

Name _____

What Happens if We Cut Down Too Many Trees

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Excessive deforestation disrupts local and global climate patterns by reducing the Earth's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide. This leads to an increase in greenhouse gases, global warming, and changes in weather patterns, ultimately contributing to climate change.
2. As part of a conservation organization, raising awareness about deforestation can involve educational programs, community engagement, and advocacy for policies that protect forests. Engaging communities can include organizing tree planting events, offering incentives for sustainable forest management, and collaborating with local leaders to promote conservation efforts.
3. Reforestation projects involve planting trees in areas that have been deforested or degraded. These projects help restore ecosystems by improving soil health, providing habitats for wildlife, and sequestering carbon dioxide. Successful examples include the "Great Green Wall" initiative in Africa and the reforestation efforts in the Brazilian Amazon.
4. Sustainable forestry practices balance human needs with forest conservation by ensuring that tree cutting is done in a way that minimizes environmental impact. This includes selective logging, replanting after tree removal, and protecting sensitive ecosystems. These practices can provide economic benefits, maintain biodiversity, and support long-term forest health.

