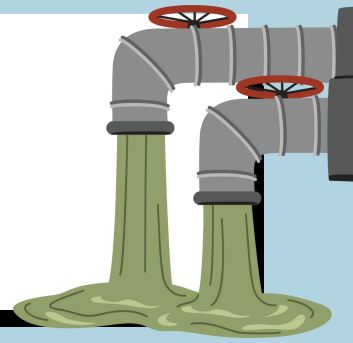




# HOW POLLUTION AFFECTS THE WORLD



Pollution on Earth has been a growing concern for many years, tracing back to the early days of industrialization. This problem, encompassing everything from air and water pollution to the impact of chemicals and waste, has significantly affected our planet's health. As industries expanded, they began releasing harmful substances into the environment, leading to the deterioration of air and water quality. This has had a profound impact on various ecosystems and the species that inhabit them. Just as scientists explore the natural world to understand its diversity, environmentalists study pollution's effects to grasp the extent of human impact on Earth.



## Global Warming

Global warming is a critical issue where Earth's temperature rises due to increased levels of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. Mainly caused by human activities like burning fossil fuels and deforestation, it leads to climate changes affecting weather patterns, melting ice caps, and rising sea levels. This creates challenges for wildlife and humans, with more extreme weather events and impacts on agriculture. Understanding and addressing global warming is vital for our planet's future, encouraging us to adopt more sustainable practices and technologies to reduce our carbon footprint and protect our environment.



## CARBON DIOXIDE

## River pollution

River pollution is a serious environmental issue where harmful substances contaminate rivers, affecting water quality and aquatic life. It's caused by various factors, including industrial waste, agricultural runoff, and domestic sewage. These pollutants can harm fish and other river species, disrupt ecosystems, and pose health risks to humans using the water. River pollution also impacts biodiversity and the natural balance of aquatic environments. Addressing this issue involves stricter regulations on waste disposal, increased public awareness, and adopting cleaner practices. Protecting our rivers is essential for maintaining the health of our planet and ensuring clean water for all.



## TOXIC WASTE





# Deforestation

Deforestation, the large-scale removal of trees, drastically alters landscapes and ecosystems. It's driven by logging, agriculture, and urban expansion. This process leads to loss of habitats for countless species, contributes to climate change by reducing carbon absorption, and disrupts water cycles. Protecting forests is vital for environmental health and biodiversity.



Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, one of Earth's largest and most biodiverse areas, is alarming. Since 1978, over 750,000 square kilometers, an area twice the size of Japan, have been deforested. This rapid loss, primarily due to agriculture and cattle ranching, threatens countless species and indigenous communities, while significantly contributing to global carbon emissions. Protecting the Amazon is crucial for maintaining global ecological balance and climate stability.

## INTERESTING FACTS



1. **Plastic Pollution:** Over 8 million tons of plastic are dumped into the oceans annually. This pollution harms marine life, as animals ingest or get entangled in plastic, leading to injury or death.
2. **Water Contamination:** Each year, more than 2 million tons of sewage, industrial, and agricultural waste are discharged into the world's water, equivalent to the weight of the entire human population. This leads to the degradation of aquatic ecosystems and poses significant health risks to humans.



To reverse pollution, we must adopt sustainable practices. Reducing, reusing, and recycling materials, especially plastics, can significantly decrease pollution. Shifting to renewable energy sources like solar and wind reduces air pollution. Supporting and enforcing stricter pollution control laws helps protect our environment. Planting trees and preserving natural habitats combat deforestation and air pollution. Finally, educating ourselves and others about environmental conservation and making conscious choices in our daily lives can lead to a cleaner, healthier planet.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



## SET 1 (EASY)

1. How much plastic is estimated to be dumped into the oceans every year?
2. What are the primary causes of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest?
3. Name one significant effect of air pollution on human health.
4. What can individuals do daily to help reduce pollution?



## SET 2 (MEDIUM)



1. Discuss how plastic pollution in the oceans affects marine life.
2. Explain the role of renewable energy in reducing air pollution.
3. How does the discharge of waste into water bodies impact aquatic ecosystems and human health?

What is the importance of planting trees in combating pollution and climate change?



## SET 3 (HARD)



1. Analyze the impact of over 750,000 square kilometers of deforestation in the Amazon on global ecological balance.
2. Discuss the link between air pollution and an estimated 7 million premature deaths annually.
3. How does the accumulation of 2 million tons of waste in water bodies annually compare to the weight of the human population?
4. Reflect on the importance of enforcing stricter pollution control laws for environmental protection.