

Knowledge Organiser – Pollution

[Year 5 Summer 1]

Pollution is when something is added to the environment that is harmful or poisonous to living things.



Air Pollution

Air pollution is caused by poisonous gases, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide. It is also caused by the smoke and harmful gases that make vehicles and factories work. The use of coal, wood and petrol as fuels also causes air pollution. Air pollution may cause breathing problems such as asthma or other health problems. It also causes diseases like cancer.

Air pollution causes global warming and acid rain. It results in increased temperatures, erratic rains and drought worldwide. This makes it difficult for the living organisms to survive.

Water Pollution

Water pollution is the presence of harmful materials in water, such as sewage, waste from farms, factories and crude oil spilled from oil tankers. The three main substances that pollute water are nitrates from fertilizers [used in farms], sewage and detergents.



Activities such as bathing and washing clothes near lakes, ponds or rivers add nitrogen and phosphorus into the water bodies. This leads to excessive growth of algae on the surface of water. It blocks the penetration of sunlight and air, then reducing oxygen.

Pollution causes harm to organisms living in the water and can also harm people's health through consumption of food and water.



Noise Pollution



Noise pollution also known as sound pollution is noise which is harmful to humans and animals. This includes the sound of vehicles and loud speakers. Noise pollution can cause ear problems or even permanent deafness, especially to older people.

Soil Pollution or Land Pollution

Soil pollution (also known as land pollution) is when man-made chemicals, such as hydrocarbons, heavy metals and solvents, get into the soil. Soil pollution may cause health risks. The chemicals can produce harmful gases, or they can contaminate water supplies underneath the polluted soil.



Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution is the accumulation of plastic products in the environment that adversely affects wildlife, wildlife habitats, or humans. Often, it can affect large bodies of water like oceans and rivers, but also land.



Light Pollution

It is defined as any bad effect as a result of man-made lights. Usually, this means too much light. Several species, including plants and humans, are badly affected by light pollution. Most people have never heard of light pollution, and those who have usually don't care, or do nothing about it. Light pollution costs billions every year.



Do you know any other forms of Pollution?

We are going to be looking at the effects of pollution on bodies of water like oceans, rivers and reservoirs.

Oceans and rivers become polluted by plastic.

Do you know which types of pollution affect the River Thames?

What can we do to prevent this happening?



Welsh Harp Reservoir is also affected by pollution. It is only a couple of miles away from our school. Do some research to find out what the pollution is. You may see some news reports on this online.



Home Learning – choose A or B

- A. Think about the River Ganges in India and the River Thames in England. What forms of pollution affect them? What can the world do to prevent this happening?

Write a persuasive letter to the Prime Minister of England or India to explain what the problem is and what should be done to stop the pollution.



- B. Produce a fact file to show how pollution is affecting the River Ganges or the River Thames. You can use pictures but make sure you add captions to explain them.

Home Learning must be returned to school on Monday 19th April.