

About the Lesson

- Care and conservation of plants
- Conservation of forests

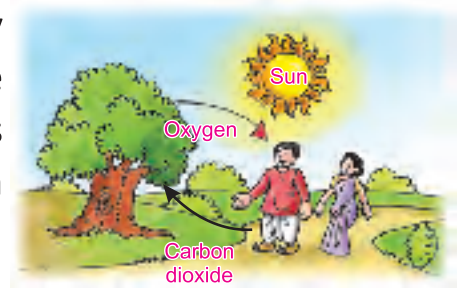


3

Care and Conservation of Plants

Plants are very important in our life. Life is not possible without plants. They provide us everything for our use. Our food comes from plants only.

Plants make their own food. When they do so, they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen. This oxygen is used by us in breathing. The plants help to maintain the balance between oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



Care and Conservation of Plants

Plants are an important natural resource. So, we should take care of them and conserve them. For doing so, we should keep the following in mind :

1. Water : For development and growth, plants need water. They cannot survive without it. Farmers irrigate their crops. If not done so, the crops would be destroyed. Plants and trees in the forests depend on rain for water.

Let us conduct an experiment.

Experiment

Take two identical potted plants. Water one plant regularly and leave the second one as it is. Observe the plants after 10 days. What do you observe ?

You see that the plant which was not watered has died. This proves that plants cannot live without water. They should be provided water regularly.



2. Soil : The most important element for the development of plants is the soil. They get water and minerals from soil only. The soil which has mineral salts in

correct proportion is called **fertile soil**. When these minerals are absorbed by the crops, the fertility of the soil is reduced. This affects the growth of crops.

To increase this fertility, manure is mixed in the soil for the growth of crops. This manure contains the necessary minerals. Regular mixing of fertilisers increases the fertility of the soil. Compost manure or fertilisers are used to increase the fertility of the soil.

3. Sunlight : To grow and to make food, plants need sunshine. If you keep the plants in a room and do not provide the needed sunshine, they die out.

4. Proper temperature : To grow and develop, plants need proper temperature also. They should be saved from extreme heat and cold, otherwise they may die. In extreme heat, plants should be given water regularly and weak and soft plants should be kept in shade. In much cold weather, the plants should be kept in a shaded area.

5. Safety from pests and diseases : Plants need to be saved from pests and diseases. Rats, fungi, etc. are harmful for plants. To save plants, they should be regularly sprayed with pesticides.



Plants grown in fertile soil



Sprinkling of chemical fertilisers



Spraying of pesticides



Remember

* To save crops from fog, farmers fill the fields with water.

Plants too get sick, just like humans. They may also die due to diseases. So, to save them from diseases, they should also be cared for.

Conservation of Forests

You know that forests are very useful to us in many ways. They provide us wood, fuel and medicines. Forests provide shelter to animals. So, they are the priceless resources of a country. Conserving them is the duty of every citizen. But increasing population is a constant threat to this resource and it is being destroyed regularly. This regular cutting of forests is also creating an imbalance in the nature.



Strange But True

- * In Philippines, people live in tree houses or houses built on stilts.

Deforestation is proving to be very harmful as it is harming the human beings only. The erosion of land, irregular rainfall and danger of floods are some of its rewards.

Many important steps have been taken for the conservation of forests, which are :

- ◇ Government has completely banned cutting of forests. All the guilty people shall be severely punished.
- ◇ Different solutions are being tried to save forests from fires. The forests which have been destroyed are being reforested.
- ◇ Every year in India, 'Vanamahotsava' is celebrated, in which trees are planted at different places throughout the country.
- ◇ Under social forestry program, forestry has been taken up with the cooperation of schools, colleges and NGOs.



Plantation



Chipko Movement



Environment day

Today, man knows the importance of forests. You too can contribute to it. You must resolve to plant at least one tree on your birthday. Just imagine when this tree grows up, how would you and your family feel!



Looking Back.....

- ❖ Green plants maintain the balance between oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- ❖ To develop and to grow, the plant needs water.
- ❖ To increase the fertility of soil, manure is mixed with it.
- ❖ To develop and to make their food, the plants need sunlight.
- ❖ Pesticides should be sprinkled on plants to save them from pests and diseases.
- ❖ Forests are valuable resource of a country. It is our duty to save it.
- ❖ We should plant more trees to maintain the balance in the nature.



Exercise



A. Tick (✓) on the correct option : (MCQs)

- What do we absorb from the air we breathe in ?
 (a) Carbon dioxide (b) Oxygen (c) Both
- To save plants from harmful insects, they should be sprinkled with :
 (a) ash (b) kerosene (c) pesticides
- For conserving forests, we should :
 (a) burn them (b) stop the cutting of trees
 (c) take part in social forestry

B. Answer the following questions :

- How do plants maintain the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere ?
- Why is it necessary to care and protect plants ?
- Prove that plants cannot live without water.
- Why is manure added to the soil ?
- Why is pesticide sprinkled on plants ?
- Write some ways to conserve forests.

C. Fill in the blanks :

- While making food, plants absorb _____.
- Adding _____ into soil increases its _____.
- In extreme heat, the _____ and _____ plants should be kept in the shade.
- Sprinkling of _____ is necessary to save plants from _____.
- Cutting of forests leads to _____ in nature.

D. Write True or False :

- Plants cannot live without water. _____
- Plants receive heat from soil. _____
- Plants die due to lack of sunlight. _____
- The soil is eroded by cutting of forests. _____
- 'Vanamahotsava' is now banned in India. _____



Creative Task

Do the following :

- Go to a nursery near to your home. Ask the supervisor about different methods to care for plants.
- Choose some empty land near your home. Along with your friends, plant some plants there. Regularly take care of them.