

Human Impact on Earth's Systems

Chapter 13: Our Home: Earth, a Unique Life-Sustaining Planet · Topic 2

Key Concept

Overexploitation of resources — such as overfishing or excessive groundwater extraction — depletes resources faster than they can replenish, threatening long-term availability. Climate change, driven largely by human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, is altering weather patterns, melting polar ice, and raising sea levels globally. Addressing these impacts requires collective action, including sustainable resource use, pollution control, reforestation efforts, and international cooperation on climate policies.

Quick Revision Notes

- Deforestation disrupts climate patterns and destroys wildlife habitats.
- Pollution from industry, vehicles, and waste harms air, water, soil, and health.
- Overexploitation (overfishing, excess groundwater use) depletes resources unsustainably.
- Climate change, driven by human emissions, is altering global weather patterns and sea levels.

Practice Questions

- 1 List two ways human activities negatively impact Earth's environment.
- 2 Explain how overexploitation of a resource differs from sustainable use.
- 3 Suggest two actions that could help reduce human impact on the environment.