



Section 3.2

How Humans Influence Ecosystems

Check Your Understanding

Checking Concepts

1. How have human activities affected wetland ecosystems?
2. What are three characteristics of a sustainable ecosystem?
3. How does habitat fragmentation harm ecosystems?
4. How does deforestation result in soil degradation?
5. Explain how the loss of topsoil affects an ecosystem.
6. (a) What is water contamination?

(b) How can mining cause water contamination?
7. State two ways in which plants can be used in mine reclamation.
8. How can overexploitation lead to extinction?
9. How do controlled burning practices positively affect ecosystems?

Understanding Key Ideas

10. Describe one sustainable practice that can reduce the negative effects of urban expansion on an ecosystem.
11. Once an abundant resource, the Canadian cod fishery collapsed in the 1990s. This collapse has had a serious impact on fishing communities in Atlantic Canada.
- (a) Explain what led to the collapse of the fishery.
- (b) Explain how populations in ecosystems are affected by this activity.
12. (a) Describe the sustainable practice shown in these two photographs.



- (b) Explain how this practice might affect the ecosystem over the next 10 years.
13. Use an example to describe how overexploitation can affect many interactions in a food web and can have a negative effect on an ecosystem.
14. Using examples, explain how resource management practices based on traditional ecological knowledge can affect the biodiversity of an ecosystem.

Pause and Reflect

Some people have said that meeting human needs is more important than the loss of one species. Based on what you have learned in this section, write a paragraph that supports or refutes this statement.