

Canada Under Change

Trace environmental issues to their effects on people and ecosystems.

SS6G6 "Explain the impact of environmental issues in Canada."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Find these three named environmental issues: Arctic warming, larger wildfires, and water pollution. Underline each issue, write 1, 2, or 3 beside it in that order, then circle every impact caused by that issue and write the matching number beside each circled impact.

Environmental Issues in Canada

- ① In northern Canada, Arctic warming is changing daily life. Temperatures in the Arctic are rising much faster than the global average. As sea ice forms later and melts earlier, travel routes used by Inuit communities can become less predictable. Animals such as seals depend on sea ice for resting and raising young. Less stable ice can affect hunting, food access, and cultural practices. Thawing permafrost, ground that stays frozen for years, can also damage roads, buildings, and pipelines.
- ② Larger wildfires are another environmental issue in Canada. Hotter, drier conditions can help fires spread, although weather, forests, and human actions also matter. Fires can force families to leave their homes and can destroy buildings and habitat. Smoke from large fires can travel far from the flames. It can make the air unhealthy to breathe, especially for children, older adults, and people with breathing problems. Burned forests may also release stored carbon, which adds to climate warming.
- ③ Water pollution affects some Canadian rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Mine runoff, untreated sewage, and oil spills can carry harmful materials into water. Pollution can make water unsafe for drinking unless it is treated. It can harm fish and other wildlife by damaging habitat or reducing water quality. When waterways are polluted, communities may face higher treatment costs and lose places for fishing, swimming, or tourism. Protecting water helps both ecosystems and people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can Arctic warming affect travel and food access for Inuit communities?

2 How can larger wildfires affect people who live far from the flames?

3 Name two impacts water pollution can have on people or ecosystems.

4 Give one example from the passage of an environmental issue affecting people and one example of an issue affecting a natural system.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one issue from the passage. Write exactly three sentences: name the issue, describe two effects it can have, and propose one realistic action a community or government could take.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Find these three named environmental issues: Arctic warming, larger wildfires, and water pollution. Underline each issue, write 1, 2, or 3 beside it in that order, then circle every impact caused by that issue and write the matching number beside each circled impact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can Arctic warming affect travel and food access for Inuit communities?	Later-forming and earlier-melting sea ice can make travel routes less predictable. Less stable ice can also affect hunting and food access.
2	How can larger wildfires affect people who live far from the flames?	Smoke can travel far from a fire and make the air unhealthy to breathe, especially for people with breathing problems.
3	Name two impacts water pollution can have on people or ecosystems.	Answers may include unsafe drinking water, harm to fish and wildlife, higher water-treatment costs, or fewer places for fishing, swimming, or tourism.
4	Give one example from the passage of an environmental issue affecting people and one example of an issue affecting a natural system.	People example: wildfire smoke can make air unhealthy, or pollution can raise treatment costs. Natural-system example: less sea ice affects seals, wildfires destroy habitat, or pollution harms fish and wildlife.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Water pollution can harm a Canadian lake. It can make drinking water unsafe and damage fish habitat. A local government could improve sewage treatment and enforce rules that keep harmful runoff out of the lake.

Accept clearly stated effects that match the passage and correctly connect each effect to its issue. For Your Turn, accept any realistic action that addresses the selected issue and a response with exactly three sentences.