Best Management Practices or BMPs are actions/practices that result in the most sustainable management of environmental resources (air, soil, water, biotic ecosystem parts). Since agriculture is hard and impactful on the land, there are many BMPs that can be done to prevent soil degradation.

Match each BMP description to the correct name. The possible name choices are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alley Cropping/Agroforestry</th>
<th>Buffer Strips</th>
<th>Contour Farming</th>
<th>Conservation Tillage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
<td>Crop Rotation</td>
<td>Mulching</td>
<td>No-Till Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelterbelt/Windbreak</td>
<td>Strip Cropping</td>
<td>Terracing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a picture of: _______________________

**Definition:**

**Benefits:** If one plants crops that add nutrients back to the soil (like nitrogen-fixating varieties), then you can enhance the soil with nutrients after growing another crop variety that may use nutrients heavily.

This is a picture of: _______________________

**Definition:**

**Benefits:** Organic material acts as a barrier to wind and water. The organic material can also add texture, provide shade, hold moisture, and decompose itself to add nutrients to the soil.

This is a picture of: _______________________

**Definition:**

**Benefits:** If one does not plow a field, the soil is not broken into smaller pieces. This means water and wind will not as easily carry the soil away.
Benefits: This slows wind down as it is blowing through fields. Slower wind will prevent soil erosion via wind and keep soil on fields.

Definition:

Benefits: Hilly areas are prone to soil erosion, since water runoff carries the soil with it. If you have flat areas, water runs off more slowly and drags less soil. Eroded soil will also stay on next lower level.

Definition:

Benefits: If you plant crops in different strips, you can plant a nitrogen-fixing crop next to one that does not to help boost soil nutrients. Also, you can plant a strip that is thick and slows water and wind.

Definition:
**Definition:**

**Benefits:** Planting crops amongst trees helps cover the land more from wind and water erosion. Additionally, smaller crops could be nitrogen-fixating to help enhance soil nutrient levels.

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**Definition:**

**Benefits:** Leaving vegetated areas near water intact slows runoff. This means less eroded soil gets into waterway and stays on land.

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**Definition:**

**Benefits:** Bare soil is open to the elements which promotes erosion. Planting smaller crops during non-growing seasons or in between crop rows ensures the soil is covered from erosive forces. The planted crops could also help enhance nutrients in the soil.

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**Definition:**

**Benefits:** Plowing is sometimes essential to growing plants. If you plow only when needed, the soil is left mostly intact, making it difficult for wind and water to erode it. Also, infrequent plowing leaves a natural organic layer to cover soil from elements.
DEFINITIONS

A. Lines of trees or shrubs that surround agricultural fields.

B. Disturbing the soil minimally when planting/plowing

C. Planting and plowing rows of crops across the slope of a hill, rather than with the slope of the hill

D. Cutting flat slopes of land into a hillside or mountainside to provide flat locations to farm on

E. Maintaining vegetative zones/boundaries around waterways

F. Planting a field with plants to provide it protection from the elements. Plants may also help add nutrients to the soil

G. No plowing occurs on land; Seeds planted into slits/holes in soil created by a seed drilling machine

H. Changing the types of crops you grow on the land each crop growing cycle

I. Laying down organic matter/material over soil

J. Lines of crops are planted between rows of trees or trees are grown around crops in pastureland.

K. Planting multiple crops on a field in alternating rows. One crop is usually for money, while the other helps reduces wind and water erosion. The second crop could help in putting nutrients into soil.