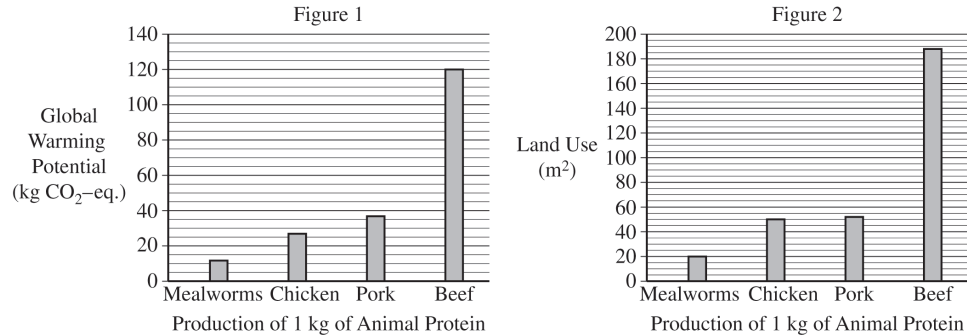


2. As the human population continues to grow, the demand for animal protein is expected to double by 2050. Animal protein can be obtained from conventional livestock and other sources. The production of all animal protein has environmental costs, as shown in the following graphs. In Figure 1, global warming potential (GWP) is measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO₂-eq). Carbon dioxide equivalent is a measure of the warming effect of a gas relative to that of carbon dioxide. In Figure 2, land use is measured in meters squared (m²).

Global Warming Potential and Land Use from Animal Protein Production



- (a) Based on the data in the graphs, **identify** the amount of land required to produce 1 kilogram of chicken protein.

Mealworms, the larvae of the darkling beetle, consume grains and decaying plant material. Darkling beetles are an *r*-selected species, and the entire mealworm can be consumed by humans for protein.

- (b) Based on the information provided, **identify** the type of survivorship curve exhibited by the darkling beetle.

- (c) **Explain** why the reproductive strategy of the darkling beetle is an advantage for using mealworms as an alternative protein source for the rapidly growing human population.

An individual's diet choices affect greenhouse gas emissions and land use.

- (d) Based on the data in the graphs, **explain** whether producing 1 kilogram of chicken protein or 1 kilogram of pork protein would cause less environmental damage.

Cattle emit methane from fermentation in their digestive systems. The other animals do not emit methane.

- (e) Based on the data in the graphs, **explain** why the production of 1 kilogram of beef protein has a different impact on global warming than the production of 1 kilogram of protein from any of the other animals studied would have.

Agricultural practices can have negative impacts on rivers and streams.

- (f) **Describe** how water quality can be altered by cattle grazing that occurs near a stream or river.
- (g) **Propose** a solution to reduce the negative impacts on waterways that result from cattle grazing, while still allowing cattle to graze.
- (h) Crop production can cause soil erosion. **Describe** a sustainable agricultural practice used to reduce soil erosion.
- (i) **Justify** the use of the sustainable practice described in part (h) by describing an additional advantage, other than the reduction of soil erosion.
- (j) Crop production around the world is affected by climate change. **Describe** how crop production could be negatively affected by climate change.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

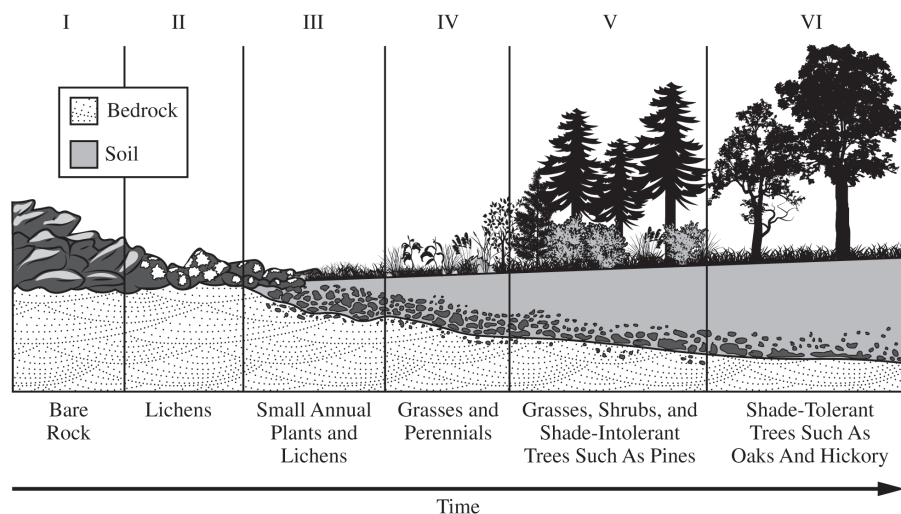
SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 10 minutes

3 Questions

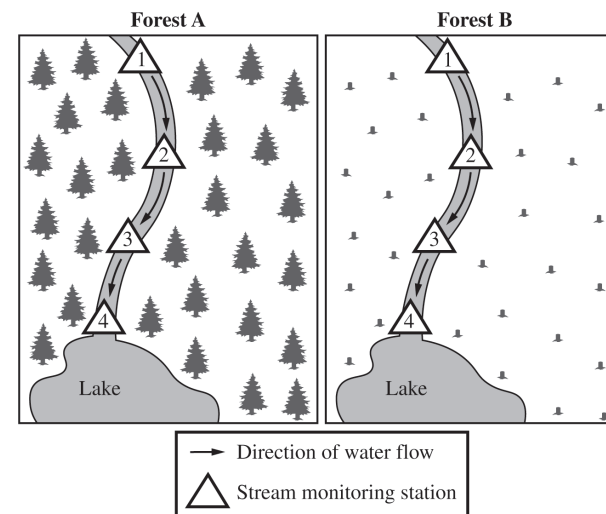
Directions: Answer all three questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers in the Free Response booklet. Where calculations are required, clearly show how you arrived at your answer. Where explanation or discussion is required, support your answers with relevant information and/or specific examples. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. The following diagram shows how an area changed over time. The dominant vegetation in each stage is labeled in the diagram. Each roman numeral represents a stage in the ecological process.



- Identify** the ecological change over time illustrated in the diagram.
- Identify** the stage in which pioneer species first appear.
- Describe** how soil forms from stage II to stage III.
- Identify** a cultural ecosystem service that may be provided by a mature forest.

Researchers are interested in investigating the effect of the removal of trees on the water quality of nearby waterways. To conduct their experiment, the researchers locate two identical forest watersheds, both with a river running through them. Forest A is an intact forest and forest B is a clear-cut forest. Four stream monitoring stations are set up in each forest study area. Each station monitors a variety of water quality indicators, including water temperature, at various locations along the river. The experimental setup is shown in the following diagrams. The arrows shown in the rivers represent the direction of water flow. The triangles in the river show the location of the stream monitoring stations.



- Identify** a testable hypothesis being investigated by the researchers.
- Identify** the independent variable in the experiment.
- Describe** the purpose of forest A in the experiment.
- Explain** why the water temperature might change because of clear-cutting trees in forest B.

After the experiment was completed, land developers constructed a golf course in the clear-cut area of forest B. To prepare the land, developers removed any remaining stumps and newly grown trees and began planting and fertilizing new grass. The researchers are interested in the effect the golf course may have on the water quality of the river. To monitor the river in forest B, the researchers repeated the experiment once the golf course had been constructed.

- Explain** why an indicator of water quality other than temperature could be altered by the golf course in forest B.
- Explain** how the aquatic organisms living in the lake illustrated in the diagram of forest B are likely to be affected by the new golf course.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SECTION II

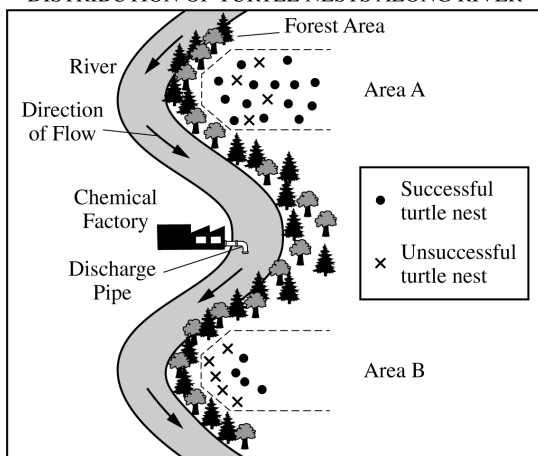
Time—1 hour and 10 minutes

3 Questions

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1. Common snapping turtles, *Chelydra serpentina*, are primarily aquatic, but they lay their eggs on land. Researchers are interested in understanding the impact of pollution on turtle nesting sites. The researchers examined nesting sites at two agricultural areas along the floodplain of a river upstream and downstream from a chemical factory that is a known source of aqueous mercury pollution. Turtle eggs, soil, and vegetation samples taken from areas around turtle nests downstream from the chemical factory showed high levels of mercury in a previous study. Mercury was not detected in samples taken upstream from the chemical factory.

DISTRIBUTION OF TURTLE NESTS ALONG RIVER

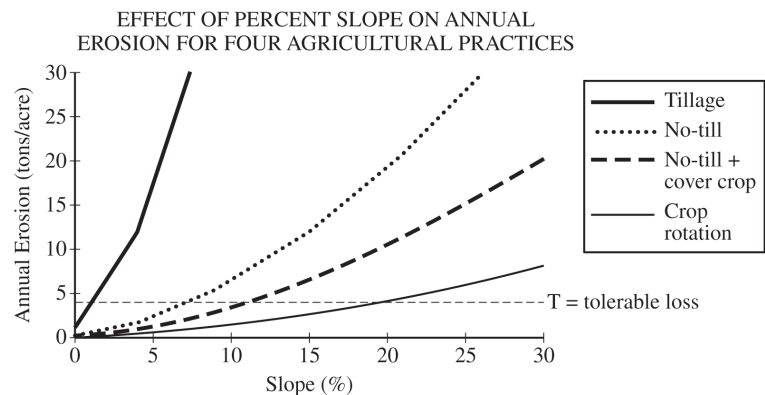


- (a) The map shows locations of both successful and unsuccessful turtle nests.
- (i) **Identify** the area with the greatest nest success rate, based on the information in the diagram.
 - (ii) **Identify** the dependent variable in the study.
 - (iii) Based on the information provided, **identify** a likely scientific question for the study.
 - (iv) **Describe** why researchers measured mercury levels in locations upstream from the factory.
 - (v) There are plans to remove trees and other vegetation along the river bank. **Explain** how this modification could affect the location and number of successful turtle nests in Area B.
- (b) Mercury can affect organisms and ecosystems in many ways.
- (i) **Describe** how a persistent pollutant, such as mercury, can negatively affect an organism.
 - (ii) **Describe** how a persistent pollutant, such as mercury, can negatively affect an ecosystem.
 - (iii) Researchers measured methylmercury in a location downstream from the factory. **Explain** how methylmercury could be present in the stream.
 - (iv) Researchers claimed that the soil nearest to the river has higher levels of mercury than the field has, and those elevated levels have affected the nesting success for turtles. **Explain** how the pattern shown in the diagram supports or refutes this claim.
- (c) The turtle study was conducted in an agricultural area. **Describe** how a specific agricultural practice changes the soil in an area.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
SECTION II
Time—1 hour and 10 minutes
3 Questions

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1. Soil erosion is one of the most serious soil-degrading processes. Each year tons of soil erode from cropland, pastures, forests, and other places. The amount of erosion varies dramatically among various land-use types. The figure above shows the effects of different agricultural practices and slopes on annual erosion rates.
 - (a) Refer to the graph above for the following.
 - (i) **Identify** the scientific question that resulted in the data presented in the graph.
 - (ii) **Identify** the agricultural practice that could be used on a 15% slope without leading to a higher than tolerable loss of soil.
 - (iii) **Describe** the effect of adding a cover crop compared to using the no-till method.
 - (iv) **Identify** one natural mechanism of soil erosion.

- (b) Sediment from erosion can enter streams and affect water quality. One way sediment can enter a stream is from nearby road construction. Two methods to reduce sediment run-off in streams are to either put down straw bales or plant grass. The hypothesis to be tested is that straw bales reduce more sediment run-off than planted grass does. To test the hypothesis, two plots near a road under construction are measured. On one plot (A), straw bales are used to cover the soil, while a second plot (B) is planted with grass. The sediment discharge from each plot is measured after rainfall.
 - (i) **Identify** the dependent variable stated in the hypothesis.
 - (ii) **Describe** one way to add a control to improve the design of the study.
 - (iii) **Identify** one variable that was not discussed that could affect the results of the study.

Sediments reaching streams affect water clarity, which is tested by determining turbidity. Turbidity can be determined by measuring the depth at which a submerged object can no longer be seen from the surface.

Sample Group	Turbidity
Straw bale plots (plot A)	12 cm
Planted grass plots (plot B)	28 cm

- (iv) Based on the data in the table above, **make a claim** about the stated hypothesis.
- (c) Several fish species lay their eggs in the gravel in the streams under investigation in the study.
 - (i) **Describe** the type of survivorship curve expected for these fish species.
 - (ii) **Explain** why the input of sediment to a stream can negatively affect reproduction of fish that lay their eggs in the gravel of the streambed.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

4. Soil is a complex mixture of living organisms and organic material, along with minerals and other abiotic components. Soils help sustain life and support ecosystem functions.

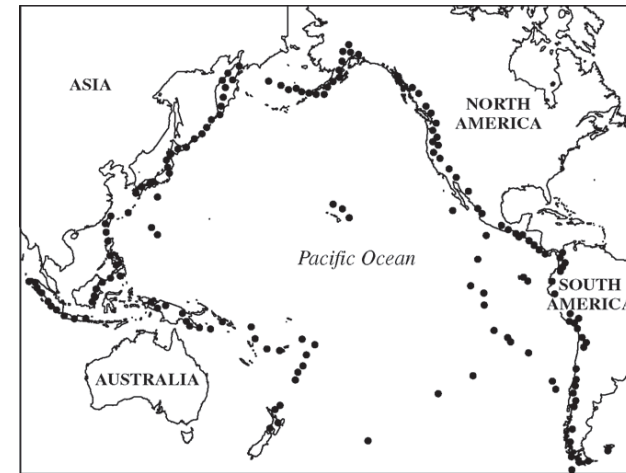
- Describe** how TWO climate factors affect the rate of soil formation.
- As soils form, distinct layers known as horizons develop over time. One of these is the A horizon.
 - Identify** one specific biotic component of the A horizon.
 - Identify** one abiotic component of the A horizon.

Resources such as soil and water can be degraded by human activities.

- Nitrate levels exceeding the United States Environmental Protection Agency's primary drinking water standard have been found in the groundwater of areas with intensive agriculture.
 - Identify** one agricultural practice that can lead to elevated nitrate levels in groundwater.
 - Describe** how the practice you identified in (c)(i) leads to elevated nitrate levels in groundwater.
- Acid deposition has affected soil quality in many parts of the northeastern United States.
 - Explain** one way acid deposition onto soil can affect plant health.
 - Describe** one method for remediating soil affected by acid deposition.
- Climate change is causing far-reaching ecosystem changes, including soil degradation in many of the world's biomes. **Describe** TWO ways that climate change can degrade soil.

STOP

END OF EXAM



3. Plate-tectonic theory states that the Earth's lithosphere is broken into very slowly moving pieces or plates. Plate movements over vast stretches of time have led to the current orientation of our continents and oceans. Individual events along plate boundaries, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, pose periodic threats to human activity and ecosystems. The "Ring of Fire" is a term that describes the location of increased seismic and volcanic activity around the margins of the Pacific Ocean basin. On the map above, each dot represents a volcano or an earthquake.
- Japan, Indonesia, and the Philippines are examples of volcanic island chains that have formed along subduction zones between plates in the western Pacific.
 - Describe** what happens when two tectonic plates collide along a subduction zone.
 - Explain** how subduction leads to volcanic activity.
 - Although the landscape following a volcanic eruption may appear unable to support ecological communities, over time the area can be transformed through succession.
 - What is primary succession?
 - Explain** how primary succession can lead to soil formation on a newly formed volcanic landscape.
 - In addition to volcanic activity, highly destructive tsunamis are generated along Pacific Plate subduction zones.
 - Explain** how a tsunami is generated along a subduction zone.
 - Describe** one negative ecological impact that tsunamis have on coastal environments.
 - Southern California experiences periodic devastating earthquakes along the San Andreas Fault, which is a transform boundary located along the eastern edge of the Pacific Plate.
 - Describe** what happens to the tectonic plates along a transform boundary at the moment when an earthquake occurs.
 - Describe** what happens to the tectonic plates along a transform boundary during the time between earthquakes.