

Short Essay: The Environmental Problems Associated With Soil Erosion

Directions: Write an answer to each of the questions below.

Questions

1. How does soil erosion affect agricultural production? How can it affect buildings and other structures?
2. What is the relationship between soil erosion and water pollution?
3. What is desertification and how is it the ultimate example of problems associated with soil erosion?

Answers

1. Soil erosion removes valuable topsoil from the land. Many important plant nutrients are in the topsoil; erosion degrades the soil to the point that agricultural production suffers. Erosion can also lead to the covering of homes and other buildings with layers of soil and mud.
2. Soil that is carried off the land often ends up in water, where it pollutes the water, harms aquatic wildlife, carries agricultural chemicals into the water, and makes the water muddy and dirty.
3. Desertification occurs when the land has been so eroded that nothing will grow. It is an extreme example of how the loss of valuable topsoil leaves the land degraded and unproductive.