

Class-VIII
Geography, Chapter-7

A. Fill in the blanks:-

1. A **hazard** is a threat while a disaster is an event.
2. **Natural** disasters are caused by some naturally occurring phenomena such as earthquake.
3. Man-made disasters are a result of **human** activities.
4. **Landslides** are often caused by continuous deforestation on hillslopes.
5. Cloudbursts create sudden **floods**.

B. State whether True (T) or False (F):-

1. Floods are caused due to lack of rainfall. **(False)**
2. Man-made disasters are caused due to technical faults. **(True)**
3. Tropical cyclones are a regular feature along the eastern coast of India. **(True)**
4. The Disaster Management Cycle describes how an accident happened. **(False)**
5. Oil spills are caused due to geological forces. **(False)**

C. Define the following:-

1. **Disaster:-**A disaster is an unexpected event that kills a large number of people or causes a lot of damage
2. **Hazard:-**Hazard is any substance, phenomenon or situation, which has the potential to cause disruption or damage to people, their property, their services and their environment.
3. **Disaster Management:-**Disaster Management can be defined as the organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies, in particular- preparedness, response and recovery in order to lessen the impact of disasters.

D. Give reasons for the following-

1. Drought and famines are a result of ill-preparedness.

Ans. Corruption leads to siphoning of funds allocated for relief and rehabilitation during droughts and famines. - Due to environmental mismanagement, many areas have droughts. - Political unrest and civil strife too can lead to shortage of food and famines.

2. Cloudbursts cause devastating floods.

Ans. Mountain cloudbursts cause sudden and destructive floods. The intensity of rainfall in the most severe cloudbursts can only be conjectured. There have been cases, however, in which the excavations made in the ground by the falling water of a cloudburst appear to indicate an even greater intensity of rainfall.

3. Bhopal Gas Tragedy was a man-made disaster.

Ans. It was a man made disaster because it was a hazardous incident caused by the high mistakes of the workers who does not take care of methane gas which was leaked by that boiler. Bhopal Gas leak disaster was proven on inspection to be a human-made disaster as due to the faulty management system and negligence.

4. Earthquakes are one of the most devastating natural disasters.

Ans. Earthquakes can result in a lot of damage with people losing their life, properties getting damaged and the environment getting destroyed. When the earthquake takes place near the mountains it results in landslide, avalanches and mudslides which results in loss of life and property.

E. Answer the following questions:-

1. Differentiate between natural and man-made disasters with the help of examples.

Ans.1 **Natural disasters** are caused by some naturally occurring phenomena such as earthquake, flood, tsunami and so on.

Man-made disasters are result of human activities they are caused by technical faults, human faults or careless human activities. Some examples of man-made disasters are deforestation, unplanned mining, industrial accidents, rail and road accidents, leakage of chemicals from factories, oil spills in oceans, communicable riots, war, terrorist activities, bomb blasts and nuclear accidents.

2. What are the aims of Disaster Management?

Ans.2 Disaster management aims to:-

- i. Reduce or avoid, the potential losses from hazards.
- ii. Assure prompt and appropriate assistance.
- iii. Achieve rapid and effective recovery.

3. What lessons do we learn from the Bhopal Gas tragedy?

Ans.3 The main lesson to be learned from the Bhopal Gas Disaster is about the dangers of the chemicals that we use everyday. Now we know about what the chemicals we use on a regular basis can do to our bodies and surroundings. The world had to learn the hard way how chemicals can harm future generations.

4. Explain the steps involved in Disaster Management Cycle with the help of a diagram.

Ans.4 The four disaster management phases are:-



i. **Mitigation**:-Mitigation are the measures adopted to minimise the effects of disasters. This involves identification and mapping of weak buildings and earthquake zones, vulnerability analysis and public education.

ii. **Preparedness**:-Preparedness involves planning how to respond. This involves preparing preparedness plans, generating awareness among the masses, conducting emergency drills/training and creating warning systems.

iii. **Response**:-Response are the efforts to minimise the hazards created by a disaster. This involves search and rescue emergency relief and first aid.

iv. **Recovery**:-Recovery involves measures taken to return the community to normal. This involves providing temporary housing, grants and medical care.

5. What are the causes of droughts and famines? What role can the government play to counter these problems?

Ans.5 **Droughts** and **famines** are a result of ill preparedness to face insufficient monsoon or untimely rains that destroy crops.

Role of government play to counter drought and famines:-

i. Make it easier to trade water during drought emergencies.

ii. Speed the listing of species threatened with extinction during drought emergencies and implement recovery actions.

iii. Increase federal agency support for improved water information systems, and increase technical support, notably from the US Geological Survey and National Weather Service.

6. State the preventive measures to mitigate the effects of an earthquake.

Ans.6 Preventive measures to mitigate the effects of an earthquake:-

i. Early warning of aftershocks after earthquakes can help people to evacuate their homes and other buildings.

- ii. If one is inside he/she should take shelter under beds, tables, staircases.
- iii. Prior awareness of safety measures should be spread among the public to prevent panic and stampede.
- iv. If one is outside, one should move away from buildings, trees, electric poles etc.

7. What preventive measures can be taken to mitigate the effects of floods?

Ans.7 Preventive measures can be taken to mitigate the effects of floods are:-

- i. Formulate strict rules to prevent deforestation activities and initiate measures to punish the law breakers.
- ii. Proper embankments need to be constructed to prevent flood water from entering towns and villages.
- iii. Evacuation teams, camps and equipment should be prepared in advance.
- iv. Food and water supplies should be provided by air or through games for those still caught in floods.

F. Picture study based question:-

The armed forces are called upon to assist the civil administration when the situation is beyond their coping capability. In practice, the armed forces form an important part of the Government's response capacity and are immediate responders in all serious disaster situations.

Some effective ways to help disaster victims are:-

- i. Donate to accredited disaster relief organizations.
- ii. Plan a fundraiser.
- iii. Send goods and supplies to loved ones in affected areas.
- iv. Ship supplies into recovery and evacuation zones.
- v. Give blood.