

## Chapter 18. Waste

A. Answer the following questions in not more than 20 words.

1. Name the categories into which waste can be classified on the basis of its sources.

Answer :

On the basis of its source, waste can be classified as:

1. Domestic waste
2. Industrial waste
3. Agricultural waste
4. Biomedical waste

2. What are landfills?

Answer :

A landfill is a slope that is filled up with waste. It may be natural or man-made (trough). All the garbage is collected in the landfills.

3. What is leachate?

Answer :

Leachate is a substance from the decomposing garbage that gets seeped down in the soil by the process of leaching.

4. How does organic waste decompose?

Answer :

Organic waste is decomposed by the process of composting. In this process, waste is mixed with the soil and the bacteria in the soil convert this waste into compost. Compost can be used to improve soil fertility.

5. What is incineration?

Answer :

Incineration is a process of waste disposal. In this method, waste materials are burnt in huge incinerators at high temperature.

**B. Answer the following questions in not more than 40 words.**

1. What does domestic waste consist of?

Answer :

Domestic waste consists of the waste materials generated in homes such as vegetable and fruit peels, left over foods, papers, glass, plastics, metals, batteries, bulbs, medicines and garden waste. Of these, some of the waste materials are biodegradable such as plants and animal products.

**2. Which type of waste is hazardous and why?**

Answer :

Non-biodegradable waste is hazardous because it cannot be disintegrated and remains in the atmosphere forever. Medicines, glass and other sharp-edged things are dangerous because they can harm the people, who handle garbage or injure animals that rummage through garbage.

**3. What steps should be taken to ensure that landfills does not cause pollution?**

Answer :

To ensure that a landfill does not cause pollution, toxic waste should not be thrown in it. Landfills should be covered with soil to avoid rotting of garbage and scattering by scavengers.

**4. What is recycling? How is it beneficial?**

Answer :

Recycling is a process of making use of waste or thrown away materials by producing new materials from it. It is quite beneficial as it saves our resources. Example: Recycling of paper saves the resources needed to make paper, i.e., wood, mine and refine materials.

C. Answer the following questions in not more than 100 words.

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of incineration?

Answer :

Advantages of incineration:

- (a) It reduces the volume of waste by turning it to ashes.
- (b) Disposal of ashes is more easy compared to the huge amounts of unburnt waste.

Disadvantages of incineration:

- (a) It is a waste of money as large amount of fuel is required to burn the waste.
- (b) It produces harmful gases that pollute the atmosphere.

## 2. What is composting?

Answer :

Composting is a method of waste disposal. In this method, the waste is disposed in landfills or huge pits that are then covered with soil. The bacteria in the soil act on the waste and convert it into compost. Compost is a natural fertiliser that is used to improve the fertility of the soil.

## 3. Distinguish between biodegradable and non biodegradable waste, giving examples.

ANSWER :

Biodegradable waste	Non-biodegradable waste
It can be decomposed by the natural decomposers.	It cannot be decomposed by the natural decomposers.
It persists in the atmosphere for a short period of time.	It persists in the atmosphere forever.
Example: Plant or animal waste	Example: Man-made things such as plastics, detergents etc.

4. Explain how waste can be harmful for our health.

Answer :

Waste is harmful for our health in the following ways:

- (a) It spreads many diseases by promoting the growth of microorganisms that cause diseases.
- (b) Plague is spread by rats which grow in areas where garbage is dumped.
- (c) It gets mixed with water and causes water-borne diseases such as dysentery and cholera.

(D) Complete the following

Answer :

1. Waste containing dangerous chemicals is non-biodegradable waste.
2. Vegetable and fruit peels and food left over comprise biodegradable waste.
3. Hospital waste is highly toxic.
4. Plastic is non-biodegradable, as it does not decompose.
5. The method of adding earthworms to compost pits is called vermicomposting.