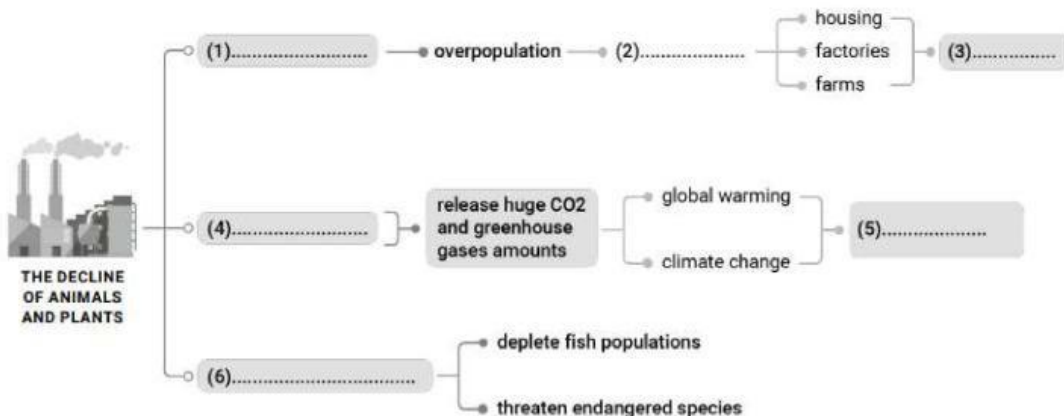


UNIT 2.1 ENVIRONMENT

The decline of animals and plants



HUMAN-MADE ACTIVITIES

One major cause of the (1)..... of many animals and plants is habitat destruction, which is primarily due to overpopulation. As human populations increase, the demand for housing and other (2)..... increases, people resort to deforestation to make way for more human settlements, factories and farms. This has a profound impact on animals, as they lose their habitats. Also, human activities such as burning fossil fuels are (3)..... huge amounts of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to global warming and climate change. This results in the rise in temperature and (4)..... which have severe effects on many species, including disrupted breeding and feeding patterns, suffering from more frequent and extreme natural disasters, and increased risk of disease. (5)..... and poaching are also significant threats to species. Specifically, overfishing is depleting fish populations and endangering the survival of (6) while poaching is threatening certain endangered species, such as elephants and rhinos, which are hunted for their ivory, just for their personal interest.

Non-renewable and renewable energy sources

BENEFITS

Non-renewable energy, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, has been the primary source of energy for many years due to its (7)..... and security. Non-renewable energy sources have a high energy density and can produce a consistent and reliable supply of energy. They have been extensively developed and optimized over time, making them efficient and (8)..... for meeting energy demands. Also, non-renewable energy sources can be easily stored and used as needed, providing a reliable and readily available source of energy. This is particularly important for industrial and (9)..... purposes where a constant and uninterrupted energy supply is essential. It is also a more affordable option for many people, particularly in developing countries where the cost of renewable energy technology is high. In addition to being reliable and (10)....., non-renewable energy has been a significant contributor to economic growth.

Many countries have relied heavily on the extraction and production of non-renewable energy resources to support their economies. For instance, oil-producing countries such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the United States have been able to use the (11)..... from the sale of oil to support their economies and provide social services to their citizens.

DRAWBACKS

One of the major drawbacks of non-renewable energy is pollution. (12)..... fossil fuels releases harmful chemicals into the air, water, and soil, causing damage to both human health and the environment. Air pollution from burning coal, for example, is a leading cause of respiratory problems, and oil spills can (13)..... waterways and harm wildlife. Another drawback is that non-renewable energy sources are finite resources, meaning they will eventually run out. As we continue to consume these resources at an alarming rate, we will eventually deplete them, leaving future generations without access to these (14)..... resources. Additionally, many countries are dependent on foreign sources of non-renewable energy, which can lead to political and economic instability. Countries that rely heavily on oil (15)....., for example, are vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply disruptions, which can have significant impacts on their economies.

