

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

CARS

The biggest **polluter** today is the car. Exhaust **fumes** are the main cause of bad **air quality**, which can make people feel ill and have difficulty breathing. This problem is especially bad in some cities where, on days when there is not much wind, a brown layer of **smog** hangs in the air. The number of cars is increasing every year, and this causes serious **congestion**. Governments then build new roads to try to improve the situation, but this means that they **cut down the trees** and **destroy** more of the **countryside**.



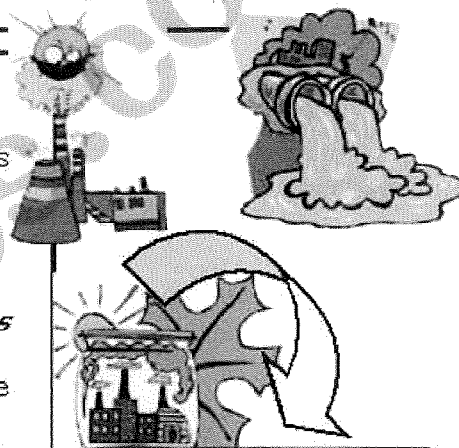
POLLUTION

Pollution is damage to the air, sea, rivers, or land caused by chemicals, waste and harmful gases. **Pollutants** include **toxic waste**, **pesticides**, and **fertilizers**.

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

is caused by harmful gases known as **greenhouse gases**. These gases are produced when we burn **fuels**, especially **coal** burned in **power stations** to make electricity.

These gases go up into the Earth's **atmosphere** and stop heat from leaving the Earth.



Because the heat cannot escape, the Earth is getting warmer. This is known as **GLOBAL WARMING**.

Global warming may cause the **ice** at the North Pole and South Pole to **melt** and **sea levels** to **rise**, leading to serious **flooding** in many parts of the world. In other places, temperatures will rise and there will be less rain, turning more of the land into **desert**.

HOLES IN THE OZONE LAYER

The **ozone layer** is a layer of gases that protects us from **ultraviolet light** from the sun, which can have a **harmful effect** on animals, and **causes skin cancer** in humans.

The ozone layer is being damaged by chemicals, especially **CFCs** (chlorofluorocarbons), and when holes appear in the ozone layer, harmful light from the sun reaches the Earth.

ACID RAIN

is rain that is harmful to the environment because it contains **acid** from factory smoke. **Acid rain causes damage** to trees, rivers, and buildings.



THE DESTRUCTION OF HABITATS

All over the world, **wildlife** is being **threatened** because **habitats** and **woodlands** are being destroyed. **Rainforests** are being cut down so that people can use the land to grow crops. Many **species** of animal have become **extinct**, and many more are **endangered**.

