

CLASS 10

SCIENCE

REVISION NOTES

Class 10 Science Chapter 13 Our Environment Revision Notes

What is the difference between a food chain and a food web? A food chain shows a single, linear sequence of who-eats-whom; a food web shows multiple interconnected food chains in an ecosystem, giving a more realistic picture since most organisms eat and are eaten by more than one species.

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Class 10 Science Chapter 13 – Our Environment: Quick Revision Notes

Ecosystem = biotic community (living organisms) + abiotic environment (air, water, soil, sunlight, temperature) interacting together

Producers (green plants, algae) → capture solar energy via photosynthesis; start every food chain

Consumers: herbivores (primary), carnivores that eat herbivores (secondary), carnivores that eat other carnivores (tertiary/top)

Decomposers (bacteria, fungi) break down dead organic matter into simple inorganic substances, recycling nutrients back to producers

Trophic level = each successive feeding step in a food chain (producer = level I, and so on)

10% law: only about 10% of energy at one trophic level passes to the next; the rest is lost mainly as heat — this is why food chains are short (rarely more than 4-5 levels)

Food web = many interconnected food chains in an ecosystem; more stable than a single food chain

Biodegradable waste: broken down by decomposers (vegetable peel, paper, cotton, wood)

Non-biodegradable waste: cannot be broken down by decomposers (plastic, polythene, DDT, glass); persists and accumulates

Biological magnification: non-biodegradable, harmful chemicals (e.g. pesticides like DDT) increase in concentration at each successive trophic level, reaching the highest levels in top consumers

Ozone (O₃) layer: in the stratosphere, absorbs harmful solar UV radiation; ground-level ozone is a pollutant

Ozone depletion: caused mainly by CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons); linked to skin cancer, cataracts, and harm to plants/plankton; addressed internationally via the Montreal Protocol/UNEP

Waste management: reduce, reuse, recycle; segregate biodegradable (wet) and non-biodegradable (dry) waste at source

Class 10 Science Chapter 13 – Solutions and Important Questions

Need full answers or more practice? See the [Class 10 Science Chapter 13 Solutions](#) and [Class 10 Science Chapter 13 Extra Questions](#).

Common Mistakes Students Make in Our Environment

Biodegradable/non-biodegradable mix-ups: misclassifying substances at the boundary, like assuming all plastics behave identically.

Trophic level miscounts: incorrectly counting an organism's trophic level, or confusing a food chain with a food web.

Energy-flow misconceptions: not stating that energy decreases at each trophic level (the roughly 10% rule) rather than staying constant.

Confusing ozone depletion and global warming: mixing up the causes and mechanisms of these two distinct environmental issues.

What to Revise First (and Last) in This Chapter

Prioritise the food chain/food web/trophic level concepts and the energy-transfer rule first, since they appear across the widest range of question types. Leave detailed case-study-style questions (ozone depletion causes, specific pollutant effects) for an earlier, slower revision pass.

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