

## GEOGRAPHY CHAPTER 1 OUR ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Define Environment.

The word "environment" comes from the French word "environner," which means "to surround." It refers to the natural world around us, including the air, water, land, and living organisms.

### 2. Difference between Hydrosphere and atmosphere.

**Answer:**

Hydrosphere	Atmosphere
1. Hydrosphere is the total mass of water found on the Earth's surface.	Atmosphere is the layer of air that envelops the Earth.
2. Hydrosphere consists of lakes, oceans, rivers, seas, water vapours, underground water and ice sheets of the mountainous regions.	Atmosphere consists of various gasses such as nitrogen, oxygen, helium and ozone. Water vapours and dust particles are also a part of this layer.
3. Hydrosphere influences climate through water cycle and precipitation.	Atmosphere influences the climate by absorption of heat and movement of air.

### 3. What is ecological balance and why do we need to maintain it?

**Answer:**

The organisms in an ecosystem have their own physical environment. The living components interact with each other, transferring matter and energy among themselves as well as to the abiotic elements. The Sun is the source of energy for all life forms. Therefore, the ecosystem goes through constant change and the energy is recycled. Maintenance of an equilibrium in the transfer of energy and matter is known as ecological balance.

This is leading to deforestation, loss of habitat of animals, increase in construction and transportation and industrialisation, which, in turn, is resulting into depletion of the ecosystem.

**4. Enlist some of the environment problems of your neighbourhood and write their solutions.**

**1. Excessive garbage on the streets: Some people do not put any effort in keeping the roads and the streets clean. They throw away garbage wherever they find it convenient. They litter the streets and do not use the dustbins that are provided for garbage disposal.**

**Solution: The solution to this problem is very simple; people only need to make the effort to throw the garbage in the nearest dustbin and not on the street. If a dustbin is not available nearby, then they can keep the waste that is to be disposed with them and throw it in the garbage bin at home.**

**2. Urinating in public: Some people do not have basic decency and pollute the environment by urinating wherever they please. This leads to spreading of diseases and a general unhygienic atmosphere.**

**Solution: People should have a sense of not polluting public places by urinating in public and should avoid such acts as they are unhygienic and harmful for the environment.**

**3. Improper drainage system: Some of the localities nearby have open drains that sometimes overflow on the streets. This leads to dirty water overflowing on the streets and transmission of diseases.**

**Solution: The drains should be covered, as it is not hygienic to come in contact with germs that breed in the drains and cause diseases and pollute the air around us.**

**5. Draw /Create domains of the Earth**