

GRADE 7 JSS SIMPLIFIED NOTES

AGRICULTURE

THE PDF COMPRISES PART OF A SIMPLIFIED
VERSION OF THE NOTES FOR J.S.S.



FOR COMPLETE TERM 1-3 SIMPLIFIED JSS NOTES:

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**COMPLETE SIMPLIFIED
AGRICULTURE NOTES
FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY
SCHOOLS (GRADE 7)**

About the book:

Education is a key for a country's development, but it becomes a hindrance when it is unequally distributed. This big problem of disparity in Education system can be solved through technology. Hence it's high time we embrace technology in Education sooner than later.

Teachers will therefore use the book in their laptops to teach and even give students notes to read online after revision.

Acknowledgment:

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BELOW IS A SAMPLE OF THE SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE NOTES FOR AGRICULTURE GRADE 7 (JSS)

GRADE 7 LESSON NOTES TERM 1,2,3

STRAND ONE

CONSERVING AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Soil pollution control

Def: **Soil pollution** - refers to anything that causes contamination of soil and reduces the soil quality.

- ≈ It occurs when the substances causing the pollution reduce the quality of the soil and convert the soil inhabitable for microorganisms and macro organisms living in the soil.
- ≈ Soil contamination or soil pollution can occur either because of human activities or because of natural processes.
- ≈ However, mostly it is due to human activities. The soil contamination can occur due to the presence of chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, ammonia, petroleum hydrocarbons, lead, nitrate, mercury, naphthalene, etc. in an excess amount.



Causes of Soil Pollution

- Soil pollution is a complex occurrence, and it can be triggered by a variety of things and activities, from the littering of cigarette butts to excess use of chemical fertilizers.
- Every cause is linked with another. It is quite difficult to pinpoint one particular cause. However, the leading causes are listed below.
≈ **Industrial Activity** - Industrial activity has been the biggest contributor to the problem of soil

pollution, especially since the amount of mining and manufacturing has increased. Most industries are dependent on extracting minerals from the earth. As a result, the industrial waste lingers on the soil surface for a long time and makes it unsuitable for use.

≈ **Agricultural Activities** - The utilization of chemicals has gone up tremendously since technology has provided us with modern pesticides and fertilizers. They are full of chemicals that are not produced in nature and cannot be broken down by it. As a result, they seep into the ground after they mix with water and slowly reduce the fertility of the soil.

≈ **Waste Disposal** - While industrial waste is sure to cause contamination, there is another way in which we are adding to the pollution. Every person excretes a certain amount of personal waste in the form of urine and feces. While much of it moves into the sewer system, there is also a large amount that is dumped directly into landfills in the form of diapers. Even the sewer

system ends at the landfill, where the biological waste pollutes the soil and water.

≈ **Accidental Oil Spills** - Oil leaks can happen during the storage and transport of chemicals. This can be seen at most of the fuel stations. The chemicals present in the fuel reduces the quality of soil and make it unsuitable for cultivation. These chemicals can enter into the groundwater through the soil and make the water undrinkable.

≈ **Acid Rain** - Acid rain is caused when pollutants present in the air mix up with the rain and fall back on the ground. The polluted water could dissolve away some of the essential nutrients found in the soil and change the structure of the soil.

Effects of soil pollution

Soil influences almost all aspects of our daily lives. Sometimes we fail to understand it. As a result of this, we sometimes fail to understand the effect that soil pollution has on our daily lives. Polluted

soil means stunted crops or even a toxic underground water table. Some major effects of soil pollution are:

- ≈ **Effect on Health of Humans** - Considering how soil is the reason we are able to sustain ourselves, the contamination of it has major consequences for our health. Crops and plants that are grown on polluted soil absorb much of the pollution and then pass it on to us. This could explain the sudden increase in small and terminal illnesses. The soil pollution can even lead to widespread famines if the plants are unable to grow in it.
- ≈ **Effect on Growth of Plants** - The ecological balance of any system is affected due to the widespread contamination of the soil. Most plants are unable to adapt when the chemistry of the soil changes so radically in a short period of time. Fungi and bacteria found in the soil that bind it together begin to decline, which creates an additional problem of soil erosion.

The fertility of the soil slowly diminishes, making land unsuitable for agriculture and any local vegetation to survive. The soil pollution causes large tracts of land to become hazardous to health. Unlike deserts, which are suitable for their native vegetation, such land cannot support most forms of life.

≈ **Decreased Soil Fertility** - The toxic chemicals present in the soil can decrease soil fertility and therefore decrease the soil yield. The contaminated soil is then used to produce fruits and vegetables, which lack quality nutrients and may contain some poisonous substances to cause serious health problems in people consuming them.

≈ **Poisoning of the Underground Water Table** - Soil pollution also leads to the poisoning of the underground water table. Since this water is stored beneath the layers of the soil, the toxins in the soil could easily percolate slowly and steadily into the water table.



Possible Solutions to Soil Pollution

Soil pollution is a complex problem that ought to be solved. It is essential that we all realize how important soil is to us.

The earlier we realize this, the better we will be able to solve the problem of soil pollution. It is a complex problem, and thus, it requires everyone, from an individual to the government, to work in complete unison. Listed below are a few things that could help in reducing soil pollution.

≈ Reduced Use of Chemical Fertilizers -

Chemical fertilizers do more harm than good.

While proper amounts could enhance the

fertility of the soil, an excess of it actually poisons the soil. The excess of chemical fertilizers could pollute the soil in several ways. It could mess with the pH levels of the soil. It could also destroy the good microorganisms in the soil. Not only that, but the runoff from such soils also causes water pollution as well. Thus, using chemical fertilizers is like a double-edged sword.

≈ **Reforestation and Afforestation Should Be Promoted** - One of the major causes of soil pollution is soil erosion, which is caused due to deforestation.

It is natural that, with an ever-growing population, humankind needs more and more space to expand their civilization. Often, it is achieved at the cost of the health of the soil.

To prevent this from happening, reforestation of a deforested area should be promoted. Also, afforestation should be promoted and encouraged in the barren lands.

The roots of the plants bind the soil particles together and even capture good microorganisms in the soil. It also ensures the maintenance of the underground water table.

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