National parks:** an area of land protected by the government to preserve entire ecosystems e.g. flora, fauna and landscape.
  - Laws that ban/limit activities such as hunting, logging and collection of wildflowers are implemented.
  - Enforcement requires regular inspection and threat of hefty fines or imprisonment for breaking the law.
  - Extensive facilities for tourists are provided, that includes a system of roadways, carparks and natural trails.
  - An entry fee charged is used for conservation work.
  - A guidebook/leaflet is provided that includes information on the dos and don'ts, and the importance of the conservation of wild nature.
  - The largest national park in the world is the Northeast Greenland National park, covering 972001km^2.
- **Wildlife and ecological reserves:** the practice of protecting wild plant and animal species and their habitat that plays an important role in balancing the ecosystems and different natural processes eg rainfall, fertility of the soil, etc., thus also meeting the needs of people.
- **Extractive reserves:** an area of land, generally state-owned where access and use rights, including natural resource extraction, are allocated to local groups or communities.
- **Wildlife corridor:** a link of wildlife habitat, generally native vegetation, which joins two or more larger areas of similar wildlife habitat.

  - Corridors are critical for the maintenance of ecological processes including allowing for the movement of animals and the continuation of viable populations.
- **World biosphere reserves:** an ecosystem with plants and animals of unusual scientific and natural interest.
  - The plan is to promote management, research and education in ecosystem conservation.
  - **Advantages:**
    - Recognised internationally via UNESCO.
    - Attracts funding and support of experts in the conservation community, improving the success of the reserve.



CORE AREA	BUFFER ZONE	TRANSITION ZONE
• Ecosystems that need protection.	• More research, along with tourism and education.	• Local communities and conservation organisations work together to manage the area for the benefit of the people living there.
• Monitoring and some research.	• May contain field stations with laboratories and recreational facilities.	

- **Seed banks:** stores seeds to preserve genetic diversity when it's not possible to protect the area where the endangered plant lives.
  - Wild plants carry genes that could be used in crop plants to confer resistance to pests and diseases;
  - Seeds occupy lesser space than plants, thus more species can be held;
  - Collecting small samples of seeds is unlikely to damage the wild population as most plants produce large number of seeds;
  - Seeds are dormant and need minimal care, thus easier to store than living plants.



- **Role of zoos and captive breeding:**
  - Provide education about the illegal trade in animals and products, and the need to maintain biodiversity;
  - Involved in scientific research on the control of diseases, animal behavior and techniques to improve breeding success;
  - Captive-breeding programmes increase species numbers, thus reducing the risk of extinction;
  - Aim to release captive-bred animals into the wild when habitats have been restored;
  - Such programmes try maintaining genetic biodiversity of a species, as interbreeding leads to a reduction in diversity and therefore reduces adaptability when the species is placed back in the wild.
  - **Ways to reduce inbreeding:**
    - Organisms aren't allowed to breed repeatedly with the same partner;
    - A variety of partners for an organism can be achieved through in-vitro fertilisation and inter-zoo swapping of individuals;
    - Use a database (studbook) to record breeding history of individuals in captivity.

- **Sustainable tourism and ecotourism:** management of tourism in a sustainable way to prevent damage to habitat and provide what people want.
  - Key to successful sustainable ecotourism is realising that the growth of the tourist industry depends on maintaining the environment.
  - Measures are taken to safeguard wildlife and the resources are used sustainably.

NOTES

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