

5 Using the land – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)		
tragedy of the commons	_____	_____	_____
green revolution	_____	_____	_____
Irrigation	_____	_____	_____
Deforestation	_____	_____	_____

Recall

You already know that people use the land in many ways:

- Farms grow the food we eat.
- Forests are cut down for wood and to clear land.
- Shared resources, like fish in the sea, can be used up.

This sheet lines up how we use the land. Each idea has a short worked example.

New ideas

■ 1 The tragedy of the commons

When a resource is shared by everyone and owned by no one, each person takes as much as they can, and it gets overused – the **tragedy of the commons** (like overfishing a shared sea).

■ 2 The green revolution

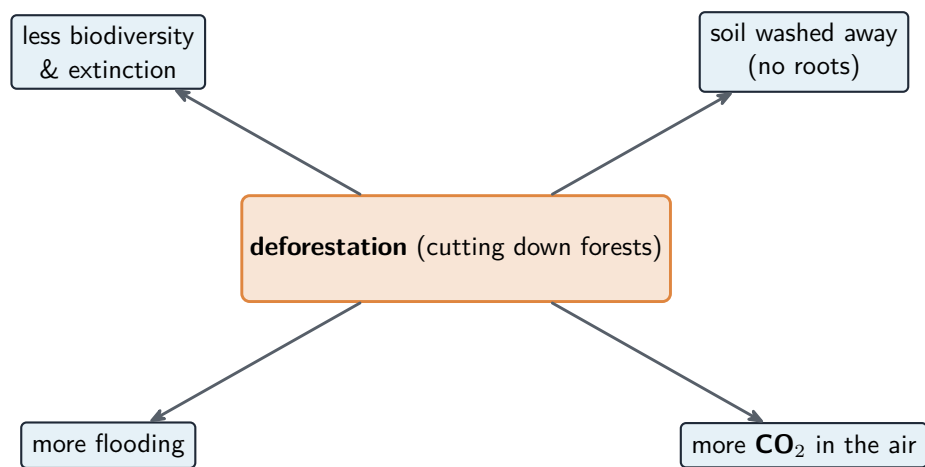
The **green revolution** raised crop yields with modern methods – fertilizers, irrigation, machines, and improved seeds – but these bring costs like pollution and heavy water use.

■ 3 Irrigation

Irrigation supplies water to crops. It boosts harvests but can drain rivers and aquifers, and can leave salt behind in the soil (salinization).

■ 4 Deforestation

Deforestation (clearing forests) removes habitat, causes soil erosion and flooding, and releases stored carbon dioxide.



Watch out: the tragedy of the commons happens because **no single person owns** the resource, so each gains from taking more while everyone shares the cost of overuse. Clear rules or ownership can prevent it.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

2.1 Explain what the “tragedy of the commons” is, with an example. [2]

2.2 State one benefit and one cost of the green revolution. [2]

2.3 State one problem that irrigation can cause. [1]

2.4 List three harmful effects of deforestation. [3]

2.5 Suggest one way to prevent the overuse of a shared resource. [1]
