

Read and complete the activities below.

Pollutants in Air

Some air pollution is caused by volcanoes and forest fires. But more and more often, air pollution results from the actions of people. Automobiles and coal-burning power plants release harmful chemicals into the air. These can be unhealthy to breathe, and they can also harm plants and the animals that depend on them.



Pollutants in Water

Water is sometimes polluted by factories that dump harmful chemicals into rivers, lakes, and oceans. These chemicals can harm or kill fish and other animals or plants. Oil is often transported in large tankers. If one leaks, oil gets into the water and can wash up onto shore. Oil spills can harm or kill animals and plants that live in the water and on the coast.



1. Write four sources of air pollutants.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

2 Fill in the blanks.

leak ocean chemicals tankers plants animals dumped

Harmful _____ that are _____ into lakes, rivers, and the _____ can harm life. Oil from _____ that _____ can also kill _____ and fish or other _____ that live near the water.

Pollutants in Soil

Soil becomes polluted by garbage, litter, and other solid waste. Garbage used to be put into open dumps. But rain that fell on them washed harmful chemicals into the soil. Today, most garbage is buried under the ground in **landfills**. Trees and grass can be planted on top of the ground, and people can use the land again. Sometimes people throw garbage onto the ground. This kind of pollution is called **litter**, which can be harmful to many animals and can spread germs.