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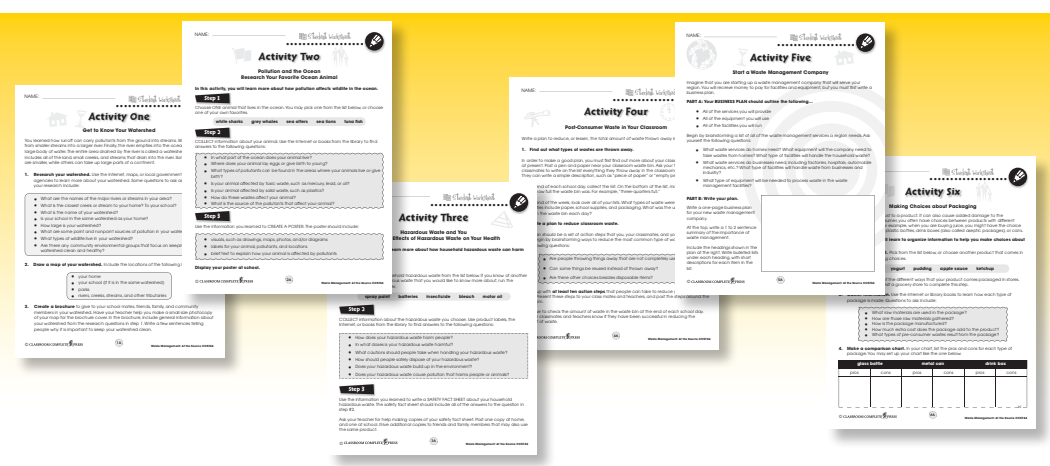
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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Pollution

1. Has pollution affected you or your environment? Explain.

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2. Use a dictionary to look up the words "pollution" and "pollutant". Write the definitions on the lines below.

a) The definition of **pollution** is:

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b) The definition of **pollutant** is:

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c) Explain the difference between the meaning of the words **pollution** and **pollutants**.

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3. Match the source of pollution to its description. You may use a dictionary to help you.

1. **litter**

can contaminate water and soil if it leaks **A**

2. **waste pipe**

waste that is thrown in the environment rather than in a trash container **B**

3. **pesticides**

allows particles from burning substances to flow into the atmosphere **C**

4. **smokestack**

sprayed on farm fields to kill insect pests **D**

5. **oil tank**

allows liquid waste from factories to flow into the environment **E**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Pollution

How do pollutants get into living things?

**P**ollutants get into the environment in many ways. They enter air from smokestacks and cars. They enter the water from waste pipes and runoff. They enter soil from leaking landfills and underground oil tanks. But how do they get into living things?

Pollutants often enter living things at the bottom of the *food chain*. A food chain describes how living things feed on each other. Plants are at the bottom of the food chain. They make their own food using sunlight, air, and water. They also take in nutrients from soil. Animals eat plants, or they eat other animals that eat plants. When plants take in pollutants from air, water, and soil, those pollutants get into the animals that eat those plants. Then, the same pollutants pass into the animals that eat those animals. For example, pollutants taken in by grass move into cows when the cows eat the grass. When you eat meat or drink milk from the cows, the pollutants move into you.

**Explain how a food chain works.**

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What can you do?

There are many things you can do to help reduce, or lessen, the amount of pollutants in the environment. Be sure to place waste inside proper containers so that it does not become litter. Never pour hazardous liquids down drains.

You can also join an environmental group. Some groups pick up litter alongside roads, streams, or beaches. This helps prevent the litter from polluting water. Some groups test, or monitor, water sources for pollutants. If they find high levels of pollution in water, they can work with other groups to identify the source of the pollution and help with cleanup.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Pollution

1. Using the table below, classify the words in the list as point or nonpoint sources of pollution.

oil spill	pesticides on farms	fuel from automobiles
lawn fertilizers	litter	factory waste pipe
		smokestack

Point Sources	Nonpoint Sources

2. Fill in each blank with the correct word from the list below.

pollution	point source	runoff
pollutant	nonpoint source	food chain

- Pollution that enters the environment from a single source is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ washes many types of pollutants into the ocean.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a substance that harms living things in the environment.
- Pollution that enters the environment from many small sources is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ describes how one living thing eats another in a habitat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is caused when harmful substances enter the environment.

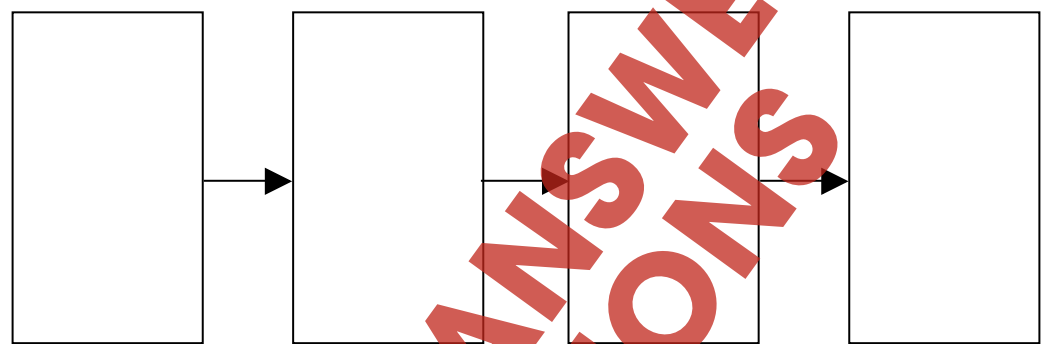
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Pollution

3. Fill in the food chain diagram with words from the list below to show how one living thing eats another in a meadow habitat.

mouse      snake      grass      eagle



4. Explain how pollutants in air, water, and soil can get into animals.

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### Extension & Application

5. Design a poster to show school mates what they can do to lessen pollution. In your poster, be sure to include:

- Ways to lessen the amount of pollutants getting into the environment
- Ways to clean up pollution in the environment
- Contact information for environmental clubs in your school or community



# Pollution

## School Action Plan

When communities have a problem to solve, community leaders start with an action plan. An action plan clearly states all parts of the problem, and steps that community members can take towards a solution.

Does your school have a problem with pollution? Work in small groups to write an action plan that you will present to your school community.

### RESEARCH THE PROBLEM

Take a survey of your school's environment. Walk around the school grounds, and visit each of the buildings. In each area, note the following:

- litter
- hazardous waste
- pollutants that can contaminate air or water

### WRITE THE ACTION PLAN

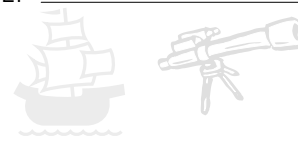
Summarize your observations from your research in a short bulleted list. Include photographs or diagrams that will help people understand your findings.

Brainstorm a list of ideas about what students, teachers, and staff can do to help solve the pollution problems that you found. Ask yourselves the following questions:

- What can people do to clean up pollution around school?
- How should people safely handle hazardous wastes?
- What is the best way to dispose of pollutants?
- What can people do to stop future pollution problems at school?

Write your ideas as a set of action steps. For example, "Assign students to help pick up litter in the cafeteria after lunch."

Present your action plan at a school board meeting, school staff meeting, or to an assembly of classrooms. Ask teachers and staff to help.

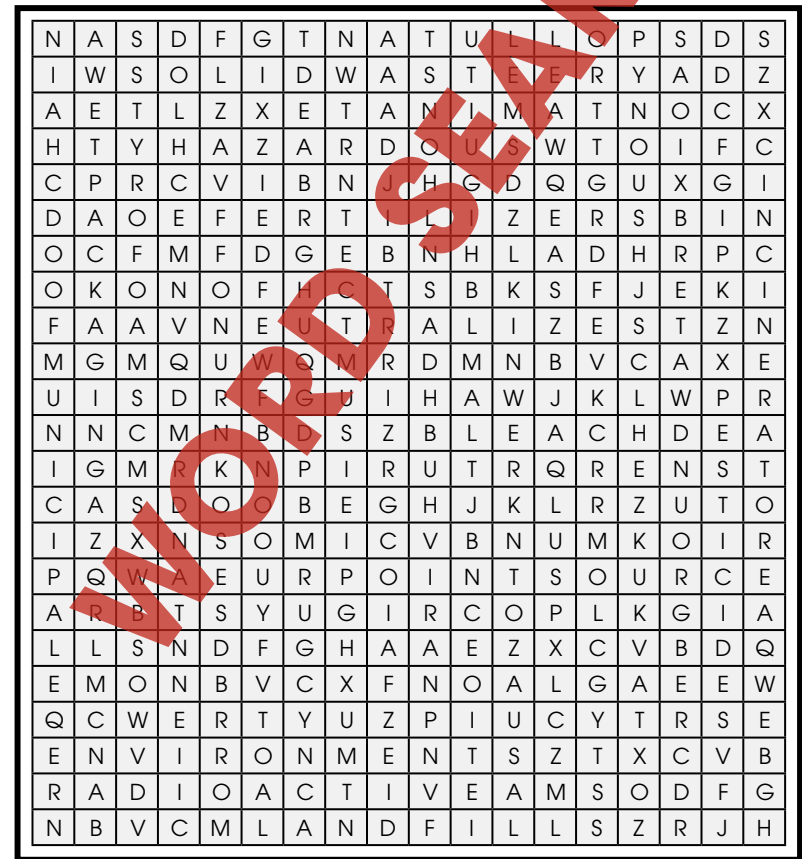


# Word Search



Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words are written horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and some are even written backwards.

toxic	pollutant	point source	neutralizes
disposable	fertilizers	radioactive	landfill
algae	raw materials	runoff	bleach
manufactured	consumer	bioreactor	styrofoam
nondurable goods	contaminate	hazardous	ground water
pesticides	packaging	municipal	microorganisms
solid waste	environment	incinerator	food chain



# Comprehension Quiz

30

### Part A

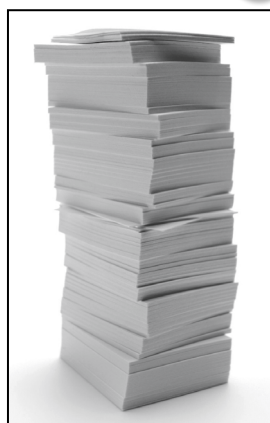
Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it is false.

- 1) Parts of a product that you throw away are waste.  
True False
- 2) Pre-consumer waste is not as much of a problem as post-consumer waste.  
True False
- 3) Post-consumer waste is any waste made during the manufacturing of goods and products.  
True False
- 4) The usual packaging of toothpaste includes a metal tube, plastic cap, and cardboard box.  
True False
- 5) A landfill is a facility where solid waste is burned to produce fuel for energy.  
True False
- 6) The best way to dispose of paint, bleach, and other liquid hazardous waste is to pour it down a drain and run hot water for at least ten minutes.  
True False
- 7) Fertilizers used on farms are an example of nonpoint source pollution.  
True False
- 8) Oceans are so large that they cannot be harmed by human waste; therefore, they are a good place for dumping.  
True False

### Part B

Look at the package of loose paper to the right.

In the boxes below, describe each type of waste made by the package of paper.



a) pre-consumer

b) post-consumer

SUBTOTAL: /14

# Packaging



Canned Packaging



Drink Packaging



Gift Packaging



Water Packaging



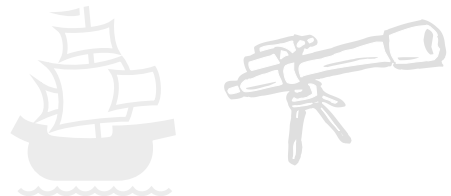
Take-Out Packaging



Transportation Packaging

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

After You Read 



# Pollution



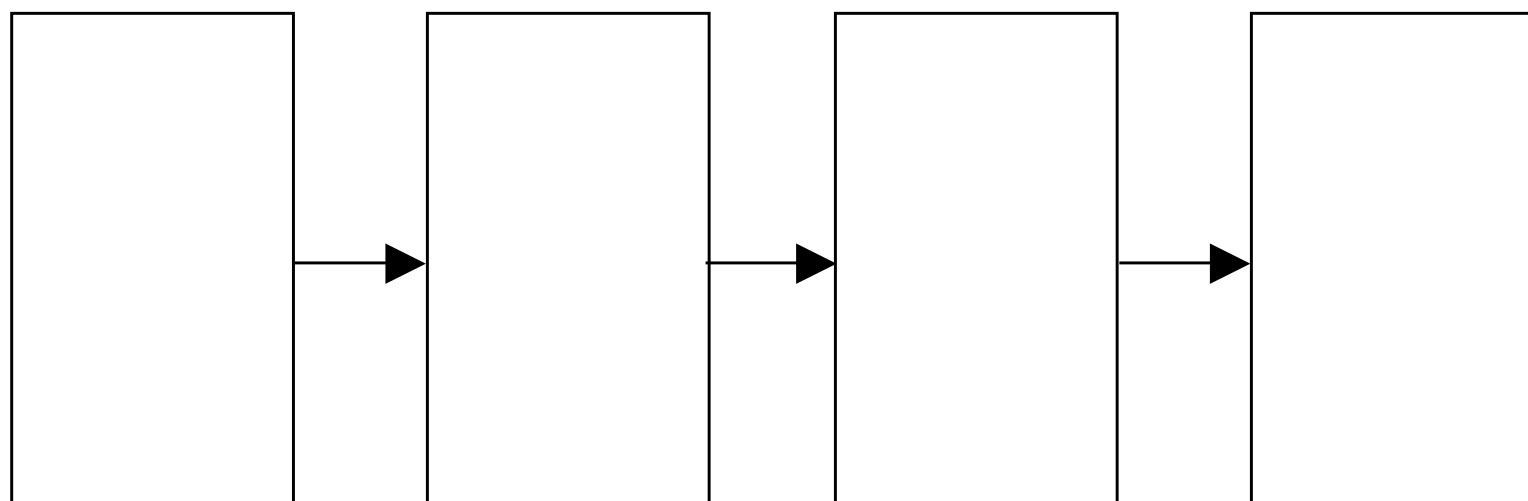
3. Fill in the food chain diagram with words from the list below to show how one living thing eats another in a meadow habitat.

mouse

snake

grass

eagle



4. Explain how pollutants in air, water, and soil can get into animals.

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# EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

## Extension & Application

5. Design a poster to show school mates what they can do to lessen pollution. In your poster, be sure to include:

- Ways to lessen the amount of pollutants getting into the environment
- Ways to clean up pollution in the environment
- Contact information for environmental clubs in your school or community

3.

grass, mouse, snake, eagle

Answers will vary

12

4.

Answers will vary

Answers will vary

5.

Answers will vary

13

Answers will vary

14

Answers will vary

11

15

