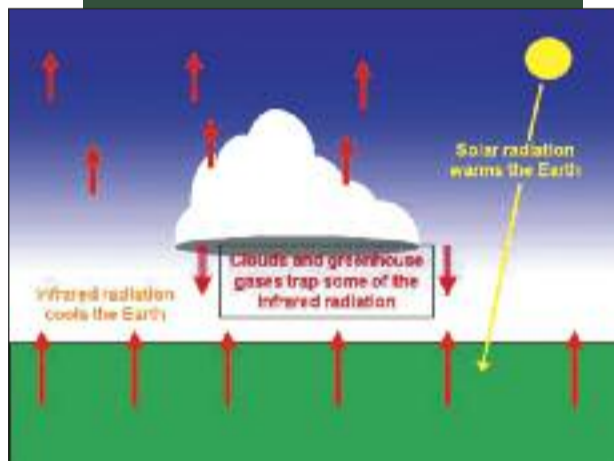


ECO TALK

Infrared Radiation

- Infrared Radiation, also known as "IR" is a type of radiation that exists within the Electromagnetic Spectrum.
- This type of radiation is used in microwave ovens, to create X-ray images, to allow light rays on the earth and pass radio waves to deliver news and music across the planet.
- It is so named because the wavelength of infrared rays is just a bit longer than that of red rays.
- The radiation cannot be detected by a human eye. A human eye can detect only light rays.
- IR is basically heat. We cannot see it but we can only feel the radiation waves.



RED ALERT

Desertification



Desertification is the constant degradation of fertile land into dry sub-humid areas. In simple terms it is a process which turns productive land into an unproductive desert. But it does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts.

of the greatest environmental challenge and a major barrier to basic human needs. Also, human migrations from these areas to cities harm political and economic stability.

What causes desertification?

Desertification is primarily caused due to human activities and climatic variations. Also, overgrazing, deforestation, water erosion and diversion of water from rivers for human consumption, industrial use due to overpopulation, reduced soil erosion and bad irrigation practices results in desertification.

How does desertification affect human lives?

Livelihood depends on ecosystem for basic needs. Many of the resources such as crops, livestock, fuel wood, and construction materials, depend on the growth of plants, which in turn depends on water availability and climate conditions.

What are the immediate impacts of desertification?

Biodiversity loss, scarcity of production of crops, wood and other ecosystems are the major impact of desertification. It is one

What measures can reduce desertification?

Planting trees, good farming techniques and prevention of misuse of land for human activities like construction or improper irrigation processes can help control desertification.

AMAZING ATTRACTIONS

The "Hells" of Japan

The "Hells" of Beppu are nine spectacular hot springs. They are better known as a sight for viewing rather than bathing. They are one of the most amazing tourist attractions in Japan's Kannawa and Shibaseki districts.

What does the Kannawa district offer?

Of nine "hells" seven are located in the Kannawa district.

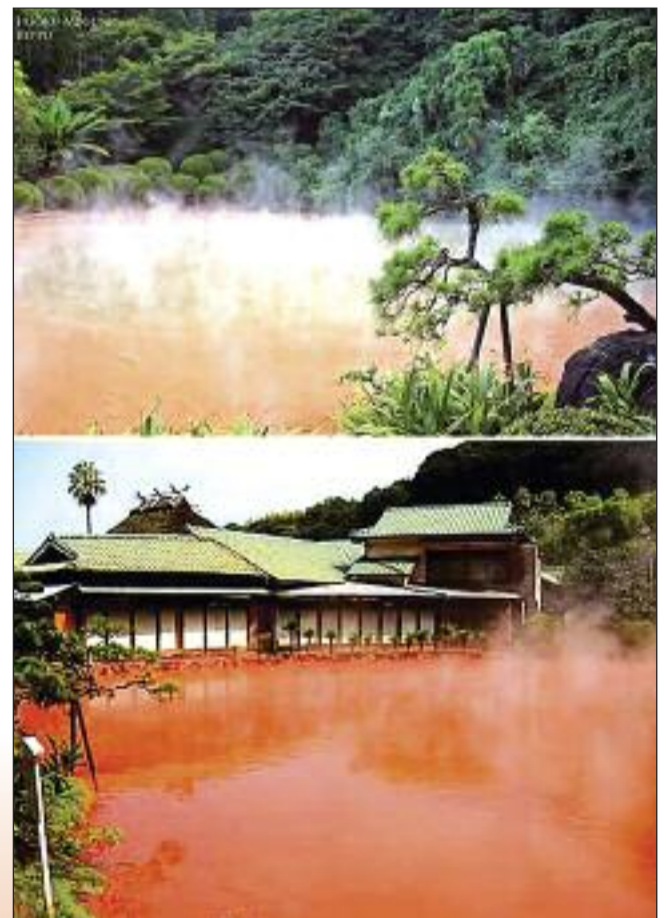
- The Umi Jigoku (sea hell) features a pond of hot, pristine blue water.



- The Oniishibozu Jigoku, named after the mud bubbles emerging from boiling mud pools, resemble shaven heads of monks.
- The Shiraike Jigokku (white pond hell) presents a pond of hot, milky white water vapour.
- The Yama Jigoku (mountain hell) has small ponds of steaming hot water and a small zoo with cages.
- The Kamado Jigoku (cooking pot hell) features several boiling ponds and a flashy demon statue as cook.
- The Oniyama Jigoku (monster mountain hell) breeds Crocodiles.
- The Kinryu Jigoku (golden dragon hell) features a dragon statue and a greenhouse, heated by the hot spring.

What does the Shibaseki District offer?

Of the nine springs, two springs are located in the Shibaseki district. The Chinoike Jigoku, widely known as the "blood pond



hell" features a pond of hot, red water making it the most photogenic of the nine hells. The Tatsumaki Jigoku (spout hell) displays a boiling hot geyser which erupts every 25-30 minutes for about five minutes.