

A PLANET IN TROUBLE

There are more problems facing the environment today than at any time in the past. World population stands at around 6 billion and by the end of the 21st century it may reach 8 or 10 billion. To satisfy the needs of these people, we are destroying (1) rainforests and other natural places so that we can grow food and put up buildings. This creates (2) _____ of the land, sea and air, which can be very bad for the health of humans and (3) _____ for birds and animals.

Most scientists now agree that it has also caused (4) _____ and this means that the temperature of the Earth is rising. The ice at the North Pole could melt, raising sea levels and causing serious (5) _____. Generally, the Earth's weather will be worse and there will be more wind, rain and (6) _____. However, there are things we can do. Scientists are working to come up with ways of making power that do not cause so much pollution. People at home can recycle their (7) _____ paper and glass and try to use less (8) _____ by turning off lights, TVs and stereos when they are not using them. We could all use our cars less and walk or use (9) _____ more.

Choose the correct item to complete each sentence.

- Burning fossil fuels causes a lot of pollution.
a brings **b causes**
- Does this aerosol _____ CFC gases?
a contain *b hold*
- The wind and the sun _____ energy.
a do *b create*
- Wind and solar power are _____ cleaner.
a more *b much*
- People should _____ public transport more often.
a use *b have*
- Using water instead of petrol is one way of _____ fumes from cars.
a stopping *b taking away*
- Public transport can carry large _____ of people at the same time.
a numbers *b amounts*
- Our society produces huge _____ of waste.
a numbers *b amounts*
- The car companies are working on _____ new engine technology.
a creating *b developing*
- I often _____ bottles and cans.
a throw *b throw away*

Choose from A to D to complete each sentence correctly.

- 1 One of the main causes of pollution, is d from cars.
- 2 Scientists are increasingly worried about the hole in the ozone _____.
- 3 The weather around the world is changing because _____ warming.
- 4 Recycling is good, so don't throw _____ bottles and newspapers with your regular rubbish.
- 5 It's very difficult to recycle things here. The nearest bottle _____ is miles away.
- 6 We're quickly using _____ all the world's natural resources. If we don't slow down, there will soon be severe shortages.
- 7 Many animals are dying out because we are destroying their natural _____.
- 8 A lot of supermarkets are starting to offer _____ foods that were not grown using pesticides or chemical fertilisers.
- 9 _____ rain has destroyed many of the trees in our nearby woods. They say it's because of factories in the USA.
- 10 One of the best ways of protecting the world's resources is to avoid _____ water and electricity.
- 11 There still isn't a safe way of storing high-level nuclear _____ from power plants.
- 12 We've got to stop _____ down tropical rainforests, which are so important to the global climate.