

Ecosystems

The Human Factor

Table 1.2 Examples of Human Activities and Their Consequences for Ecosystems

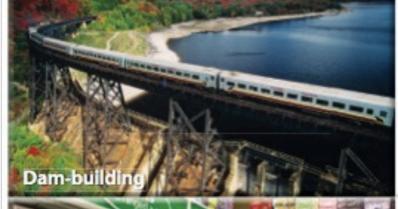
Human Activity

Possible Abiotic and Biotic Consequences

- Surface soil is removed, killing soil organisms and plants that were rooted in the soil.
- The shape or slope of the land is changed, resulting in different patterns for drainage of rainwater.
- Farmland that is taken over to build roads and buildings can no longer be used to grow crops and livestock.









- The courses of rivers and streams are changed so that water will flow to the specific place chosen for the dam.
- · Land is flooded to create lakes in places where none existed before.
- · Huge numbers of living things are killed.
- Huge numbers of living things are displaced and must find new places to live. (This includes humans, too.)
- Soil and plant life are removed to make space to build factories and landfill sites for the solid wastes that the factories produce.
- Factories consume energy to make products.
- Production process creates wastes that can enter and pollute air, water, and soil.
- Stores that sell goods consume energy to operate.
- The packaging, transportation, and consumption of goods generate wastes that must be disposed of.
- Disposal and recycling of wastes consumes energy.

Predict The Consequences

- # Human affect ecosystems daily. The land that our school was built on was probably once a field or farmland.
- Brainstorm and identify some biotic and abiotic consequences that may have resulted from building our school.
- Ex: What are the effects on factors such as soil, sunlight, water, and air? What about the size of populations, and food webs?