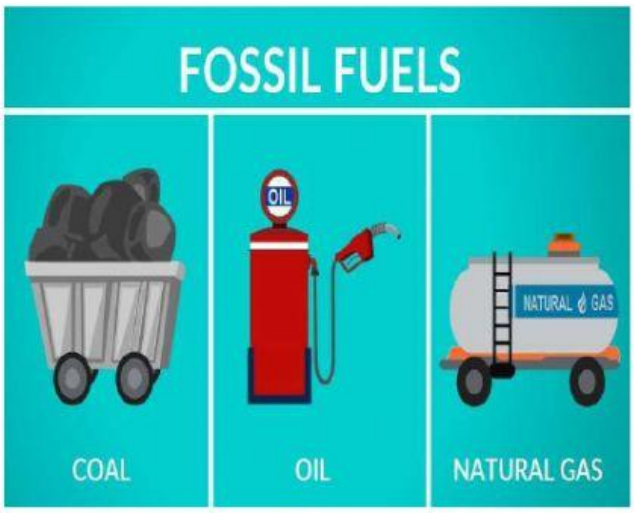
A.

Decomposing plants and organisms buried beneath layers of sediment and rocks have taken millennia to become the carbon rich deposits we now call fossil fuels.



You see a long time ago our beautiful Earth was covered with swamps filled with various microorganisms, trees and other large leafy plants.

And as the organisms and plants died, they drowned to the base of swamps and oceans and formed a layer of spongy materials called peat.

Over millions of years, the peat was covered by sand, and clay and other minerals which converted the peat into sedimentary rock. Then, over the next few years, different types of fossil fuels formed depending on the combination of

organic matter present, how long it was buried and what temperature and pressure conditions when they were decomposing.

B.

Well, there are three types of fossil fuels, namely coal, mineral oil, and natural gas that supply 80 percent of the world's energy. These non-renewable fuels can be obtained through mining and extraction inside the land or huge ocean.

C.

It is said that our whole human race is prominently dependent on these fuels to carry out our tasks for their existence, and without them, it would be difficult for us to co-ordinate our survival efficiently.

Yes, my dear friends, that is because fossil fuels are utilized in nearly 96% of items that we use today. Right from electricity to heat, and to transportation, while also supporting the processes that make a vast range of products,

from steel to plastic, and it also plays a considerable role in the industrial revolution by providing the necessary fuel needed to run the machinery.

D.

As our dependency on these fuels kept on increasing, human began to use them recklessly without considering that these fuels are a non-renewable source of energy which does not develop in a day or two but takes millions of years to form.

E.

It is hard to believe but the fossil fuels we use today started creating from the Carboniferous period, which is even before the existence of dinosaurs! Yes, Therefore, if we use this energy carelessly today, we are going to land into a devastating problem as the new fuel will take another million years to form again.

Apart from this futuristic problem, there lies a bigger threat in the present as well. If we continue to use and burn these fuels at this rate, they also have the potential to harm the environment as they are made up of harmful chemical bonds that could be dangerous for us.

The coal we use is made of carbon, and when mixed with oxygen, it leads to an increase in carbon dioxide in the environment. This eventually contributes to greenhouse effects, which then contributes to climate change, and cause global warming. Also, many times, the oil spills into the sea during transportation resulting in polluting it and establishing a threat to all aquatic animals, and quality of water. Not only that, but the natural gases are highly flammable, which can prove hazardous if not used wisely.

Did you know that it takes almost 26 tons of raw petroleum to produce 1 liter of gas and 800 pounds of coal to power a light bulb 24/7 for an entire year? Also, the natural process of

decomposition of materials would take 422 years to replace what we currently consume in a year in fossil fuels.

F.

So the critical is what we need to do to control the damage caused by overusing of fossil fuels.

Well, we can start by using less amount of electricity or using it only when required, the lesser the consumption, the lesser the pressure on the coming generation. Next we can install solar panels, which can replace or minimize the use of natural gas. Also, it is essential to turn off your vehicle on standing on the signal. And lastly, if possible, try to switch to electronic vehicles that are environmentally friendly.

Just by following these small steps, we can make a huge difference to protect the environment and coming generation.