



Get Ready!

1. Match the environmental problems in the box with the pictures.

deforestation - litter - pesticides - animal trafficking - water pollution -
global warming - endangered species - air pollution



2. Match the definitions with the environmental problems.

- a. Contamination of rivers, lakes and seas.
- b. Chemicals used to kill insects or other animals.
- c. Catching and selling wild animals illegally.
- d. Contamination caused by smoke from factories, vehicles, etc.
- e. Removing trees from an area of land.
- f. Animals with a very low population.
- g. The increase in the temperature of the Earth.
- h. Plastic and other products that people leave on the street.

3. Read the article and answer the questions by choosing the correct option.

Environmental problems in Colombia

1. Damage caused by mining

Our country is famous for its natural resources of coal, precious metals and gems. Unfortunately, mining has caused a lot of environmental problems. For example, mercury and cyanide are used a lot in gold mining. These chemicals often enter into the water system, and it means that a lot of drinking water is polluted. There are stricter controls now, but unfortunately, people have been practising illegal mining even in protected nature reserves.



2. Deforestation

Colombia has been losing its forests for a number of decades. Three major causes of this are: the demand for farmland for crops and cattle, the development of the country's system of roads and the demand for timber. Some people believe that these practices are necessary for developing our country's economy, but the damage that they have caused is enormous. Other factors that cause deforestation are hydroelectric and mining developments, oil production, house building and the use of land to grow plants for the illegal drugs trade.



3. Loss of moorland

Like the forests, Colombia's moors are disappearing. Mining and farmland have been invading the country's moors over the last few decades. This has serious consequences for the country's water resources - 70% of Colombia's water comes from the ecosystems of the moors. Fortunately, some of the moors now have national park status, which will help to protect them in the future.



1. What natural resources is Colombia known for that have caused environmental problems?

2. How have mercury and cyanide contributed to environmental issues in Colombia?

3. Why have some people practiced illegal mining in Colombia's protected nature reserves?

4. What are the three major causes of deforestation in Colombia mentioned in the text?

5. Why do some people believe that deforestation is necessary for Colombia's economy?

6. What is a consequence of the loss of moorland in Colombia?

7. Where does 70% of Colombia's water come from?

8. How has national park status benefited some of Colombia's moors?

9. Which industry is NOT mentioned as a factor contributing to deforestation in Colombia?

10. What has caused a lot of drinking water in Colombia to become polluted?