

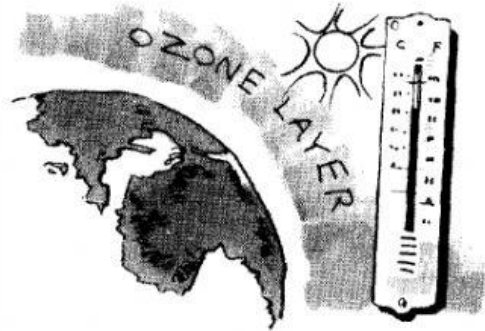
Global Perspectives

Year 10

5 Pollution and the environment

A Important definitions

People are more worried about the **environment** (= the air, water, and land around us) as a result of the **harmful** (= dangerous/damaging) effects of human activity. Some of these activities cause **pollution** (= dirty air, land and water) and some are **destroying** the environment (= damaging it so badly that soon parts will not exist). Here are some of the problems:



the ozone layer: a layer of gases which stop harmful radiation from the sun reaching the earth; recent research shows that there is now a hole in parts of the ozone layer.

global warming: an increase in world temperature caused by an increase in carbon dioxide.

acid rain: rain that contains dangerous chemicals; this is caused by smoke from factories.

B The 'greens'

Because of these problems, there are many groups of people whose aim is **conservation** (= the **protection** of natural things, e.g. plants and animals). They are often referred to as **greens**, e.g. 'Greenpeace' and 'Friends of the Earth'.

C Common causes of damage

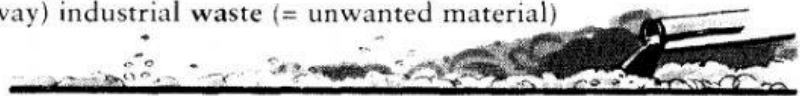
smoke from factories



car exhaust fumes



dumping (= throwing away) industrial waste (= unwanted material) in seas and rivers



aerosol cans (usually called **sprays**). Some of these contain **CFCs** (= a chemical) which can damage the ozone layer.



cutting down tropical rainforests (e.g. The Amazon). This increases carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



D How can we help?

- Don't **throw away** bottles, newspapers, etc. Take them to a **bottle bank** or newspaper bank, and then they can be **recycled** (= used again).
- **Plant** more trees.
- Don't **waste** (= use badly) **resources**, e.g. water, gas. Try to **save** (≠ waste) them.

Note: a **resource** is a valuable possession. There are **natural resources**, e.g. water or gold; and **human resources**, e.g. knowledge and skills. The word is usually plural.

1. Fill the gaps to become a word for global warming.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 the layer | 5 warming |
| 2 rain | 6 fumes |
| 3 waste | 7 rainforests |
| 4 a bottle | 8 natural or human |

2. Fill in the blanks for global warming.

<i>Noun</i>	<i>Verb</i>
waste	
.....	protect
.....	destroy
pollution	
damage	

<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective</i>
damage	
environment	
harm	
danger	
.....	safe

3 Complete the definitions.

- Conservation is the protection of natural things, e.g. and
- Acid rain is rain that contains dangerous chemicals. It is caused by
- The ozone layer is a layer of gases that stop dangerous radiation from the sun from reaching
- Global warming is an increase in world temperature caused by an increase in
.....
- CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) is a chemical which
.....

- 4 If we want to look after the environment, there are certain things we should and shouldn't do. Complete these two lists in suitable ways.

We should:

- paper, bottles and clothes.
- tropical rainforests.
- more trees.
- water and energy.

We shouldn't:

- paper, bottles and clothes.
- the ozone layer.
- water and energy.
- tropical rainforests.

- 5 Test your knowledge of words from the opposite page and 'green' issues. Are these statements *true* or *false*?

- 1 CFCs protect the ozone layer.
- 2 'Greens' believe in conservation.
- 3 A hole in the ozone layer could increase skin cancer.
- 4 Cutting down tropical rainforests increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- 5 Plastic cannot be recycled.