

Europe Under Pressure

Trace causes, effects, and responses to environmental issues.

SS6G8 “Explain environmental issues in Europe.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each environmental issue, circle its cause or causes, and number one effect and one response for each issue. Your marks will help you explain how people and nature are connected.

Environmental Challenges in Europe

- ① Europe’s cities, farms, forests, and coasts face environmental challenges. Air pollution is one important issue. Cars, trucks, factories, and home heating can release gases and tiny particles into the air. Wind can carry this pollution across national borders, so one country’s emissions may affect another country. Breathing polluted air can harm people’s lungs and hearts. It can also damage plants and buildings. European countries have set rules for cleaner fuels, public transit, and limits on factory emissions.
- ② Water pollution affects rivers, lakes, and seas. Rain can wash fertilizer from farms into waterways. Extra nutrients may cause algae to grow quickly. When large amounts of algae die and decay, they use oxygen that fish and other animals need. Plastic litter can also injure wildlife or break into tiny pieces. The Baltic Sea is especially vulnerable because it is shallow and nearly enclosed. Farmers can use fertilizer more carefully, and communities can improve wastewater treatment and reduce plastic waste.
- ③ Climate change is another environmental issue in Europe. Burning coal, oil, and natural gas releases greenhouse gases that trap heat in Earth’s atmosphere. As the climate warms, some European places experience more frequent heat waves, droughts, heavy rain, or flooding. Alpine glaciers are shrinking, which can change water supplies and increase some hazards in mountain areas. Countries are expanding wind and solar power, saving energy in buildings, and preparing communities for extreme weather. These actions can lower risks, but they require cooperation among governments and citizens.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two sources of air pollution from the passage. Why can air pollution affect more than one country?

2 Explain how fertilizer washed from farms can harm fish and other water animals.

3 Why is the Baltic Sea especially vulnerable to water pollution? Name one action that can reduce water pollution.

4 What causes climate change in the passage? Describe one effect it can have in Europe.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose air pollution, water pollution, or climate change. Write four sentences that explain its cause, one effect on people or nature, and one action that can reduce the problem.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each environmental issue, circle its cause or causes, and number one effect and one response for each issue. Your marks will help you explain how people and nature are connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two sources of air pollution from the passage. Why can air pollution affect more than one country?	Cars, trucks, factories, and home heating are sources. Wind can carry pollution across national borders.
2	Explain how fertilizer washed from farms can harm fish and other water animals.	Fertilizer adds extra nutrients to waterways, causing algae to grow quickly. When the algae die and decay, they use oxygen that fish and other animals need.
3	Why is the Baltic Sea especially vulnerable to water pollution? Name one action that can reduce water pollution.	It is shallow and nearly enclosed. Answers may include using fertilizer more carefully, improving wastewater treatment, or reducing plastic waste.
4	What causes climate change in the passage? Describe one effect it can have in Europe.	Burning coal, oil, and natural gas releases greenhouse gases that trap heat. Effects include more heat waves, droughts, heavy rain, flooding, shrinking Alpine glaciers, or changed water supplies.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Air pollution can come from cars, factories, and home heating. Tiny particles can enter people's lungs and harm their health. Pollution can also damage plants and buildings. Cleaner fuels, public transit, and factory emission limits can reduce this problem.

Accept accurate explanations that connect a cause, an effect, and a response for one issue in the passage. Students may use different valid details from the reading.