

Unit 6A

Questions And Answers:

1. How are people's basic needs connected with the environment?

Answer: People's basic needs are very much connected with the environment. The basic needs of people include clean drinking water, food, firewood for energy and building material and fodder for animals. All these comes from environment. So, if environment is degraded, then definitely we cannot receive our basic needs in a proper way. The forested mountains are the source of water and source of rain. So, if we deforest then definitely there will be a shortage of water and a change of rainfall pattern will result into improper agriculture and thus finally resulting into shortage of food. So, in order to sustain our livelihoods, basic needs, we need to rely on environment. And thus, our environment has to be in good health to support us with our basic needs.

2. According to Maathai, how are women responsible for the protection of the environment?

Answer: Women are very much responsible for the protection of the environment. According to Maathai, women work on the farms. They are the ones who plant, who produce foods. Women are the ones who is responsible for growing of trees. When they said they needed firewood and building materials. That need was responded. Maathai started the Green Belt Movement and also have trained women to grow plants and trees. Women if educated, they can educate male families and thus it is their responsibility to protect the environment.

3. What is the specific message of Wangari Maathai?

Answer: Wangari Maathai had fought for equal rights for women in Africa had started the Green Belt Movement. While working on so many things, she realised that peace is connected to a good environment and good management. People fought in the world over natural resources and they fought because the environment is so degraded that it is not able to support communities and thus they fight over the little that is left. Hence, good management of the natural resources, equitable distribution of these resources is important for peace.

And, good management of the natural resources is not possible if we do not have democratic space, respect for human beings, respect for human rights, giving other people dignity. And one should not give up to face any trouble no matter what the situation is. She further said that we should help each other to come together and walk for the better.

**4. Maathai said, “When we plant a tree we plant hope.”
What does she mean by this?**

Answer: By “When we plant a tree is a hope” she meant that tree is a wonderful symbol for the environment and when a tree is planted, a hope is planted. With the planting of a tree we plant the future for ourselves, for our children, for the birds, for the environment. With planting tree, we plant something that will last long even after we are gone.

