

# Reading: Pollution and Past Decisions

Many environmental problems could have been avoided if people had made better decisions. In the past, factories polluted rivers. If they had treated their waste, the water would have stayed clean, and animals wouldn't have died.

I visited that river before. I would have warned others if I had known the consequences, but I didn't do anything.

People also cut down many trees. If people had planted more trees, animals wouldn't have lost their homes.

If you had recycled more, you would have helped the environment. There wouldn't be so much pollution today if people had used less plastic.

## Questions

Instructions: After reading the text, choose the correct answer (A, B, or C). Pay attention to the use of the third conditional.

### 1. What caused the pollution in the river?

- A. Animals in the water
- B. Factories dumping waste
- C. People planting trees

### 2. What would have happened if factories had treated their waste?

- A. The river would have disappeared
- B. The water would have stayed clean
- C. Animals would leave the city

### 3. What does the author say about their past action?

- A. They helped clean the river
- B. They warned everyone
- C. They didn't take action

### 4. What happened when people cut down trees?

- A. Animals lost their homes
- B. Animals increased
- C. Trees grew faster

**5. What would have happened if people had planted more trees?**

- A. Animals wouldn't have lost their homes
- B. Pollution would increase
- C. Cities would disappear

**6. What does the text say about recycling?**

- A. It is not important
- B. It helps the environment
- C. It causes pollution

**7. Which sentence is an example of the third conditional?**

- A. If people recycle, pollution decreases
- B. If people had used less plastic, there wouldn't be so much pollution today
- C. If people use plastic, pollution increases

**8. What would have happened if people had used less plastic?**

- A. There would be more pollution
- B. There would be less pollution today
- C. Nothing would change