



## Soil Degradation

### General Instructions:

This task has ten questions. Be sure to complete all the questions.

Take time to read each question very carefully before attempting to answer. Remember to use complete sentences when answering questions that requires you to explain, describe, define and/or give examples/make list.



shutterstock.com • 673374754

### Instructions to begin:

Read each statement and question carefully. Then, write your answers using complete sentences where applicable in the space provided.



**Questions:**

1. Read each of the following statements carefully. Then, use a check (✓) to match the correct definition to each of the words/terms relating to the environment.

Statements	Degradation	Soil	Soil erosion
A process that moves soil by wind and water away from where it is needed.			
A mixture of inorganic and organic materials, water and air, found on the earth's surface.			
The change in the types and quality of soil which negatively affects its fertility.			

2. Mr. Johnson is a hillside farmer. Each year he uses the 'slash and burn' method to clear the hillside. You know that this is the wrong method to use.  
Use a check (✓) to indicate the statements that could be used to support your argument in your discussions with Mr. Johnson about why 'slash and burn' method leads to degradation.

Statement	Supported	Not supported
Plants are cleared and left to form compost.		
Afterwards, small 'cash crops' are grown over and over on the same land.		
Burning the entire forest can get rid of the young trees.		
There are no roots to bind soil to prevent soil erosion.		
The trees are first burned and then cut into small logs.		



- 3. Read the statements below carefully. Then, choose the two statements that correctly answer this question.

**Why do slash and burn method lead to soil degradation?**

- a. Plants are cleared and left there to form compost.
- b. After clearing, small crops are grown over and over on that same land for many years.
- c. Burning the entire forest can get rid of birds that spread seeds.
- d. The trees are burned and then cut into small logs, which can be used as fertilizer.
- e. There are no roots left to bind soil, so erosion occurs.

- 4. There are eight main factors that cause soil degradation. List four of these factors and discuss any two.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- 5. What is the impact of any two factors that affects the quality of soil from your answer in question 3?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

6. Why is soil conservation important? Explain.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

7. Minerals in soil are very important to produce healthy crops. Give a brief explanation about why minerals are so important to produce healthy crops.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

8. Explain the importance of soil to all living organisms including humans and plants.

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

9. Based on your understanding, discuss how farmers can use contour farming and terracing to reduce soil erosion.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

10. You are a member of the Environmental Club at your school. Your club is having an **Environmental Awareness Day** at your school. Create a flyer about the impacts of soil degradation. It should also have information about how to prevent soil degradation.