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## Chapter - 17

### Forests: Our Lifeline

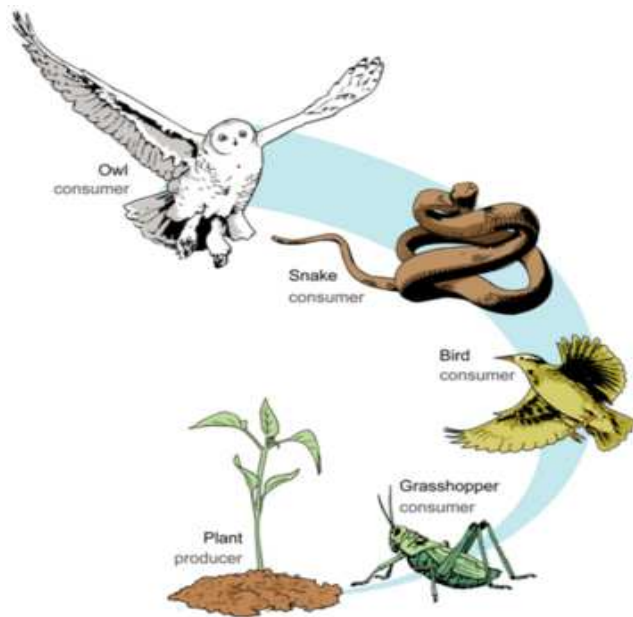
- **Forest:** Large area of land thickly covered with trees, bushes, etc.
  - We get various products from the forests surrounding us.
  - Forest is a system comprising various plants, animals and micro-organisms.
  - In a forest, trees form the uppermost layer, followed by shrubs. The herbs form the lowest layer of vegetation.
  - Different layers of vegetation provide food and shelter for animals, birds and insects.
  - The various components of the forest are interdependent on one another.
  - The forest keeps on growing and changing, and can regenerate.
  - In the forest, there is interaction between soil, water, air and living organisms.
  - Forests protect the soil from erosion.
  - Soil helps forests to grow and regenerate.
  - Forests are the lifeline for the forest-dwelling communities.
  - Forests influence climate, water cycle and air quality.
  - **Importance of Forests:**
    - (i) Provide timber.
    - (ii) Purify air.
    - (iii) Provide shelter.
    - (iv) Prevent soil erosion.
    - (v) Control floods.
    - (vi) Noise absorbers.
  - **Independence of Plants and Animals in Forest:**
    - (i) Plants and animals depends on each other to remain alive.
    - (ii) All organisms interact with each other and their physical environment to derive energy and survive.
  - **Conservation of Forest:**
    - (i) Amount of carbon dioxide in air will increase, resulting in the increase of earth's temperature.
    - (ii) Animals will not get food and shelter.
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- (iii) Soil will not hold water, which will cause floods.
  - (iv) Endanger lives and environment.

- **Conservation of Forests:**

- (i) Do not allow overgrazing.
- (ii) Promote afforestation.
- (iii) Protect wildlife.
- (iv) Control forest fires.

- **Food Chain:** Interdependence between producers and consumers studied in form of various linkage that appears as a chain.



- **Food Web:** A system of interdependent food chains used to represent various relationships of organisms.

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