

LEARNING UNIT 5: GREEN WEEK

Reading 1

Air Pollution

Adapted from: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/air-pollution/>

Read the text and complete the blanks with the words given. Remember to choose the one that suits better considering the context.

*acid rain *atmosphere *smog *ecosystems *soil *greenhouse gases
*global warming *pollutants *emissions *contaminate *recycling

Air pollution consists of chemicals or particles in the air that can harm the health of humans, animals, and plants. It also damages buildings. _____ in the air take many forms. They can be gases, solid particles, or liquid droplets.

Pollution enters the Earth's _____ in many different ways. Most air pollution is created by people, taking the form of _____ from factories, cars, planes, or aerosol cans. Second-hand cigarette smoke is also considered air pollution. Air pollution is most common in large cities where emissions from many different sources are concentrated. Sometimes, mountains or tall buildings prevent air pollution from spreading out. This air pollution often appears as a cloud making the air murky. It is called _____

Like people, animals, and plants, entire _____ can suffer effects from air pollution. Haze, like smog, is a visible type of air pollution that obscures shapes and colors. Hazy air pollution can even muffle sounds.

Air pollution particles eventually fall back to Earth. Air pollution can directly _____ the surface of bodies of water and _____. This can kill crops or reduce their yield. It can kill young trees and other plants. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide particles in the air, can create _____ when they mix with water and oxygen in the atmosphere. Like humans, animals can suffer health effects from exposure to air pollution. Birth defects, diseases, and lower reproductive rates have all been attributed to air pollution. _____ refers to rising air and ocean temperatures around the world. This temperature rise is at least partially caused by an increase in the amount of _____ in the atmosphere. _____ trap heat energy in the Earth's atmosphere.

Definitely, our actions can affect our atmosphere, and anybody can take steps to reduce air pollution starting now. Our routine is starting to change these days in different ways. For example, people take public transportation instead of driving a car in the mornings. People also ride a bike instead of travelling in carbon dioxide-emitting vehicles. There are other changes that may also reduce pollution. This year, we are forgetting about aerosol cans, people are _____ yard trimmings instead of burning them, and smoking is not acceptable anymore.