

Science 7

Text: Discovering Science 7

Unit 1: Interactions Within Ecosystems

Chapter Two, "Living and non-living things interact in ecosystems."

- *How to Respond to a Long Answer Test Question* -

When answering or responding to a discussion or an explanation question on a long answer part of a test remember to use the "SAS" model.

State the answer (Preamble)

AnsWER the question (speak directly to the question)

Support the answer with information studied, evidence observed, or personal experience (if appropriate).

Example Question/Inquiry:

Discuss various impacts of pollution and the importance of having a healthy and sustainable planet.

Sample Answer:

Our planet, Earth, is rapidly being destroyed. Pollution in the form of chemical and solid waste in the atmosphere, on the land and in the water supply of the planet is having devastating affects on the ecosystems of the world. Many species have paid the ultimate price form human interference and general lack of foresight. These species have become extinct such as the Caspian Tiger and the dodo bird, while other mammals such as the polar bear and Siberian Tiger are now on the endangered species list. Land fills sites are polluting water supply systems causing sickness and disease to people drinking from these water supplies. Toxic pollution is creating a greenhouse affect (depleting the protective ozone layer) creating global warming. These problems are having lasting, far reaching and dire consequences to plant, aquatic, air and land organisms.

However, many citizens are actively choosing alternative life styles that promote a healthy planet. Organic gardens are cropping up in backyards, recycling programs for metals, glass, plastics and paper are being adopted by cities and towns. People are electing to turn off the lights, turn down their heat, walk or use public transit to work in hopes of reducing dependency on planetary resources. Their initiatives of reducing, reusing and recycle are improving the planets future prospects. These initiative see less chemical pollution into the atmosphere, land and water helping organisms to survive, with less stress. In addition, these planetary warriors feel every person has a responsibility and duty as citizens of this planet to pass on to the next generation (our children) a healthy planet so that they may enjoy the wonders of nature and live a healthy and sustainable life free from unnecessary problems.

Every organism on this planet is interconnected and interacts with each other on some level of existence. When one organism is impacted, others are as well. While we may not see a Caspian Tiger or a Dodo bird ever again, we have hope of enjoying the beauty of a polar bear or a Siberian Tiger. Lets do what we can to pass this joy on to the next generation. Life healthy, act responsible, consider our neighbors, and the wonder of our planetary home we call Earth.