

82 The environment

1 Basic vocabulary

Use these words to complete the sentences:

waste	pollution
protect	factory
recycled	emissions
damage	environmentalists

- During the last hundred years we have done great to the environment.
- There's a large chemical in our town which has polluted the river twice in the last year.
- The Government is very worried about the of our rivers and beaches.
- A lot of household like bottles and newspapers can be and used again.
- are furious with the American Government for delaying measures which will reduce greenhouse gas
- There are lots of things we can all do to the environment.

2 What causes the damage

Use these words to complete the sentences:

exhaust fumes	toxic waste
emissions	deforestation
pesticides	crops

- The Government is introducing strict new rules on the dumping of by industry.
- Farmers contribute to environmental damage by spraying with which stay in the soil for years.
- from factories in northern Germany affect the environment in large parts of Scandinavia.
- Tropical rainforests have always helped to keep the environment in balance but recent means they no longer absorb as much carbon dioxide as they used to.
- from cars and other vehicles cause a great deal of damage to the environment.

Which verbs cannot be used with *environment*?

damage, harm, injure, destroy, hurt, pollute

3 Consequences

Match a word on the left with a word on the right to make common expressions:

1. global	a. rain
2. greenhouse	b. warming
3. ozone	c. effect
4. acid	d. layer

Now use the phrases in the following sentences:

- The gradual rise in the Earth's temperature is known as
- When heat gets trapped in the Earth's atmosphere, it is known as the
- Scientists have found holes in the, particularly over Antarctica.
- Rain mixed with toxic chemicals from factories is known as

4 Global warming

Use these words to complete the text:

floods	radiation	sea level	climate
deserts	ice caps	oceans	gases

Scientists have shown that the temperature on Earth is increasing by 0.1° every ten years. That's one degree every century. The (1) that are produced by factories and cars are allowing more (2) from the sun to reach Earth. In the future this will have very serious consequences for humanity.

As the Earth gets hotter, the Arctic and Antarctic (3) will slowly melt and the level of the (4) will rise. A recent report says that the (5) will rise by 70 metres over the next hundred years, causing (6) in many low-lying parts of the world.

There will be (7) changes, too. Some areas will become wetter while others will become much drier. Some areas which today are green and fertile will eventually turn into (8) Tropical diseases like malaria will become common in areas where today they are unknown.

5 Environmental problems

Use these expressions to complete the text:

natural habitats	in danger of extinction
long-term	natural resources
way of life	indigenous people
destruction	future generations

The (1) of the rainforest is very worrying. Thousands of acres of forest are being cut down every year and the (2) of many animals are being destroyed. As a result, many species are (3)

This, in turn, threatens the traditional (4) of many of the (5) who live in some of the most remote areas of our planet. As with most environmental issues, we need to think more (6) and realise that everything we do has implications for (7) If we want to hand on our world to our children and grandchildren, we simply can't continue to misuse the world's (8) as we are at the moment.

Do the same with this text:

heavily polluted	cloud of pollution
uninhabitable	air quality

The (9) in many of the world's largest cities is so poor that we have seen an enormous increase in chest and lung illnesses such as asthma. These cities are (10) and some are permanently covered by a (11) Unless we begin to take the problems more seriously and start to do something about them, many of our biggest cities, particularly in the developing world, will become (12)

6 Protecting the environment

Match a word on the left with a word on the right to make common expressions:

1. unleaded	a. bank
2. public	b. friendly
3. recycling	c. energy
4. bottle	d. point
5. environmentally	e. transport
6. renewable	f. petrol

If you want to protect the environment, here are some things you should do. Use the expressions above.

- Make sure your car runs on and your home uses sources of
- Use instead of taking your car.
- Take glass, paper and plastic to a and your empty bottles to a
- Buy products whenever possible.

7 Green politics

Use a dictionary to fill the gaps below:

noun	adjective	person
environment
ecology

Conservationists campaign to protect the environment.

In most countries there are political parties which aim to protect the environment – the Green Party or the Ecology Party, for example. Greenpeace is an international group that protests against anything which is a threat to the environment, like dumping nuclear waste and, more recently, growing genetically modified crops.

Are you worried about the environment? What do you do to help protect it?

1 Natural disasters

Use the following words in the definitions below:

forest fire	hurricane	tornado	earthquake
flood	drought	volcano	tidal wave

1. a long period with little or no rain
2. a sudden violent movement of the surface of the earth, caused by the shifting of the earth's tectonic plates
3. when huge areas of woodland are alight, often caused by someone carelessly throwing a cigarette from a car
4. when an area of land which is usually dry becomes covered in water, often forcing people to leave their homes
5. very strong circular winds which suck things up into them
6. a huge wave which builds up in the sea over thousands of miles
7. a very powerful storm, often at sea
8. a large mountain which erupts from time to time and sends rocks up into the air and molten rock pours down the side

Now use the words in the these sentences:

9. Mount Vesuvius near Naples is one of the most famous in the world.
10. Many parts of sub-Saharan Africa suffer from
11. Many low-lying parts of England suffer from after prolonged periods of rain in winter.
12. San Francisco and Tokyo are both situated right in the middle of dangerous zone

2 Describing disasters

Now match each of the following descriptions with one of the disasters above:

1. This year's crop has been lost. The land here is so dry now that farmers are unable to grow anything. All the waterholes have dried up and there are dead animals everywhere.
2. The water level has been rising steadily since the river burst its banks this morning and the area is now under two metres of water.
3. Along the path of the twister cars were lifted hundreds of metres into the air. One caravan ended up half a mile from where it had been.
4. Lava poured down the side of the mountain destroying everything in its path and the village is now buried under a carpet of ash.
5. The tremor, measuring 6 on the Richter scale, only lasted for four seconds but it was enough to cause large cracks in several roads.

6. A small fishing village was the worst hit thirty-metre wall of water swept up the beach destroying nearly thirty houses along the seafront.
7. Helicopters are spraying the blaze from air, and fire crews are working round the clock to set up firebreaks to prevent it spreading further.
8. Roofs were blown off buildings and trees were ripped out by their roots in winds gusting up to 120mph.

Now complete these sentences with words from above:

- a. The river its banks.
- b. The tremor only for four seconds.
- c. The lava destroyed everything
- d. Fire crews are working
- e. Buildings had their roofs
- f. Trees were by their roots.

3 An earthquake

Complete the text below with these words:

trapped	struck
destroyed	rubble
injured	claimed
survivors	damage

The earthquake which (1) Los Angeles yesterday is now believed to have (2) more than seventy lives. Hundreds more people have been (3)

The quake, which started at about 5am while most people were asleep, has caused extensive (4)

Several large buildings collapsed and many smaller ones have been completely (5)

A number of roads leading into the city are unusable.

Rescue teams are continuing to search for (6) who may be (7) in the (8)

The place where an earthquake starts is called the epicentre. Tremors which happen after the main earthquake are called aftershocks.

4 Floods

Use these words to complete the text:

stranded	affected	impassable
warnings	rescued	rainfall

Flooding has returned to parts of the south west after the equivalent of a month's (1) fell in just 48 hours. In parts of Avon, one of the worst (2) areas, soldiers have been called in to help evacuate homes which are waist-deep in water. Thirty children had to be (3) from a school bus after they were (4) in flood water near Bristol. Many roads in the county are (5)

Weather forecasters have also issued 25 flood (6) in other parts of the west of England. More rain is expected tonight.

5 Drought

Use these words to complete the text below:

starvation	epidemic
refugees	contaminated
starving	supplies
aid	

The drought in East Africa will once again bring famine and (1) to the region unless desperately needed (2) arrives soon. People are drinking (3) water and there is a growing risk of an (4) Aid workers say that thousands of (5) are already flooding across the border into neighbouring countries where the situation is not much better. Families have walked up to 100 km with many parents carrying (6) children. Fifteen planes are leaving from France tomorrow morning and will drop food (7) and medicine.

6 A domestic fire

Complete this news report with the correct form of these verbs:

spread	suffer	fight	evacuate
trap	bring	start	rescue

It is now thought that the fire which destroyed the Regency Hotel in London last night (1) in the kitchen when a pan of cooking oil was left unattended. The fire quickly (2) up the stairs and through the rest of the hotel.

Most guests were able to leave the hotel before the fire got out of control but firefighters had to (3) two young children who were (4) in their bedroom on the fourth floor. Three other people were taken to hospital (5) from the effects of smoke. Surrounding buildings were (6) while firefighters (7) to (8) the blaze under control.

