Names \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The textbook states: Land degradation is the process by which human activity and natural processes damage land to the point that it can no longer support the local ecosystem. From this definition, what effect does land degradation likely have on biodiversity? Explain your answer.

2. What types of human activities cause land to erode?

3. Soil and nutrients are formed over time as decomposers consume dead and decaying organisms. Better quality soil grows more plants (food) and trees (food and habitat) than poor quality soil. Farmers will obviously benefit from good quality soil, yet the textbook mentions that poor farming practices are a cause of land degradation. Explain why farming can be harmful to soil.

4. How does the growing human population influence our land usage?