

NTSE

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BIOLOGY – Our Environment



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1. Why are some substances biodegradable and some non-biodegradable?

Ans. Substances which are of organic origin are biodegradable, while those of inorganic origin are non-biodegradable. Organic substances can be utilized by decomposers as food, while other substances cannot be utilized by decomposers as food.

2. Give any two ways in which biodegradable substances would affect the environment.

Ans. Biodegradable substances can affect the environment in following ways:

- (a) By recycling the raw materials in nature.
- (b) By improving the humus content in soil.

3. Give any two ways in which non-biodegradable substances would affect the environment.

Ans. Non-biodegradable substances would affect the environment in following two ways:

- (a) By increasing the burden on the environment because they would accumulate.
- (b) By producing harmful polluting gases, if they are burnt.

4. What is biological magnification? Will the levels of this magnification be different at different levels of the ecosystem?

Ans. The accumulation of a particular substance through different trophic levels is called biological magnification. Let us take an example of lead poisoning which may affect plants because of water pollution. The level of lead would be at a particular level in plants. When an herbivore would eat these plants, the level of lead shall be more in the body of the herbivore because it would eat a large number of plants. When this herbivore would be eaten by a carnivore, the level shall rise further because the carnivore would eat a large number of herbivores. Hence, the level of this magnification will increase as we move to higher trophic levels.

5. If all the waste we generate is biodegradable, will this have no impact on the environment?

Ans. If all the waste we generate is biodegradable, this would also have an impact on the environment but most of the impacts would be positive. After decomposition, the biodegradable substance produces different raw materials

There can be some negative impacts; like obnoxious smell which is created during the process of decomposition. There can also be a possibility of sparking an epidemic if the waste is dumped near a residential area or is allowed to contaminate the water bodies. So, it is not the biodegradable waste which is going to create the problem, rather the way we dispose of it.

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1. Which one of the following is an artificial ecosystem?

- (a) Pond (b) Crop field (c) Lake (d) Forest

Ans: (B)

2. In a food chain, the third trophic level is always occupied by

- (a) Carnivores (b) Herbivores (c) Decomposers (d) Producers

Ans: (A)

3. An ecosystem includes

- (a) All living organisms
(b) Non-living objects
(c) Both living organisms and non-living objects
(d) Sometimes living organisms and sometimes non-living objects

Ans: (C)

4. In the given food chain, suppose the amount of energy at the fourth trophic level is 5 kJ, what will be the energy available at the producer level?

Grass → Grasshopper → Frog → Snake → Hawk

- (a) 5 k J (b) 50 k J (c) 500 k J (d) 5000 k J

Ans: (D)

5. Accumulation of non-biodegradable pesticides in the food chain in increasing amount at each higher trophic level is known as

- (a) Eutrophication (b) Pollution (c) Biomagnifications (d) Accumulation

Ans: (C)

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