

Types of Pollution

Pollution is when the land, the air, water, or anywhere on earth gets contaminated. Contamination means that something is dirty, grimy, and impure. All the different types of pollution on our earth that are caused by humans are contaminating the environment and not making it fit for use or at least they are decreasing the efficiency of it. Pollution can be found everywhere on the globe, even in the Polar Regions. Pollution destroys and harms not only the air, the water, and the environment, but also humans, animals, and plants. Pollution affects us all.

There are many different types of pollution, though not all types of pollution can be seen. However, they all harm our ecosystem. An ecosystem includes all living organisms and how they interact together and with their environment. The types of pollution that affect us can be classified into four main types. They are:

1. Air Pollution: is anything that contaminates the natural composition of the chemistry of the air. This means that anything that disturbs the natural state of our atmosphere is considered air pollution. Examples of things that might contaminate the air is if there are too many gases or smoke or other vapors that cannot through a natural process be removed and cleared away.
 - Sources: vehicle exhaust, which is the smoke that comes out of the exhaust pipe in cars; deforestation and forest fires because this destroys a main source of oxygen; smoke and gases from factories and industries...
 - Effects: smog increases; acid rain increases; higher rates of asthma, decrease in crops because of decrease in oxygen, lung problems...
2. Water Pollution: is when the water is no longer pure and contains bacteria or chemical impurities. All these impurities decrease and lower the quality of the water and can have serious effects on the marine life. Water pollution happens in oceans, rivers, lakes, and even in fresh water and water reservoirs.
 - Sources: littering in the water; sewage; excessive use of fertilizers washed away in waters, thus affecting the marine life; oil spills from tankers and ships in waters; chemicals reaching or washing away in waters or water supplies.
 - Effects: decrease in drinking water; decrease in quality of water; serious harm to marine life...

Types of Pollution (Cont'd)

3. Land or Soil Pollution: is when something happens to the soil or land that it no longer can keep its growth rate or if something disturbs the natural balance of growth in that land. The balance can be in terms of planting crops, or preserving the animals and wildlife, or just making sure that the natural environment is kept pure as it is without anything contaminating it.
 - Sources: oil spills; sewage and waste dumping; the mishandling of solid waste, which is garbage; deforestations; pesticides and use of other chemicals; deforestation as that reduces the amount of oxygen produced...
 - Effects: desertification, which means that good cultivation land can turn into deserts; a decrease in crops; wildlife becoming extinct or dying...
4. Noise Pollution: is when humans make and produce high levels of noise, which are beyond the regular.
 - Sources: traffic; concerts; airplanes; industrial machinery; construction or demolition ...
 - Effects: hearing loss in humans and in animals.

Most types of pollution are linked and people all around the world need to make more careful choices about how they should live their lives to ensure that they are trying to prevent increasing pollution. To prevent pollution, it demands that people make changes in how they handle waste for example, or what kind of chemicals they are using for their soil, or how and where they are throwing garbage. People need to realize that their actions affect not only humans, but also plants and animals. People need to make sure that they maintain and preserve the natural balance of the planet.

Name _____

Date _____

Types of Pollution Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. Deforestation is one of the sources of pollution because:
 - a. It increases the oxygen levels produced
 - b. It decreases the oxygen levels produced
 - c. It causes fertilizers to wash away in the water
 - d. None of the above
2. Oil spills are a source of pollution for:
 - a. Water
 - b. Land and water
 - c. Land and air
 - d. Air and noise

Matching:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| _____ 3. Noise pollution | a) Could lead to desertification |
| _____ 4. Air pollution | b) Contaminates natural composition of atmosphere |
| _____ 5. Soil pollution | c) Decreases hearing in humans and animals |

List three effects of water pollution:

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

True or False:

- _____ 9. Pollution is a serious problem that affects all of us and our ecosystem.
- _____ 10. An ecosystem includes all living organisms and how they interact together and with their environment.
- _____ 11. Water pollution does not affect marine life.
- _____ 12. Sewage and waste dumping are mainly sources of noise pollution.

Types of Pollution Answers

Multiple Choice:

1. Deforestation is one of the sources of pollution because:
 - a. It increases the oxygen levels produced
 - b. It decreases the oxygen levels produced
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List three effects of water pollution:

6. ___ decrease in drinking water ___
7. ___ decrease in quality of water ___
8. ___ serious harm to marine life ___

True or False:

- ___T___ 9. Pollution is a serious problem that affects all of us and our ecosystem.
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