

Environment

Topic Covers

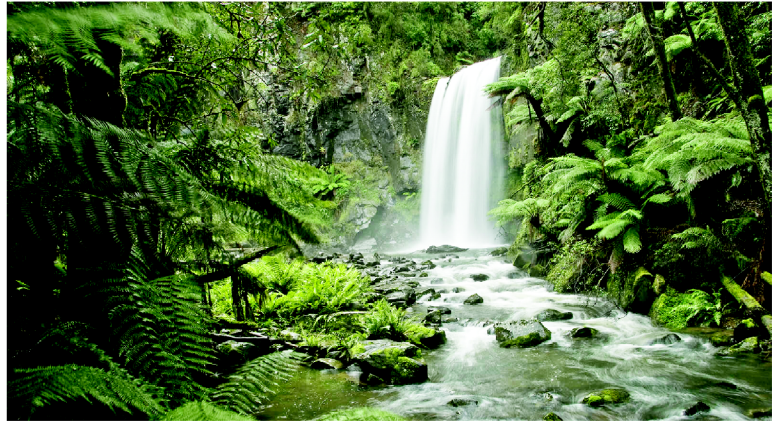
◆ Environment

Natural environment includes

The Major domains of the Earth are

◆ What is Ecosystem?

◆ Human Environment



Natural Environment

- Environment is everything that is around us. It can be living or non-living things and includes physical, chemical and other natural forces. Balance in nature is maintained by the interaction between biotic components with that of abiotic components. Environment is divided into two broad parts, Natural environment and Human environment.

Natural environment includes:

- **Biotic environment** (components of living world)
- **Abiotic environment** (components of non-living world)

The major domains of the Earth are:

- **Lithosphere:** It is the upper layer of the Earth. It is solid in form where rock and soil exists. It is thick on the continents and thin over the ocean floors. Landforms like mountains, plateaus, plains, valleys, forests, grasslands for grazing, agricultural land, human settlements, mineral wealth, etc. are part of the lithosphere.
- **Hydrosphere:** It is the domain of water and includes all the sources of water like seas, rivers, lakes, oceans, etc. Water is one of the basic requirements of all the living beings.
- **Atmosphere:** It is the layer of air around the Earth, which includes the gases, water vapour and dust particles. Earth's gravity holds the atmosphere around it. The atmosphere act as a blanket protecting the earth from harmful rays and intense heat. All weather and climatic changes take place in the atmospheric layers only.
- **Biosphere:** This is a narrow zone on the surface of Earth where land, water and air interacts. Life exists only in this zone.

What is ecosystem?

An ecosystem is a large community of living organisms such as plants, animals and microbes in a particular area. The living and physical components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows. There could be an ecosystem of large rain forest, grassland, desert, mountains, lake, river, ocean and even a small pond.



For example: Pond ecosystem, desert ecosystem, mountain ecosystem etc.

Human environment

- Human beings interact with the environment and modify it according to their needs. Earlier, humans adapted themselves according to their natural surroundings and fulfilled their requirements from the nature around them. As time went by, needs became more varied. Humans learned to grow crops, domesticated animals and led a settled life. The wheel was invented, surplus food was produced, barter system emerged, trade started and commerce developed. Industrial revolution enabled large scale production. Transportation became faster. Information revolution made communication easier and speedy across the world.

ASSIGNMENT

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Which is more important, a natural or a human environment?
2. Give some examples of things created by nature.
3. Name some sources of water.
4. When is world environment day celebrated?
5. Give some examples of things created by man.
6. Name the major domains of the earth.
7. Name the main landforms found on lithosphere.
8. What kind of vegetation is found in Kerala?
9. List some of the animals found in a desert.

Short Answer Type Questions

10. Define an ecosystem.
11. Why does vegetation vary from region to region?
12. Distinguish between biotic and abiotic environment.
13. Suggest some ways to conserve water in everyday life.
14. Give some examples of an ecosystem.
15. In an ecosystem, how are organisms linked with each other and their surroundings?
16. What is a biosphere?

17. What is a barter system?

Long Answer Type Questions

18. Draw the major domains of the environment.

19. What is the importance of the environment?

20. What is hydrosphere? What are its various uses?

21. Humans have modified the environment as per their needs. Do you agree or disagree with the statement. Give reasons for your answer.

22. What is lithosphere? How is it useful?

23. Diagrammatically show the various components of the environment.