Our Future Environmental Challenges

Oceans

In 2018, scientists found huge islands of plastic in the oceans. These floating piles of waste were bigger than some countries. Sea animals often eat the plastic, thinking it is food, and many die. Experts say that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the sea if people don't change their habits.

The Air

In big cities, air pollution is a serious problem. Cars, factories, and forest fires put dangerous gases into the air. Breathing polluted air causes health problems like asthma or heart disease. Some cities use electric buses and bikes to reduce pollution.

The Land

Last year, huge areas of forest were cut down to make space for farms and cities. This is called deforestation. Without trees, animals lose their homes, the soil becomes dry, and there is more carbon dioxide in the air. Experts say that planting more trees can help fight climate change.

Read the article again. Choose the correct answer.

1. The plastic islands are dangerous because they...
   a) make the water too hot.
   b) are bigger than cities.
   c) can kill sea animals.
2. Oceans cover most of Earth's surface.
   a) bicycles and buses.
   b) factories and cars.
   c) trees and animals.
3. There are five oceans.
   a) more animal habitats.
   b) drier soil.
   c) cleaner air.

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2 Read again. Complete the sentences with ONE word.

- Scientists think there will be more plastic than _____ in the sea by 2050.
- Breathing polluted air causes _____ problems.
- Cutting down forests releases more _____ dioxide into the air.

Your turn. Which problem do you think is the most serious? Why?

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