

Environmental Issues and Solutions

What are the major environmental issues in the world, and what can we do to find solutions?

Chapter 3 will explore current challenges to the environment. In this chapter, you will **speak** to your classmates about the use of natural resources, such as water and forests. You will **listen** to and then practice a dialogue about the limited amount of water on Earth. You will **read** about current environmental problems, including climate change, deforestation, and freshwater scarcity. Throughout this chapter, you will learn about ways you can take action. At the end of the chapter, you will **write** a persuasive essay about whether or not people should take immediate action to limit climate change.



Melting glaciers like Exit Glacier in Alaska are a sign of environmental changes.



Activating Knowledge

Example: Look at the two photos and the answers to the questions below.

- How might the two photos be connected?
- What is different about the two photos?



- How might the two photos be connected?

Both photos show trees.

The photo on the left shows trees in a forest.

The photo on the right shows trees that have been cut for lumber.

Forests are an important resource for providing lumber for paper and furniture.

- What is different about the two photos?

In the photo on the left, trees are alive and growing.

In the photo on the right, trees have been cut down and are no longer alive.



Activating Knowledge

Directions: Look at the two photos below. After you have looked at the photos on your own, brainstorm answers to the following questions with a partner.

- How might the two photos be connected?
- What is different about the two photos?



Phrases you could use to talk with your partner:

- Both photos show...
- The photo on the left shows...
- The photo on the right shows...
- I wonder why...
- I wonder how...



Writing Warm-up

Do you agree with the following statement?

There are more important things to worry about than taking care of the environment.

Directions: Provide a written response explaining whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Give three or more reasons why you agree or do not agree with the statement.

Tip: You can incorporate words from the question into your answer.

I agree with the statement because...

I do not agree with the statement because...



Expanding Vocabulary

Directions: Look at the following images and vocabulary words. Guess what you think each word means based on the given image.

A



climate change

B



freshwater scarcity

C



deforestation

D



pollution



Using Words in Context: Concept Map

Directions: Complete the concept map using the four chapter vocabulary words. Each vocabulary word will be used once.



_____ from cars and electricity

volcanic eruptions

farming and raising livestock

greenhouse gases released into the air

_____ : weather patterns change around the world

some places experience more hurricanes

some places experience _____

ocean levels rise

diseases spread to new areas





Breaking Down the Meaning

Directions: Each box below includes one of the four vocabulary words from the previous page, as well as its definition. Below each definition:

1. Answer the question.
2. Write a sentence using the vocabulary word.
3. Choose the one word in the group that does not relate to the vocabulary word.

climate change

Definition: *a change in long-term weather patterns*

1. What are possible signs that climate change is occurring?
2. Use *climate change* in a sentence.
3. Which word does not belong?
temperature weather
long-term sudden

freshwater scarcity

Definition: *the lack of safe and drinkable water around the world*

1. What are possible reasons that water is scarce in some parts of the world?
2. Use *freshwater scarcity* in a sentence.
3. Which word does not belong?
oceans rivers electricity glaciers

deforestation

Definition: *removal of trees from an area*

1. How would an area look after deforestation has occurred?
2. Use *deforestation* in a sentence.
3. Which word does not belong?
growing cutting burning harvesting

pollution

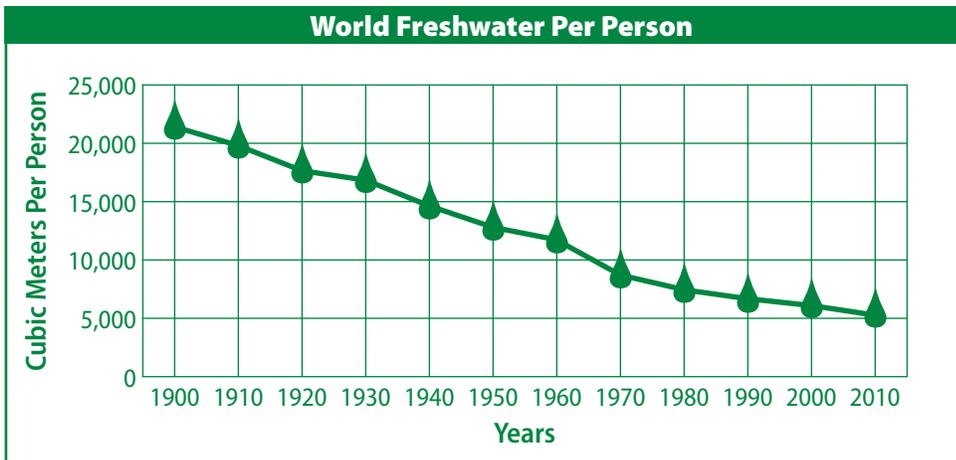
Definition: *substances that contaminate air, water, and soil*

1. What might be a source of water pollution?
2. Use *pollution* in a sentence.
3. Which word does not belong?
trash waste tree smog



Dialogue: How Do You Explain It?

Directions: Study the graph below. What does it show? Before you read the dialogue below aloud with your partner, read through it on your own. Each time you see two choices underlined, choose the correct answer. After both you and your partner have done this, read the dialogue aloud together.



A: Do you know what the graph shows?

B: The graph shows the amount of water / raindrops per person available in the world.

A: It looks like the amount of water per person has increased / decreased over time.

B: How can you tell this from the graph?

A: Well, in 1900, there were more than 20,000 / 25,000 cubic meters of water available per person. Do you see what happens in 2000?

B: Yes, by 2000 only about 5,000 / 10,000 cubic meters of water were available per person.

A: Do you think that means there is less water in the world now than in 1900?

B: No, the total type / amount of water in the world is always the same.

A: So why do you think the amount per people / person has decreased?

B: The amount per person may have decreased because the number of people has increased.

A: Oh, I see. If more people / person are using the same amount of water, there will be less water for each person.

B: That's right. It is like when you and three friends plan to share a pizza. If another pizza / friend joins you, you will have to divide the pizza among more people. Now, you have five people who want to eat the pizza.

A: I see what you mean. If there were fewer / more people in the world, more water would be available for each person.

B: That's true, but there would also be more water available for other people if each person used less / more water.



Reading Skill Focus: Cause and Effect

Cause and effect means that one thing leads to another. A cause and effect relationship fits into the formula “**If...then...**”

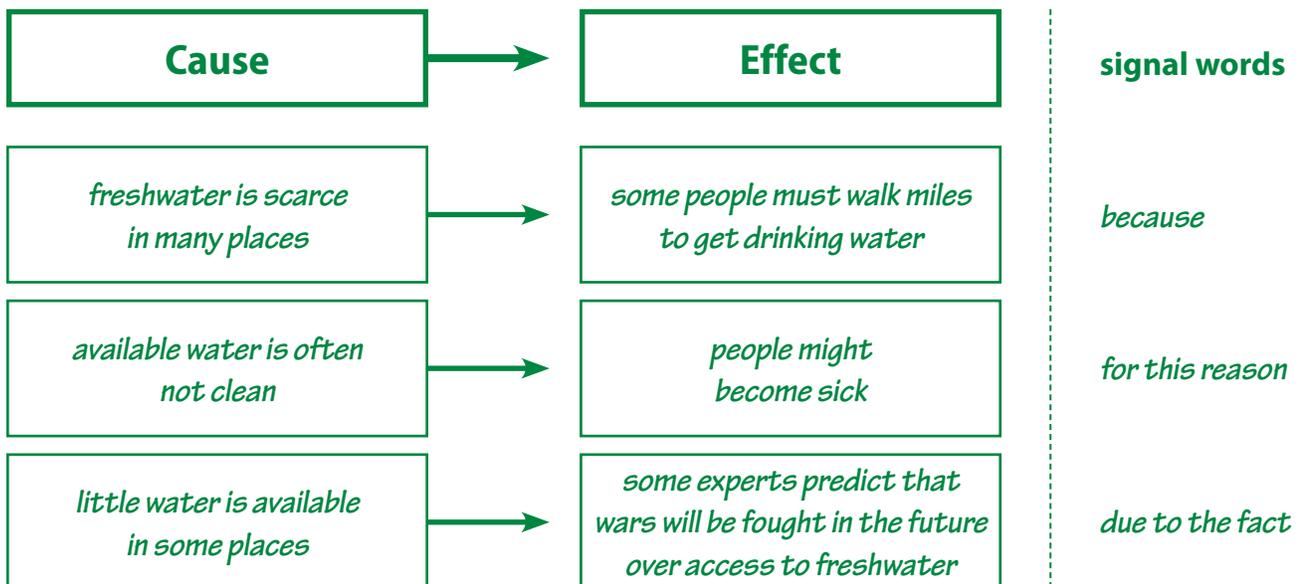
For example: **If** my mother finds out I lost her favorite pair of earrings, **then** she will be angry.

Certain words can signal the presence of a cause and effect relationship:

as a result	therefore	consequently	because
for this reason	hence	due to the fact	so

Example: Take a look at the paragraph below. As you read, look for cause and effect relationships. Also look to see how signal words can be used to identify a cause and effect relationship.

Freshwater is a necessary resource around the world. We all need water for drinking, cooking, and bathing, as well as to grow food. Yet, many people have difficulty getting enough water. Because freshwater is scarce in many places, some people must walk miles to get drinking water. Often the water that is available is not clean. For this reason, people might become sick. Due to the fact that so little water is available in some places, some experts predict that future wars will be fought over access to freshwater.





Reading Skill Focus: Cause and Effect

Directions: Read the following passage. Use the graphic organizer to record cause and effect relationships.

The world's oceans, rivers, streams, and lakes are all aquatic ecosystems, or ecosystems located in water. Pollution is a major environmental problem that can damage these ecosystems. Whereas people may not put waste directly into our aquatic ecosystems, they do put it in storm drains. Have you ever noticed how many streets have storm drains to carry water off the street? Due to the fact that rain washes things from the ground into storm drains, motor oil that drips from cars onto the street can end up in rivers and lakes. Rain can also carry waste from dogs and other animals into storm drains. Because water flowing into storm drains and sewers usually empties into the nearest body of water, it is important to keep toxic, poisonous chemicals and garbage out of storm drains. If people dispose of motor oil, garbage, and pet waste properly, then we can keep aquatic ecosystems healthy.

Cause	Effect	signal words



Pre-reading: True/False Quiz

Directions: Take the following quiz about current environmental issues. Indicate whether each statement is *true* or *false*.

1. _____ Certain energy sources, like coal, release gases that contribute to making the earth warmer.
2. _____ One solution to climate change is to use more energy.
3. _____ Removing all the trees in an area is good for animals that live in forests.
4. _____ A common cause of deforestation is clearing land for growing food.
5. _____ It takes less water to raise a pound of beef than to grow a pound of corn.
6. _____ Most of the water in the world is salt water, found in oceans.
7. _____ The issues of climate change, deforestation, and freshwater scarcity are connected.



Factories can be a source of pollution related to climate change.



Environmental Issues and Solutions

Environmental Issue #1: Climate Change

Imagine you have lived on an island your entire life. You use resources from that island and had a peaceful childhood there. Recently, you noticed that the sea levels have been rising higher than usual, reaching further inland. Because of these rising water levels, some of your neighbors' houses have been destroyed. Salt from these rising waters has also damaged plants and trees around the area. Trees have started to die from too much salt. You have thought about moving and building your house on a higher foundation with walls around it to stop flooding during high tides and heavy rains. This move will cost you quite a bit of money. Your environment has changed so much during your lifetime that you fear what might happen in the future.

What's Happening?

Ben Namakin knows this story all too well because this scenario is happening where he lives in the Federated States of Micronesia (a Pacific island nation). He can remember his favorite place to spend time during high school, where he saw friends, snorkeled in the water, and camped. Unfortunately, the place has been destroyed by flooding as sea levels have risen. As an environmental educator, Ben teaches people of all ages about this environmental issue and the importance of creating solutions that will stop his island from being destroyed.¹



Ben Namakin has seen the effects of climate change.

Around the world, people like Ben are observing the effects of climate change. Climate is the typical **weather** in an area over a period of time. When we talk about climate, we are not talking about what the weather is like on a single day. We are talking about weather patterns over a long period of time. For example, Alaska has a cool climate. Although there may be warmer days during the summer, the weather in Alaska is typically cool.

Climate change can have very different effects in different places. In some places, climate change may result in more rainfall and flooding. In other places, there may be less rainfall and droughts may increase. If the weather changed significantly where you lived, what might happen to people and to local environments?

weather (n) – outdoor conditions at a given point in time, including precipitation (snow, rain, ice), temperature, wind, and clouds



Chapter Reading: Environmental Issues and Solutions

Sea levels are beginning to rise around the world. As water warms, it expands and takes up more space. Therefore, warmer oceans cause sea levels to rise. Also, some sea level rise is due to melting **glaciers**.

Our Place in the Story

There are many reasons why climate can change. Some climate change is natural and normal. For example, volcanic eruptions and ocean currents can affect climate change. However, the daily actions and choices of people can also affect Earth's climate.²

Think about all the times you turn a light on, use a computer, or watch television. One way that we contribute to climate change is through our energy use. We use energy for electricity and for transportation. **Electricity** is used to light our buildings, heat our homes, and power electronics like televisions and microwave ovens. **Transportation** is how we move from one place to another. Cars, trains, airplanes, and buses are all types of transportation.

Most of the energy we use comes from fossil fuels (materials such as **coal** and **oil** that were formed millions of years ago from ancient plants and animals). When we use fossil fuels, **carbon dioxide** and other gases are released into the air. These gases act like a blanket by trapping the sun's heat near the earth. Because of this, temperatures on Earth are beginning to rise. This process that warms the earth is called the *greenhouse effect*.

If we know that using fossil fuels for energy causes climate change, then we can help by reducing our use of fossil fuels for electricity and



Sea levels are beginning to rise all over the world.

transportation. Here are a few ideas:

- Travel less by car and airplane
- Use public transportation like buses and trains
- Turn off lights and unplug electronics when you are not using them

You could also help to fight climate change by planting trees and other plants. Did you know that plants actually *need* carbon dioxide to survive? They take carbon dioxide out of the air and use it to grow.

Whether you decide to take the bus more often or plant a tree in your yard, you are helping to reduce the effects of climate change. Just think what a large impact we could make if everyone did this!

glaciers (n) – large masses of ice that remain frozen for many years

electricity (n) – a form of energy used to heat and cool buildings, to power appliances and electronics, and to light buildings

transportation (n) – the movement of people or things from one place to another

coal (n) – a black rock formed by decaying plants over millions of years; commonly used to create electricity

oil (n) – thick black liquid formed by decaying plants and animals over millions of years; commonly used to make gasoline and plastic

carbon dioxide/CO₂ (n) – a colorless, odorless gas made of one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms; a major component of Earth's atmosphere



Environmental Issue #2: Deforestation

Nelly Damaris Chepkoskei is fifty years old. She is a farmer in the western part of Kenya, a country in Africa. She grows maize and tea. She also raises a few cows that provide her with milk. During her lifetime, Nelly has seen bushes and trees completely cleared from forests in order to use the land to grow food and to make room for people to live. Growing food is important, of course, but so are forests! That is why Nelly works to educate people about forest **conservation**.³

Why Care?

You probably already know some reasons why forests are a valuable resource. Trees can be used to create many things we use every day, such as paper for books and magazines, building materials for homes, and fuel for firewood.

However, forests provide many other benefits that you might not think of. Did you know that forests help to keep soils healthy and streams clean? When trees are cleared, soil is left bare. With no tree roots to hold it in place, the soil washes away during the rainy season. This **eroded** soil may end up in streams and rivers, or it may be blown far away by winds. Soil erosion also has a negative impact on agriculture; without healthy topsoil, people cannot continue to grow food year after year.

Forests are also important for biodiversity because they are home to many species. In fact, the majority of all land animals and plants live in forests.⁴ Approximately 13 million **hectares** are deforested each year. That means approximately 3% of the world's forests are lost every ten years.⁵



Nelly Damaris Chepkoskei plants trees in Kenya.

Complete removal of trees from an area is called *deforestation*. Why do you think people would want to cut down entire forests? It might surprise you to learn that the major reason for deforestation is to clear land for growing food and raising **livestock**. Forests can be cleared by cutting down the trees or by burning them.

Connecting Forests to Climate

During the past several years, Nelly has been facing a few problems that she thinks might be related to deforestation. First, the grass her cows graze on has been so dry lately that the cows haven't had as much food to eat. As a result, they have not been able to produce as much milk.

conservation (n) – the act of protecting something, like wildlife or forests

eroded (adj) – worn away, such as when rock or soil is worn away by constant exposure to wind or water

hectare (n) – a unit of measurement for land area; equal to 10,000 square meters, roughly an area the size of two football fields

livestock (n) – domestic animals, such as cows and sheep, that are raised to make money



Chapter Reading: Environmental Issues and Solutions

Another problem she sees is that the amount of rainfall has decreased so much that crops have not been growing like they used to. Nelly has also noticed that warmer temperatures have led to an increase in mosquitoes. These mosquitoes can cause people to get sick from **malaria**. Could all these things—dry grass, reduced rainfall, and mosquitoes—be related?

The problems Nelly has been seeing are linked to climate change. Climate change is a change in long-term weather patterns, such as rainfall and temperature, in a region. **Carbon dioxide** is a gas that can cause climate change. When it is released into the air (from all sorts of events and activities, from volcanic eruptions to driving gasoline-powered cars), carbon dioxide contributes to the **greenhouse effect**, which makes temperatures on Earth warmer.

Deforestation is connected to climate change. Trees can take a lot of carbon dioxide out of the air, which is good news for us. In fact, trees need carbon dioxide to survive. Unfortunately, when trees are cut down or burned, all of the carbon dioxide they were holding is released into the air. Deforestation accounts for 20% of the carbon dioxide emissions from human activities.⁶

Getting Involved

We all benefit from the services provided by forests. As you already know, they take in carbon dioxide to help keep Earth a little cooler. Forests are also home to the majority of plants and animals that live on land. Plus, we use many products from forests, such as paper, fruits and nuts, spices, and medicines.

If you want to get involved, there are many ways that you can help to protect the world's forests.



Nelly tells other people about the environmental changes she has seen.

Here are a few ideas:

- Learn about the trees that are native to your region and plant them
- Reuse and recycle paper so trees do not have to be cut down
- Buy recycled paper products
- Avoid eating meat from animals raised in deforested areas

Can you think of other ways to help conserve forests? Thinking of these solutions now can help to prevent environmental issues in the future. Who knows—you could even educate other people about conservation, like Nelly Damaris does!

malaria (n) – a disease passed to humans by mosquitoes; symptoms include fevers, chills, and sweating

carbon dioxide/CO₂ (n) – a colorless, odorless gas made of one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms; a major component of Earth's atmosphere

greenhouse effect (n) – the process by which carbon dioxide and other gases in Earth's atmosphere trap heat from the sun that reflects off the earth, resulting in warmer temperatures on Earth



Environmental Issue #3: Freshwater Scarcity

Think of all the different times you use water throughout the day. Where does this water come from? What would you do if that water was no longer available? Could you survive?

Many people in the world struggle to find clean water for their daily needs. Gung Qiu Lai Jia lives in western China's Qinghai province. With his wife, he raises **yaks** for a living. Twenty years ago, a small stream ran near his house. It was about a foot, or twelve inches, deep. Water flowed through the stream all year long.

In recent years, the stream has become much smaller, and sometimes it completely dries up when rain has not fallen for a long time. Because of this, Gung Qiu Lai Jia's wife has to walk farther upstream to get water for the family. Gung Qiu Lai Jia worries how his five children will survive if their source of water disappears completely.⁷

Water: A Vital Resource

Water is an extremely important resource for all living things. Clean freshwater is a basic human need. We need it for daily activities, such as drinking, cooking, and cleaning. Unfortunately, there are many places in the world where clean freshwater is not easily accessible.

Today, about 25% of people in Africa live with water scarcity.⁸ In places where water is not available, people have to walk miles each day to collect water. Spending time collecting water could be spent going to school or working to earn money. In some places, water may be



Gung Qiu Lai Jia has seen the effects of water scarcity in China.

available, but it might not be clean. Water **contaminated** with garbage and bacteria can cause people to get sick from illnesses such as diarrhea. Diarrhea is a major cause of death worldwide, especially for children.

Increasing Freshwater Scarcity

Scientists predict that the number of people who have difficulty finding clean water will increase. This increase in freshwater scarcity is due to many reasons. Because all people need water, population growth (increasing numbers of humans on Earth) contributes to water scarcity.

Scientists also think that climate change is affecting water availability worldwide. Climate change is a change in long-term weather patterns, such as rainfall and temperature, in a region.

yaks (n) – a species of large animals that can be used for physical labor or to produce meat and milk

contaminated (adj) – foul or unclean due to introduced substances, such as dirt, toxic chemicals, or harmful bacteria



Chapter Reading: Environmental Issues and Solutions

Right now Earth's climate is changing; overall temperatures on Earth are warmer than they used to be. Climate change can have very different effects on water resources in different parts of the world. In some areas, climate change may lead to more rainfall and flooding. (Rainfall has been increasing throughout North America and Europe.) In other places, rainfall may decrease, causing droughts. (Rainfall has decreased dramatically in West Africa over the past 100 years.)⁹

For Gung Qiu Lai Jia in China, rainfall has become unpredictable. Whereas rain used to fall continuously during the wet season in June, now it comes only in the form of sudden showers. The quick bursts of rainfall do not increase the amount of drinking water. Instead, they wash soil into the stream near Gung Qiu Lai Jia's home, making the water muddy and unsafe to drink.¹⁰

Using Less Water and Creating More Opportunities

Did you know that 70% of all freshwater use worldwide is for farming?¹¹ More freshwater is used for growing food than for any other purpose. Some foods require more water to grow than others. For example, it takes about thirty-seven times more water to produce 500 **calories** of beef than to produce 500 calories of corn.¹² That's not just because cows drink water; water is also used to grow the grain that the cow eats.

Because water is a shared resource, when we use less water we leave more for other people. There are many ways you can use a little less water every day:

- Take shorter showers and turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth
- Fix leaky faucets
- Eat food that requires less water to produce (such as vegetables, chicken, fish, and fruit)

calorie (n) – a measure of heat energy obtained from foods eaten



Gung Qiu Lai Jia's wife collects water from a stream that she must carry back to her home.

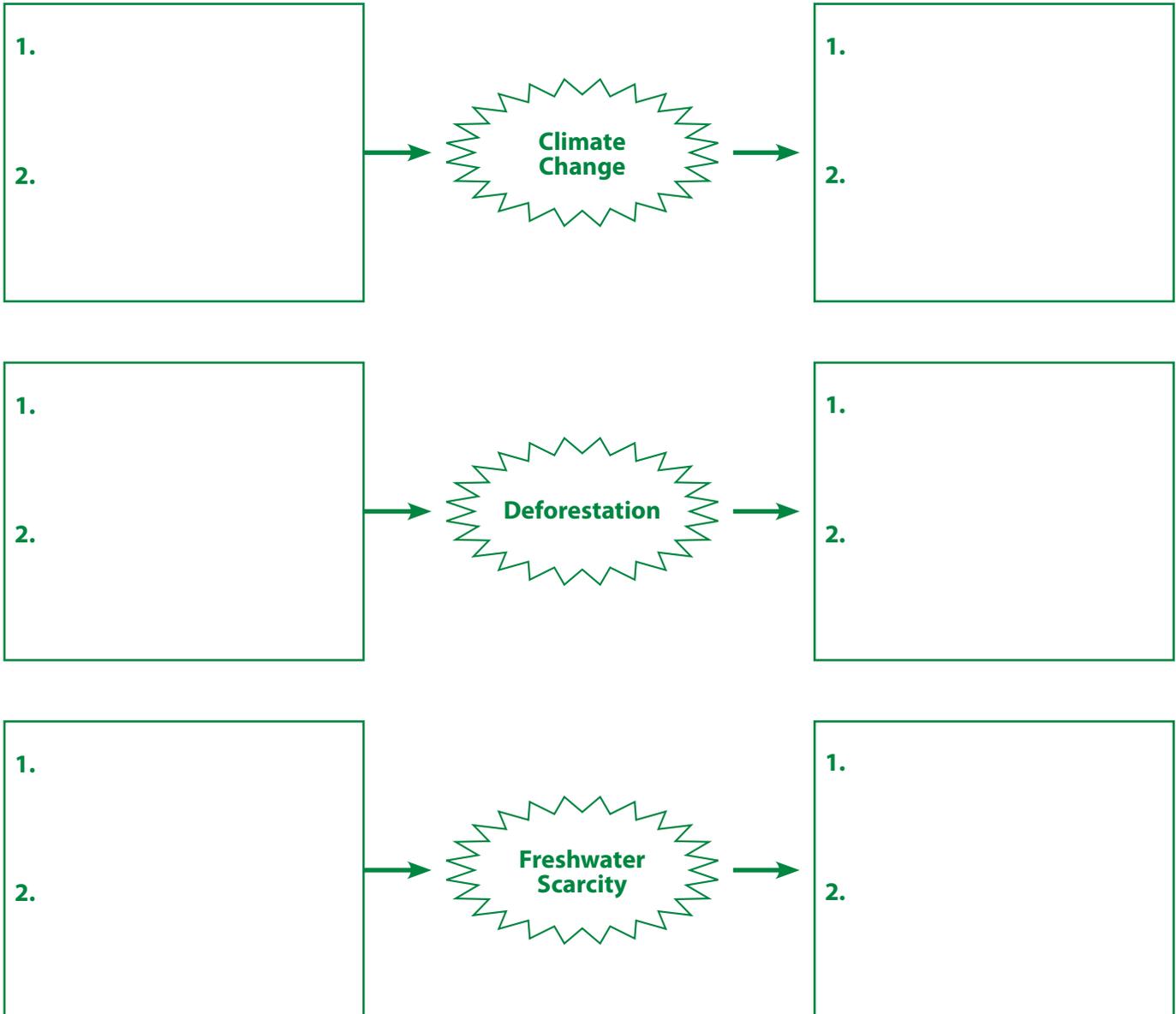


Reading Skill Follow-up: Cause and Effect

Directions: Record at least two causes and two effects for each of the environmental issues.

Causes

Effects





Comprehension Questions

Directions: Answer the questions about the section you read to support your comprehension of the chapter reading.

Reading 1: Climate Change

Understanding what you read

1. Identify what country Ben Namakin is from.
2. What happened to Ben Namakin's favorite place where he used to spend time during high school?

Thinking about what you read

3. How might climate change have different effects in different parts of the world?
4. How does our energy use connect to climate change?

Questioning what you read

5. Explain why you think the author chose to write about climate change.
6. The author could have chosen to write about climate change without including the story of Ben Namakin. Why do you think the author chose to include his story?

Reading 2: Deforestation

Understanding what you read

1. Identify what country Nelly Damaris Chepkoskei is from.
2. What has Nelly seen in her lifetime?

Thinking about what you read

3. What benefits do forests provide us?
4. How is deforestation related to climate change?

Questioning what you read

5. Explain why you think the author chose to write about deforestation.
6. The author could have chosen to write about climate change without including the story of Nelly Damaris Chepkoskei. Why do you think the author chose to include her story?

continued ►



Reading 3: Freshwater Scarcity

Understanding what you read

1. Identify what country Gung Qiu Lai Jia is from.
2. What percentage of people in Africa lives with water scarcity?

Thinking about what you read

3. What happened to the stream near Gung Qiu Lai Jia's house?
4. In places where water is not readily available, what do people have to spend their time doing?

Questioning what you read

5. Explain why you think the author chose to write about freshwater scarcity.
6. The author could have chosen to write about climate change without including the story of Gung Qiu Lai Jia. Why do you think the author chose to include his story?

All Readings

Making connections to what you read

7. Name one action you could take to help solve each of the following problems:
 - a. climate change
 - b. deforestation
 - c. water scarcity
8. Do you see any environmental issues where you live? If so, what are possible solutions to these issues?

Further discussion questions

9. What are common causes of different environmental issues such as climate change and deforestation?
10. How could environmental issues like climate change, deforestation, and water scarcity be connected to conflict?



Writing about Environmental Issues: Persuasive Essay

What is a persuasive essay?

A persuasive essay is an essay that attempts to persuade a reader to adopt a certain point of view.

Why write a persuasive essay?

Writing a persuasive essay allows you to create a solid argument for something that you strongly believe in. You might write a persuasive essay to encourage people to agree with you or to motivate them to do something.

You have just read about how three people's lives have been affected by climate change around the world. Imagine that a newspaper reporter has asked you to write an article to appear in the newspaper. The reporter asks you to answer the question:

Do you think people should take immediate action to stop climate change?

You will write a persuasive essay responding to this statement. You will be persuading or encouraging people either to take action or not to take action against climate change, depending on your opinion.

Tips for Writing

- Use the readings from the chapter to support your reasoning.
- Include at least three cause and effect statements in your essay.
- Use at least two chapter vocabulary words in your essay.



Writing about Environmental Issues: Persuasive Essay

Use the information below to help construct your persuasive essay.

I. Introduction: Think about your reaction to the statement: *Do you think people should take immediate action to stop climate change?* Use your answer to write an introduction for your essay.

Begin this paragraph with an interesting **hook** so that readers will want to keep reading. A hook might be a sentence with an interesting fact or a question.

- Example: Climate change will affect people all over the world, from Kenya to China.
- Example: Did you know that forests have a major impact on Earth's climate?

End your introduction with a **thesis statement**. A thesis statement informs the reader what the essay is about.

- Example: Working to reduce climate change will benefit people all over the world.
- Example: People should *not* take action on climate change because there are more important problems in the world.

II. Body: Think of three reasons to support your answer. How do you think people can stop climate change?

- Example: Taking action on climate change is one way to protect Earth's freshwater resources.
- Example: Climate change will result in droughts in some places where water is already scarce.

III. Conclusion: Summarize your thoughts. This final paragraph should not provide new information. In a conclusion, you should restate your main ideas in a persuasive way. Remember: you are trying to encourage people to either take action or not take action against climate change.



Writing about Environmental Issues: Persuasive Essay

The example on the following page is a persuasive essay that addresses the question:

Should there be a law against using disposable plastic bags?

As you read the essay, consider these questions:

1. What is the author trying to convince you to believe or persuade you to do?
2. Which statements in the essay are most persuasive?
3. Which statements in the essay are less effective at persuading you?
4. Do you agree with the author? If not, what would make you agree?





Sample Persuasive Essay

Should there be a law against disposable plastic bags?

Did you know that over 10% of the trash that ends up in landfills is plastic?¹³ Not all of that plastic is disposable bags, but they are part of the problem. Disposable plastic bags add to the waste in landfills. Because taxpayers pay for landfills, anything that ends up in a landfill costs us money. Another problem with plastic bags is that they are made with petroleum—a nonrenewable resource. Also, plastic bags can harm marine animals. For these reasons, there should be a law against disposable plastic bags.

The first reason there should be a law against plastic bags is that most of them get thrown away. In fact, less than 1% of plastic bags are recycled.¹⁴ The rest end up in the garbage or blowing around. The ones that end up in the garbage contribute to the problem of landfills. Landfills are places where trash is buried. When landfills get completely full, new ones have to be built. That's really expensive. Landfills can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to build!¹⁵

Another reason that there should be a law against plastic bags is that they are made from petroleum. Petroleum is a nonrenewable resource. That means that once we use it, it's gone!

It takes millions of years to create new petroleum. Based on the way we use petroleum now, there is only enough petroleum for forty more years! Why waste the petroleum on disposable bags when it could be used for more important things like medicines and safety equipment?

The last reason there should be a law against plastic bags is that they harm marine animals. Plastic bags can end up in the ocean.¹⁶ Plastic bags have been found in the stomachs of sea turtles that tried to eat them. Eventually those plastic bags can kill ocean birds and marine animals. If the bags were outlawed, there would be one less threat to marine life.

While disposable plastic bags are a convenient way to carry your groceries home, people could start carrying their groceries in reusable bags. Most people have bags and backpacks that could be used to carry things. There should be a law against disposable plastic bags because they add to landfill waste, are made from petroleum, and harm marine animals. One solution to the problems of expensive landfills, using nonrenewable resources, and marine animal deaths, is to have a law against plastic bags. Our children will thank us for taking this step to clean up the environment.



Writing Steps: Persuasive Essay

Step 1: Think about your response to the question. Think of three or more reasons you feel this way.

Step 2: Write an essay using the persuasive essay structure that you have studied. You can use the Writing Organizer to get started.

Step 3: Edit the essay using the Edit Checklist below.

Step 4: Have a classmate read and edit your essay using the editing checklist.

Step 5: Revise the essay based on the peer edit.



Edit Checklist

	Author Check	Peer Editor Check
Did you include a hook statement in your introduction?		
Did you include a thesis statement in your introduction?		
Did you write complete thoughts for each line?		
Did you use cause and effect statements correctly?		
Did you include a concluding paragraph?		
Did you use two chapter vocabulary words?		



Writing Organizer: Persuasive Essay

(Hook sentence)

(Thesis statement) There are many reasons why people should / should not take immediate action to stop climate change.

One reason that people should / should not take immediate action to stop climate change is ...

Another reason that people should / should not take immediate action to stop climate change is ...

A third reason that people should / should not take immediate action to stop climate change is ...

(Concluding paragraph: Restate the main ideas from your essay in a final attempt to persuade your reader)
