

Grade 7 Vocabulary

Use of Vocabulary Words in Context

Week 4

Directions: Read the passage below to better understand the vocabulary words.

Potential Consequences of Farming

Vocabulary Words

fertilisers

pesticides

sediment

salinity

arable

depleting

bunds

spurs

cultivable

tilling

precarious

degradation

carbon

corrective

emanated

Hint: When learning new terms, look for context clues to help determine the meaning. If the sentence you find the word in is not helpful, keep reading to see if it can be understood.

Environmental damage is not something most people worry about, but it is something that can cause many problems. People often look for **cultivable** land that is **arable** so large farms can be created. This land is then leveled and **tilling** breaks up the soil. Crops are planted and **fertilisers** added to aid in growth. Some people also use dangerous **pesticides** to kill off any unwanted insects. Over time, these crops grow and are replanted. This can lead to the **depleting** of minerals in the soil. Some farmers will rotate crops as a corrective measure to make sure this **degradation** of the land does not occur, but many do not. Those who do not rotate, tend to move their plants to another area, eroding more soil to level land and increase output.

Many farms try to be as self-sufficient as possible so they have fuel systems on the land. These are protected by **bunds** in some cases, but few notice if there is a leak which further damages the land. The machines that use this fuel produce **carbon** that has **emanated** from the exhaust. A few are trying to take **corrective** measures to replenish the land, but this is a slow process.

While farms are not the only type of business that causes ecological problems, they can be blamed for some damage in many cases. The runoff from farms can contaminate water sources with chemicals found in **sediment** in nearby ponds and rivers. This creates a **precarious** position for those who rely on that water source. Anything from increased **salinity** to deadly chemicals can be toxic to animals in the area. We need to make sure we are protecting the resources used in farming and cultivating land for food growth. We can work with the environment instead of against it. Hopefully this information **spurs** you into action.